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**SENATE BILL 5561**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Conway, Pedersen, Lovick, Dhingra, Hasegawa, Lias, Saldaña, Valdez, and Wagoner

Read first time 01/25/23. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

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.

17 (2) The department shall adopt policies and procedures necessary  
18 to administer the project including: (a) An application process; (b)  
19 disbursement of the grant award to selected applicants; (c) tracking  
20 compliance and proper use of funds; and (d) measuring outcomes.

21 (3) Eligible applicants must:

- 1 (a) Be a public agency or nongovernmental organization;
- 2 (b) Have demonstrated experience with community engagement
- 3 initiatives that impact public safety;
- 4 (c) Have community engagement;
- 5 (d) Have established or be willing to establish a coordinated
- 6 effort with committed partners, which must include law enforcement
- 7 and organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion of
- 8 community members, including organizations whose leadership
- 9 specifically reflects the communities most impacted by racism; and
- 10 (e) Have established priorities, policies, and measurable goals
- 11 in compliance with the requirements of the project as provided in
- 12 subsection (5) of this section.

13 (4) A law enforcement agency applying for a grant award shall not

14 be considered an eligible applicant unless there are no other

15 eligible applicants from the community or county the law enforcement

16 agency serves.

17 (5) The grant recipient shall:

18 (a) Lead and facilitate neighborhood organizing initiatives,

19 including:

20 (i) Empowering community members with tools, skills, confidence,

21 and connections to identify, eradicate, and prevent illegal activity;

22 (ii) Making neighborhood improvements to deter future criminal

23 activity; and

24 (iii) Educating community members regarding how to connect with

25 city, county, and law enforcement resources;

26 (b) Build substantive law enforcement-community partnerships,

27 including:

28 (i) Building trust between community members and law enforcement

29 by facilitating purposeful antiracist practices and the development

30 of policies that lead to equal treatment under the law;

31 (ii) Establishing clear expectations for law enforcement to be

32 competent to practice fair and equitable treatment including

33 facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and community members

34 to increase understanding of the impact of historical racist

35 practices and current conflicts;

36 (iii) Community members regularly informing law enforcement,

37 through presentations, workshops, or forums, on community perceptions

38 of law enforcement and public safety issues;

39 (iv) Educating community members on the role and function of law

40 enforcement in the community;

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

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

5 (vii) Recognizing community members for effective engagement and  
6 community leadership; and

7 (viii) Recognizing law enforcement officials for efforts to  
8 engage underrepresented communities, improve community engagement and  
9 empowerment, and reform law enforcement practices;

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

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

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

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

17 (d) Engage businesses to help prevent crimes, such as vandalism  
18 and burglaries, through safety training and other prevention  
19 initiatives;

20 (e) Provide training and technical assistance on how to implement  
21 community engagement, improving law enforcement and community  
22 partnership, youth engagement, and business engagement;

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

26 (g) Collect and report data and information required by the  
27 department.

28 (6) The department shall, in consultation with the Washington  
29 state institute for public policy, develop reporting guidelines for  
30 the grant recipient in order to measure whether the safe streets  
31 pilot project had an impact on crime rates and community engagement  
32 with, and perceptions of, law enforcement. The department shall  
33 submit a preliminary report to the legislature with details on the  
34 selected grant recipients and the reporting guidelines by January 1,  
35 2022. The department shall submit a final report on the safe streets  
36 pilot project, including an analysis of the reported data required  
37 under this subsection, by December 1, 2023.

38 (7) This section expires January 1, (~~2024~~) 2025.

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