
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5561

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Conway, Pedersen, Lovick, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Lias, Saldaña, Valdez, and Wagoner)

READ FIRST TIME 02/10/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to extending the expiration date of the law
2 enforcement community engagement grant project; amending RCW
3 43.330.545; and providing an expiration date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 43.330.545 and 2021 c 327 s 2 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
8 specific purpose, a project is created in the department to foster
9 community engagement through neighborhood organizing, law
10 enforcement-community partnerships, youth mobilization, and business
11 engagement. The department shall administer the project. The project
12 must include ~~((12 to 15 grant awards in those counties that have
13 demonstrated their commitment to programs that promote community
14 engagement in public safety including the following counties:
15 Spokane, Pierce, King, Okanogan, Yakima, Cowlitz, Clark, Chelan-
16 Douglas, Walla Walla, Benton-Franklin, Grant, and Snohomish))~~ funding
17 for programs delivering services in a range of rural and urban
18 counties across Washington.

19 (2) The department shall adopt policies and procedures necessary
20 to administer the project including: (a) An application process; (b)

1 disbursement of the grant award to selected applicants; (c) tracking
2 compliance and proper use of funds; and (d) measuring outcomes.

3 (3) Eligible applicants must:

4 (a) Be a public agency or nongovernmental organization;

5 (b) Have demonstrated experience with community engagement
6 initiatives that impact public safety;

7 (c) (~~Have~~) Include community engagement in their services;

8 (d) Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated
9 effort with committed partners, which must include law enforcement
10 and organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion of
11 community members, including organizations whose leadership
12 specifically reflects the communities most impacted by racism; and

13 (e) Have established priorities, policies, and measurable goals
14 in compliance with the requirements of the project as provided in
15 subsection (5) of this section.

16 (4) A law enforcement agency applying for a grant award shall not
17 be considered an eligible applicant unless there are no other
18 eligible applicants from the community or county the law enforcement
19 agency serves.

20 (5) The grant recipient shall:

21 (a) Lead and facilitate neighborhood organizing initiatives,
22 including:

23 (i) Empowering community members with tools, skills, confidence,
24 and connections to identify, eradicate, and prevent illegal activity;

25 (ii) Making neighborhood improvements to deter future criminal
26 activity; (~~and~~) or

27 (iii) Educating community members regarding how to connect with
28 city, county, and law enforcement resources;

29 (b) Build substantive law enforcement-community partnerships,
30 including:

31 (i) Building trust between community members and law enforcement
32 by facilitating purposeful antiracist practices and the development
33 of policies that lead to equal treatment under the law;

34 (ii) Establishing clear expectations for law enforcement to be
35 competent to practice fair and equitable treatment including
36 facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and community members
37 to increase understanding of the impact of historical racist
38 practices and current conflicts;

1 (iii) Community members regularly informing law enforcement,
2 through presentations, workshops, or forums, on community perceptions
3 of law enforcement and public safety issues;

4 (iv) Educating community members on the role and function of law
5 enforcement in the community;

6 (v) Clarifying expectations of law enforcement and of the role of
7 the community in crime prevention;

8 (vi) Educating community members on the best practices for
9 reporting emergency and nonemergency activities;

10 (vii) Recognizing community members for effective engagement and
11 community leadership; and

12 (viii) Recognizing law enforcement officials for efforts to
13 engage underrepresented communities, improve community engagement and
14 empowerment, and reform law enforcement practices;

15 (c) Mobilize youth to partner with neighborhood groups and law
16 enforcement to prevent violence by:

17 (i) Helping them develop knowledge and skills to serve as leaders
18 in their communities;

19 (ii) Focusing on prevention of violence and substance abuse;

20 ~~((and))~~ or

21 (iii) Empowering youth to bring their voice to community issues
22 that impact healthy police-community relations;

23 (d) Engage businesses to help prevent crimes, such as vandalism
24 and burglaries, through safety training and other prevention
25 initiatives;

26 (e) Provide training and technical assistance on how to implement
27 community engagement, improving law enforcement and community
28 partnership, youth engagement, and business engagement;

29 (f) Identify and maintain consistent, experienced, and committed
30 leadership for managing the grant, including an administrator who
31 acts as an available point of contact with the department; and

32 (g) Collect and report data and information required by the
33 department.

34 (6) The department shall, in consultation with the Washington
35 state institute for public policy, develop reporting guidelines for
36 the grant recipients ~~((in order))~~ to measure whether the ~~((safe
37 streets pilot))~~ project had an impact on crime rates and community
38 engagement with, and perceptions of, law enforcement. ~~((The
39 department shall submit a preliminary report to the legislature with
40 details on the selected grant recipients and the reporting guidelines~~

1 ~~by January 1, 2022. The department shall submit a final report on the~~
2 ~~safe streets pilot project, including an analysis of the reported~~
3 ~~data required under this subsection, by December 1, 2023.)~~ The
4 department shall report to the appropriate legislative policy
5 committees by December 1st every odd-numbered year with details on
6 the implementation of the project and the outcomes of the reported
7 data and information.

8 (7) This section expires January 1, ((2024)) 2029.

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