



CITY OF ALLENTOWN

No. 51

RESOLUTION

R- 2024

Introduced by the Administration on April 3, 2024

Authorizes the submission of the City's application for the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency 2024 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00).

Resolved by the Council of the City of Allentown, that

WHEREAS, the City of Allentown is desirous of obtaining funds from The United States Department of Justice for the Edward Byrne Memorial annual grant allocation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG grant will allow funds for a co-responder mental health unit in collaboration with local mental health professionals to address the increasing need for mental health intervention and services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Allentown will conduct the required citizen participation process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the City of Allentown Police Department will assure the provision of other necessary funds to make the activity feasible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 2024 Edward Byrne Memorial JAG grant will tentatively fund \$250,000 to improve overall outcomes regarding police response to mental health calls for service, as well as decrease the number of repeat calls involving the same individual(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate officer of the City of Allentown is directed to execute a certificate attesting to the adoption of this Resolution and to furnish a copy of this Resolution to The United States Department of Justice.

Legislative Template

- What department or bureau is this bill originating from?

This bill is originating from the Police Department.

- Summary and facts of the bill.

The City is submitting a formal application to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency for \$250,000 awarded from the 2024/25 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Single Solicitation for Local Initiatives Funding that will support a co-responder mental health unit in collaboration with local mental health professionals to address the increasing need for mental health intervention and services.

- Purpose – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. What does the bill do? What are the specific goals or tasks the bill seeks to accomplish?

The resolution is a requirement of the formal application to demonstrate the City's support of the project and identifying the grant amount as \$250,000.

- b. What are the benefits of doing this?

The proposed project will improve overall outcomes regarding police response to mental health calls for service, as well as decrease the number of repeat calls involving the same individual(s). Mental health referrals will be followed up with in a timelier manner, providing education and resources to mentally ill individuals sooner. Additionally, with follow ups being made quicker, individuals are more likely to be stabilized prior to reaching a full crisis state. This, in turn, would lower all associated costs in our healthcare system, as people in crisis require an elevated, more intensive level of care and number of resources. With the addition of a mental health worker accompanying law enforcement to mental health calls, we anticipate that people will be less afraid/hesitant in calling emergency services when someone is having a mental health episode, allowing that individual to receive the care that they need. This will particularly benefit populations which have, traditionally, been wary of involving police.

- c. How does this bill relate to the City's vision/mission/priorities?

The co-responder mental health model can be aligned with the city's vision and priorities in several ways, contributing to a safer, more inclusive, and community-oriented law enforcement environment. The proposed project will improve overall outcomes regarding police response to mental health calls for service, as well as decrease the number of repeat calls involving the same individual(s). Mental health referrals will be followed up with in a timelier manner, providing education and resources to mentally ill individuals sooner. Additionally, with follow ups being made quicker, individuals are more likely to be stabilized

prior to reaching a full crisis state. This, in turn, would lower all associated costs in our healthcare system, as people in crisis require an elevated, more intensive level of care and number of resources. With the addition of a mental health worker accompanying law enforcement to mental health calls, we anticipate that people will be less afraid/hesitant in calling emergency services when someone is having a mental health episode, allowing that individual to receive the care that they need. This will particularly benefit populations which have, traditionally, been wary of involving police.

- Financial Impact – Please include the following in your explanation:
 - a. Cost (initial and ongoing)

There is no cost to the City. Additionally, no match is required for this grant.

- Priority status – Are there any deadlines to be aware of?

The resolution is an application requirement.

- Why should Council unanimously support this bill?

The resolution will allow the City to make a formal application for these funds.