

# AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



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## STAFF

Andrew Leslie, Sergeant, Police Services  
Kerri Ishmael, Senior Analyst, Grants Administration

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## SUBJECT

**Resolution 2024-001 Supporting a Grant Application for Co-responder/Community Based Alternative Response Support Funding for Fort Collins Police Services.**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to obtain support and approval for the City to apply in partnership with UC Health for grant funds in support of Fort Collins' Police Services Mental Health Response Team.

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## STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

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## BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Police Services operates the Mental Health Response Team (MHRT) with the mission to provide professional, compassionate, and comprehensive services through the collaboration of police and mental health professionals. MHRT conducts on-scene assessments and follow-up aligned with the agency's de-escalation philosophy. UC Health supports MHRT by partnering with Police Services in this mission and goals to:

- Increase on-scene safety for all parties involved;
- Route citizens to the most appropriate level of care;
- Avoid unnecessary referrals to hospital emergency rooms;
- Reduce incarceration related to crimes secondary to mental illness;
- Provide follow-up care coordination to ensure community members can access appropriate care; and
- Create a culture of police and mental health professionals' collaboration focusing on community needs and collaboration.

MHRT has been serving the community in collaboration with the support and partnership of UC Health since 2018.

UC Health licensed clinicians work alongside sworn Police Services officers assigned to MHRT. This partnership benefits the Fort Collins community by partnering law enforcement and behavioral health professionals to further the mission to provide compassionate, collaborative, and professional assessment and follow-up for community members suffering from behavioral health issues. Currently, UC Health provides the City with four professional full-time staff members for MHRT at no cost.

Considering the beneficial impact MHRT provides to the Fort Collins community, the City, in its capacity as an eligible applicant, is pursuing funding opportunities, that will support both Police Services and UC Health in furthering the goals of MHRT.

Through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) **FY2023-2024 Peace Officers Behavioral Health Support and Community Partnerships Grant Program** funding is available for Co-Responder/Community Based Alternative Response Support, which directly aligns with operations of MHRT. The DOLA grant program supports funding for “Co-responder community response,” defined under Colorado Revised Statute § 24-32-3501 as a model of criminal justice diversion that pairs law enforcement and behavioral health providers to intervene and respond to behavioral health-related calls for police service, utilizing the combined expertise of the law enforcement officer and behavioral health specialist to de-escalate situations and help link individuals with behavioral health issues to appropriate services. Police Services, in partnership with UC Health, intends to apply for grant funds under this DOLA grant program to cover personnel and equipment costs of UC Health professionals supporting MHRT, training, and community outreach.

#### **CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

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Support of Police Services, in partnership with UC Health, applying to this DOLA grant program does not impact City finances. If the grant is awarded, the City will serve as the fiscal agent for the grant funds and will seek appropriation of such grant funds from City Council.

#### **BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

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None.

#### **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

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None.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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1. Resolution for Consideration