

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 9, 2020

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2019–20 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2054

Introduced by Assembly Member Kamlager

February 3, 2020

An act to add *and repeal* Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 8601) ~~to~~ of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to emergency services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2054, as amended, Kamlager. Emergency services: community response: grant program.

Existing law creates the Office of Emergency Services within the office of the Governor. The office is responsible for the state's emergency and disaster response services for natural, technological, or man-made disasters and emergencies. Existing law requires the office to establish by rule and regulation various classes of disaster service workers, the scope of the duties of each class, and to adopt rules and regulations for the registration of each class of these workers. Existing law requires the office to work with advocacy groups representing the deaf and hard of hearing for the purpose of improving accessibility to emergency information and services for the populations that they serve. Existing law requires the office to develop a plan for state and local utilization of volunteers during a state of emergency.

This bill ~~would~~ *would, until January 1, 2024*, enact the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act for the purpose of creating, implementing, and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act Grant Pilot Program, which the act would establish. The bill would require the Office of Emergency

Services to establish rules and regulations for the act with the goal of making grants to community organizations operating in a minimum of 10 ~~cities~~, *counties*, over 3 years, for the purpose of expanding the participation of community organizations in emergency response for specified vulnerable populations. The bill would require a community organization receiving funds pursuant to the program to use the grant to stimulate and support involvement in emergency response activities, as specified. The bill would require the director of the office, using not more than 5% of the moneys appropriated to support the program, to assemble staff and resources to carry out certain duties in support of the program.

The bill would require the office to support an 11-member C.R.I.S.E.S. Advisory Committee, selected by the Governor, the Chair of the Senate Rules Committee, and the Speaker of the Assembly, as specified, to be inclusive of community organizations with a proven history of leadership and partnership on emergency response. The committee would establish grant application criteria and parameters for eligible community organizations, review and decide upon grant proposals, ensure grants are adhering to standards, and make recommendations to the office, among other things.

The bill would establish the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act Fund in the State Treasury in support of the program, to be administered by the director. The bill would require that the act be implemented only if appropriate funding is made available to the office, which would make a determination to this effect, to be published on its internet website. The bill would make findings and declarations in regard to innovative approaches to emergency responses.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the
- 2 Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems
- 3 Act or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act.
- 4 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 5 (a) The complexities of emergency issues surrounding crises in
- 6 mental health, intimate partner violence, community violence,
- 7 substance abuse, and natural disasters can, at times, be addressed

1 more safely, with greater impact, and more cost-effectively and
2 efficiently with community organizations, which often have deeper
3 knowledge and understanding of the issues, trusted relationships
4 with the people and communities involved, and specific knowledge
5 and relationships surrounding the emergency.

6 (b) Furthermore, young people of color, people with disabilities,
7 people who are gender nonconforming, people who are formerly
8 incarcerated, people with immigration status issues, and people
9 who are unhoused or homeless, face significant barriers to engaging
10 with law enforcement and other first responder personnel. Data
11 demonstrates that these populations often do not reach out for
12 needed help when dealing with crises in their communities because
13 of their fear and challenges with engaging law enforcement, which
14 puts lives and families at risk for continued harm and trauma.
15 Community organizations that specialize in working with these
16 populations, understanding their issues, and maintaining deep
17 relationships in their communities have a more successful track
18 record of engaging and supporting them.

19 (c) Philanthropic and community organizations in cities and
20 counties throughout the state have recognized the need to expand
21 innovative approaches to emergencies and have created programs
22 to do so.

23 (d) These alternative approaches have strengthened the response
24 to emergencies in places throughout the state by deepening impact,
25 preventing violence, deescalating volatile situations, protecting
26 property and the environment, reducing law enforcement use of
27 force, and ensuring the health and safety of communities while,
28 at the same time, saving money by decreasing calls for service and
29 the sole reliance upon first responders for emergency situations.

