



TOWN OF ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT

JEFFERY R. ENGEL, CHIEF OF POLICE

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TO: Honorable Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and member of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Jeffery R. Engel, Chief of Police

DATED: November 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Application for DOLA Peace Officer Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnership Grant

BACKGROUND:

The Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships grant program is available for law enforcement agencies, peace officer organizations, and public safety agencies that employ peace officers for purposes to include:

- Co-responder community responses;
- Community-based alternative responses;
- Counseling services for peace officers and their immediate family members;
- Assistance for development and implementation of policies to support peace officers who are involved in shootings or fatal use of force;
- Training and education programs that teach peace officers and their immediate family members the symptoms of job-related mental trauma and how to prevent and treat such trauma;
- Peer support programs for peace officers.
- Hiring, contracting, or developing a remote network to provide behavioral health counseling, therapy or other related support services to peace officers involved in job-related traumatic situations.

ANALYSIS:

The Elizabeth Police Department has instilled a wellness program encouraging the development and sustainability of healthy behaviors across five dimensions, known as pillars. The pillars, emotional, physical, spiritual, social, and family wellness, have proven essential for personal readiness and resilience.

Efforts with building the wellness program, specifically emotional and family wellness, often exceed the limited service provided by Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency (CIRSA), the insurance company for the Town of Elizabeth. Furthermore, the field of wellness, as it pertains to law enforcement, requires on-going education and training to meet the rapidly and consistently changing environment of officer wellness.



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The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) has established a law enforcement-specific, non-matching grant program to support the integration of behavioral health in law enforcement. This grant is designed to fund the development, training, and contracting of behavioral health services, aiding agencies in creating and enhancing wellness programs and providing vital behavioral health support for officers.

The Elizabeth Police Department, committed to improving the wellness and resiliency of its officers, intends to, if awarded grant funding, provide peer support training to interested and qualified officers. Additionally, officers who are currently peer support officers will be afforded the opportunity to attend on-going training and education. Lastly, funds will be available to officers who need behavioral health services that extended beyond services offered by CIRSA and town provided insurance minimizing out of pocket expense.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is the recommendation the Town of Elizabeth Police Department that approval be granted to apply for the DOLA Peace Officer Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnership Grant in the amount of \$22,000.00.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The DOLA Peace Officer Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnership Grant is a non-matching grant, therefore there is no financial obligation to the Town of Elizabeth or the Elizabeth Police Department. As a non-matching grant, the revenue received has TABOR implications. **The dollar amount requested does not exceed parameters established by TABOR.**



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