

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 751
 Appropriations

(Delegate Bridges)

Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation

Public Safety – Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund

This bill establishes the Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund, a special fund administered by the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS), to provide grants to “local law enforcement agencies” for Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety (MHFAPS) training and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) peer support training. For fiscal 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor may include in the annual budget bill an appropriation for the fund. The bill establishes related reporting requirements. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$27,800 in FY 2024 for administrative costs, and, under one set of assumptions, by more than \$1.0 million annually thereafter to capitalize and administer the fund. Special fund revenues increase by \$1.0 million annually beginning in FY 2025, reflecting receipt of the capitalization funding; special fund expenditures increase correspondingly for grant awards. Grant revenues and expenditures increase beginning as early as FY 2025 for any State law enforcement agencies that receive grants from the fund (not reflected below).

(in dollars)	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
SF Revenue	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
GF Expenditure	\$27,800	\$1,083,000	\$1,086,600	\$1,090,500	\$1,095,300
SF Expenditure	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Net Effect	(\$27,800)	(\$1,083,000)	(\$1,086,600)	(\$1,090,500)	(\$1,095,300)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local government grant revenues and expenditures likely increase beginning as early as FY 2025.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The fund consists of money appropriated in the State budget to the fund and money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the fund. Money disbursed from the fund must be used solely to supplement, and not supplant, funds otherwise available to local law enforcement agencies.

Within 90 days after the end of a grant cycle, an eligible local law enforcement agency that received a grant must submit to the executive director the following information: (1) proof of the expenditure of the grant funds; (2) the total number of grants awarded and amount per police officer; (3) the total number of grants awarded separated by training program; and (4) any related outcome-based performance measures. By December 31, 2023, and by each December 31 thereafter, the executive director must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on the information provided by local law enforcement agencies under these provisions.

“Local law enforcement agency” means a governmental police force, sheriff’s office, or security force or law enforcement organization of the State or a county or a municipality of the State that by statute, ordinance, or common law is authorized to enforce the general criminal laws of the State.

Current Law: GOCPYVS plans, promotes, and funds efforts with government entities, private organizations, and the community to advance public policy, enhance public safety, reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and serve victims. As a result of Chapter 59 of 2021 (The Maryland Police Accountability Act of 2021), GOCPYVS established the Police Accountability, Community, and Transparency (PACT) Grant Program to ensure law enforcement departments are in compliance with the requirements of Chapter 59. Among other things, the PACT Grant Program covers mental health-related and CISM peer support training courses. The fiscal 2024 budget as introduced includes \$8.0 million in general funds for the grant program.

In addition, the State Aid for Police Protection (SAPP) Fund is a formula-driven funding program used to supplement resources for police protection in local communities. State funds are generally distributed on a per capita basis with jurisdictions with higher population density receiving greater per capita grants. The fiscal 2024 budget as introduced includes \$121.7 million in general funds for SAPP.

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) State CISM team assists emergency medical services, fire, law enforcement, dispatch centers, and other responders in mitigating and responding to the normal emotional and psychological effects experienced following stressful responses and critical incidents. This is accomplished through education and training in advance of events and in individual and group

discussions following critical incidents. The team is made up of volunteer peer support and licensed mental health personnel who have been trained to assist responders in dealing with normal reactions to abnormal events. Communications with the team are voluntary and confidential. MIEMSS has also chaired symposiums with all CISM and peer support groups across the State.

State Fiscal Effect:

Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund – Capitalization of the Fund Beginning in Fiscal 2025

Although the bill does not establish a mandated appropriation to the fund and does not otherwise indicate an intended level of funding for the grant program, this analysis assumes that \$1.0 million annually is needed to operate a viable grant program. Thus, general fund expenditures increase by \$1.0 million annually beginning in fiscal 2025 to capitalize the Officer and Community Wellness Training Grant Fund. Special fund revenues to and expenditures from the fund increase correspondingly, reflecting receipt of the capitalization funding and the disbursement of grants to local law enforcement agencies for MHFAPS training and CISM peer support training. As funding for the grant program is discretionary, the actual amount appropriated to the fund in any given year may vary from this estimate.

Administrative Expenditures Beginning in Fiscal 2024

General fund expenditures for GOCPYVS increase by \$27,813 in fiscal 2024, which accounts for a nine-month start-up delay from the bill’s July 1, 2023 effective date. Although the assumed capitalization of the fund does not begin until fiscal 2025, staffing is necessary in late fiscal 2024 to develop policies and procedures for the grant program and to initiate the grantmaking process prior to grant funding being available. Therefore, this estimate reflects the cost of hiring one grants manager in April 2024 to develop and oversee the grant program. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1.0
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$20,934
Operating Expenses	<u>6,879</u>
Total FY 2024 State Expenditures	\$27,813

Future year administrative expenditures – which range from \$82,963 in fiscal 2025 to \$95,308 in fiscal 2028 – reflect a full salary with annual increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

Because the bill does not explicitly authorize the new special fund to be used for administrative costs, this analysis assumes that additional general funds – beyond the
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capitalization funding discussed above – are needed to cover the administrative costs incurred by GOCPYVS each year.

State Law Enforcement Agencies as Grant Recipients

State law enforcement agencies likely benefit from grant awards beginning as early as fiscal 2025; however, the distribution of grant awards across all eligible law enforcement agencies cannot be predicted.

Local Fiscal Effect: Local grant revenues and expenditures likely increase beginning as early as fiscal 2025 for MHFAPS training and CISM peer support training. However, the distribution of grant awards across all eligible law enforcement agencies cannot be predicted.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 580 (Senator Elfreth, *et al.*) - Judicial Proceedings and Budget and Taxation.

Information Source(s): Harford County; Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; Department of Budget and Management; Department of Legislative Services

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