30 (e) Despite the innovative approaches led by community
31 organizations, the state does not have a policy, a set of protocols,
32 or dedicated funding to support community organizations’
33 involvement in addressing emergencies.

34 (f) This act seeks to remedy those issues by articulating a policy
35 framework and budget request to support innovative approaches
36 to build capacity in, and to make grants for, community
37 organizations to support emergency response.

38 SEC. 3. Article 8.5 (commencing with Section 8601) is added
39 to Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code, to
40 read:

1 Article 8.5. Community Response Initiative to Strengthen
2 Emergency Systems Act

3
4 8601. (a) The Community Response Initiative to Strengthen
5 Emergency Systems Act or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act is hereby
6 established, *as a three-year program*, for the purposes of creating,
7 implementing, and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act Grant Pilot
8 Program in accordance with this article.

9 (b) For purposes of this article:

10 (1) “Act” means the Community Response Initiative to
11 Strengthen Emergency Systems Act or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act.

12 (2) “Committee” means the C.R.I.S.E.S. Advisory Committee,
13 as described in Section 8602.

14 (3) “Director” means the Director of Emergency Services.

15 (4) “Office” means the Office of Emergency Services.

16 (5) “Program” means the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act Grant Pilot Program.

17 (c) The C.R.I.S.E.S. Act Grant Pilot Program is hereby
18 established. The office shall establish rules and regulations for the
19 act with the goal of making grants to community organizations
20 operating in a minimum number of 10 ~~cities~~ *counties*. *Multiple*
21 *grants may be awarded within a single county*. The program shall
22 expand the participation of community organizations in emergency
23 response for vulnerable ~~populations~~ *populations*, including people
24 of color, elderly people, people with disabilities, people who are
25 gender nonconforming, *people who are likely to face*
26 *disproportionate police contact*, people who are formerly
27 incarcerated, people with immigration status issues, people who
28 are unhoused, people facing mental health crises, people involved
29 in intimate partner violence, people likely to be engaged in
30 community violence, people challenged by substance abuse, and
31 people living in areas that are environmentally insecure and subject
32 to natural and climate disasters.

33 (d) A community organization receiving assistance pursuant to
34 the program shall use the grant to stimulate and support
35 involvement in emergency response activities, including, but not
36 limited to, all of the following:

37 (1) Project planning and community engagement.

38 (2) Project implementation.

- 1 (3) Staffing, subject to the requirement that grantees adhere to
2 all applicable laws relating to scope of practice, licensure, and
3 certification.
- 4 (4) Facilities, subject to the requirement that the facility is to
5 be utilized by the grantee, which may extend beyond the term of
6 the program.
- 7 (5) Operational costs, including, but not limited to, ~~start-up~~
8 *startup* or expansion, marketing, language translation, and
9 transportation costs.
- 10 (6) Consulting services.
- 11 (7) Training.
- 12 (8) Program and project evaluation, including, but not limited
13 to, evaluation of program and project efficacy, staff performance,
14 and service delivery.
- 15 (e) The director, using not more than 5 percent of the moneys
16 appropriated to support the program, shall assemble staff,
17 resources, and, if necessary, engage consultants with technical
18 expertise, to carry out the following duties and responsibilities:
- 19 (1) Following appointment of the advisory committee, provide
20 organizing, staffing, and facilitation support, including, but not
21 limited to, outreach and engagement, cooperatively creating
22 meeting agendas, providing recordkeeping and facilitation support,
23 reimbursements for travel and participation in advisory committee
24 meetings and activities, and detailed information on rules,
25 regulations, and relevant deadlines.
- 26 (2) With the guidance of the advisory committee, develop the
27 program, with ~~two-year~~ grants to be issued no later than January
28 1, 2022.
- 29 (3) Provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, solicit
30 and review all grant proposals, and support the advisory
31 committee's review and scoring of proposals, as well as preparing
32 proposals for final approval by the advisory committee.
- 33 (4) Publish and maintain an internet website to report details
34 relevant to the advisory committee for the public to view, including,
35 but not limited to, advisory committee meeting agendas, minutes,
36 vote counts, committee member information, photos, and video.
- 37 (5) Consult with local emergency services personnel and
38 community-based or grassroots organizations for input and
39 potential approaches on issues related to emergency response.

