



CITY OF HARRISONBURG CITY MANAGER

409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

TO: Ande Banks, City Manager
FROM: Jason Kidd, Police Captain
DATE: October 16, 2024
RE: Connect and Protect Grant Program

Summary:

The City has been awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant for HPD to create a co-response program between law enforcement and mental health professionals, which will improve HPD's response to issues related to mental health.

Background

Mental health-related calls for service are among the most frequent type of call the HPD receives. Many of these calls require officers to recognize and address mental health-related issues in the field, and calls involving mental health evaluations and hospitalizations can take multiple officers off the street for multiple hours. The department has identified important gaps in mental health services, and this project will help address one of these key gaps by connecting officers in the field with mental health professionals to help address immediate mental health concerns in the community.

Key Issues:

Recruiting, training, and retaining the mental health professionals for this program will be integral to the program's success. Implementation of new policies and procedures to support the program, as well as establishing the necessary collaboration between existing programs will also be very important.

Environmental Impact: N/A

Fiscal Impact:

Federal award of \$550,000 over three years



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20/20/40% Matching requirement each year will be met through in-kind contributions from existing HPD resources.

Prior Actions: N/A

Alternatives: N/A

Community Engagement:

HPD will distribute an announcement of the program to the community through media outlets and social media. Recruitment for the mental health professionals will be coordinated through City of Harrisonburg Human Resources.

Recommendation:

Implement HPD's Connect and Protect program as proposed in the grant application.

Attachments: See PowerPoint file

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

