



# City Council Report

**Date:** December 1, 2020  
**To:** City Council  
**Through:** John Pombier, Assistant City Manager  
**From:** Ken Cost, Police Chief  
Michael Bellows, Commander  
**Subject:** U.S. Department of Justice Grant for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program: Embedding Clinicians in Law Enforcement Agencies (Citywide)

## Purpose and Recommendation

The City of Mesa Police Department is respectfully requesting that the Mesa City Council approve and authorize the City Manager or designee to accept a \$476,527 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program: Embedding Clinicians in Law Enforcement Agencies for the Police Department's Crisis Response Team.

## Background

The Mesa Police Department's Crisis Response Team uses a multi-disciplinary and comprehensive approach to address issues with persons suffering from a mental illness or cognitive impairment to improve public safety, community service, and reduce risk and liability. Crisis Response Team members serve mental health detainees, assist patrol on complex cases, and conduct follow-up with individuals who generate a high number of calls or pose a significant threat to themselves or the community.

## Discussion

The grant provides funding for a co-responder model where members of the Police Department Crisis Response Team and Mental Health Providers (CRT/MHP) provide services together. The goals of the CRT/MHP include:

- Decreasing incarceration for individuals with frequent contact with law enforcement during mental health crises
- Increasing referrals to appropriate social service agencies
- Improving the Police Department's monitoring methods regarding contacts with people in mental health or substance abuse issues

**Alternatives**

Decline the funds. If the funds are declined, the U.S. Department of Justice will redistribute the funds to other qualified agencies.

**Fiscal Impact**

The award amount is \$476,527 has a \$281,967 match required. The match is fulfilled through the Crisis Response Team salary and benefits within the Police Department Budget.

Mesa Police Department personnel will be responsible for submitting invoices on a quarterly basis and the Office of Justice Programs the U.S. Department of Justice will remit funds upon receipt of the invoices.

**Coordinated With**

The City of Mesa Police Department recommends the acceptance of the U.S. Department of Justice Grant.