1 (6) Assist the advisory committee in carrying out its work and
2 perform other duties as directed by the advisory committee.

3 (7) Seek funding and material contributions from foundations,
4 nonprofit organizations, public and private entities, and other
5 individuals or groups in order to carry out the work of the pilot
6 grant program.

7 (f) (1) The office shall issue a public report, to be posted on its
8 internet website six months following the end of the program, on
9 the programmatic and fiscal savings associated with the program,
10 key conclusions, populations served and the benefits conferred or
11 realized, and resulting policy recommendations to provide guidance
12 to the Legislature and Governor in fully implementing and scaling
13 a permanent program.

14 (2) The report required by this subdivision shall be submitted
15 in compliance with Section 9795.

16 8602. (a) The office shall support an 11-member C.R.I.S.E.S.
17 Advisory Committee, selected pursuant to subdivision (b), that
18 shall be inclusive of community organizations with a proven history
19 of leadership and partnership on emergency response, for the
20 three-year period of the program.

21 (b) The committee shall be selected by the Governor, Chair of
22 the Senate Committee on Rules, and Speaker of the Assembly as
23 described in this subdivision. Racial, gender, and ethnic diversity,
24 and representation of communities described in subdivision (c) of
25 Section 8601, shall be considered for all appointments. The
26 members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing entities.

27 (1) The Governor shall select:

28 (A) An emergency medical system professional.

29 (B) A survivor of an emergency or crisis.

30 (C) A representative from a community organization providing
31 direct services to vulnerable populations.

32 (D) A public health professional.

33 (E) A representative of an advocacy or community organizing
34 group serving vulnerable communities.

35 (2) The Chair of Senate Committee on Rules shall select:

36 (A) A survivor of an emergency or crisis.

37 (B) A representative from a community organization.

38 (C) A representative of an advocacy or community organizing
39 group serving vulnerable communities.

40 (3) The Speaker of the Assembly shall select:

1 (A) A survivor of an emergency or crisis.

2 (B) A representative from a community organization providing
3 direct services to vulnerable populations.

4 (C) A public health professional.

5 (c) (1) The advisory committee shall establish grant application
6 criteria and parameters for eligible community organizations,
7 review and decide upon grant proposals, ensure grants are adhering
8 to standards, and monitor progress, conclusions, and challenges.
9 The committee shall make recommendations to the office on
10 program development, implementation, and oversight on an
11 ongoing basis. *Scoring of grant proposals shall prioritize, and*
12 *give preference to, community organizations that have a history*
13 *of serving the populations described in subdivision (c) of Section*
14 *8601.*

15 (2) After an initial meeting, the committee shall meet a minimum
16 of once per quarter. A majority of the appointed advisory
17 committee shall constitute a quorum. Committee meetings shall
18 be held in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act
19 (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part
20 1 of Division 3).

21 8603. (a) The Community Response Initiative to Strengthen
22 Emergency Systems Act Fund is hereby created in the State
23 Treasury in support of the program that shall be administered by
24 the director. Moneys deposited in the account, both public and
25 private, upon appropriation by the Legislature, may be expended
26 by the office for the purposes of this article.

27 (b) This article shall be implemented only if appropriate funding
28 is made available to the office. Upon finding that appropriate
29 funding has been made available to implement the article, the
30 office shall publish a notice stating this on its internet website.

31 8604. *This article shall remain in effect only until January 1,*
32 *2024, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute*
33 *that is enacted before January 1, 2024, deletes or extends that*
34 *date.*