

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1144

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## AN ACT

To establish a grant program to provide assistance to local  
law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Invest to Protect Act  
3 of 2023”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

5       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

6           (1) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING.—The term “de-  
7 escalation training” means training relating to tak-  
8 ing action or communicating verbally or non-verbally  
9 during a potential force encounter in an attempt to  
10 stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of  
11 the threat so that more time, options, and resources  
12 can be called upon to resolve the situation without  
13 the use of force or with a reduction in the force nec-  
14 essary.

15           (2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means  
16 the Director of the Office.

17           (3) ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term  
18 “eligible local government” means—

19                   (A) a county, municipality, town, township,  
20 village, parish, borough, or other unit of general  
21 government below the State level that employs  
22 fewer than 175 law enforcement officers; and

23                   (B) a Tribal government that employs  
24 fewer than 175 law enforcement officers.

25           (4) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term  
26 “law enforcement officer” has the meaning given the

1 term “career law enforcement officer” in section  
2 1709 of title I the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
3 Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10389).

4 (5) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-  
5 fice of Community Oriented Policing Services of the  
6 Department of Justice.

7 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
8 the Office a grant program to—

9 (1) provide training and access to mental health  
10 resources to local law enforcement officers; and

11 (2) improve the recruitment and retention of  
12 local law enforcement officers.

13 (c) AUTHORITY.—Not later than 120 days after the  
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall award  
15 grants to eligible local governments as a part of the grant  
16 program established under subsection (b).

17 (d) APPLICATIONS.—

18 (1) BARRIERS.—The Attorney General shall de-  
19 termine what barriers exist to establishing a stream-  
20 lined application process for grants under this sec-  
21 tion.

22 (2) REPORT.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
24 after the date of enactment of this Act, the At-  
25 torney General shall submit to Congress a re-

1 port that includes a plan to execute a stream-  
2 lined application process for grants under this  
3 section under which an eligible local government  
4 seeking a grant under this section can reason-  
5 ably complete the application in not more than  
6 2 hours.

7 (B) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan re-  
8 quired under subparagraph (A) may include a  
9 plan for—

10 (i) proactively providing eligible local  
11 governments seeking a grant under this  
12 section with information on the data eligi-  
13 ble local governments will need to prepare  
14 before beginning the grant application; and

15 (ii) ensuring technical assistance is  
16 available for eligible local governments  
17 seeking a grant under this section before  
18 and during the grant application process,  
19 including through dedicated liaisons within  
20 the Office.

21 (3) APPLICATIONS.—In selecting eligible local  
22 governments to receive grants under this section, the  
23 Director shall use the streamlined application proc-  
24 ess described in paragraph (2)(A).

1 (e) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—An eligible local govern-  
 2 ment that receives a grant under this section may use  
 3 amounts from the grant only for—

4 (1) de-escalation training for law enforcement  
 5 officers;

6 (2) victim-centered training for law enforcement  
 7 officers in handling situations of domestic violence;

8 (3) evidence-based law enforcement safety  
 9 training for—

10 (A) active shooter situations;

11 (B) the safe handling of illicit drugs and  
 12 precursor chemicals;

13 (C) rescue situations;

14 (D) recognizing and countering ambush at-  
 15 tacks; or

16 (E) response to calls for service involv-  
 17 ing—

18 (i) persons with mental health needs;

19 (ii) persons with substance use dis-  
 20 orders;

21 (iii) veterans;

22 (iv) persons with disabilities;

23 (v) vulnerable youth;

1 (vi) persons who are victims of domes-  
 2 tic violence, sexual assault, or trafficking;  
 3 or

4 (vii) persons experiencing homeless-  
 5 ness or living in poverty;

6 (4) the offsetting of overtime costs associated  
 7 with scheduling issues relating to the participation  
 8 of a law enforcement officer in the training de-  
 9 scribed in paragraphs (1) through (3), (9), and (10);

10 (5) a signing bonus for a law enforcement offi-  
 11 cer in an amount determined by the eligible local  
 12 government;

13 (6) a retention bonus for a law enforcement of-  
 14 ficer—

15 (A) in an amount determined by the eligi-  
 16 ble local government that does not exceed 20  
 17 percent of the salary of the law enforcement of-  
 18 ficer; and

19 (B) who—

20 (i) has been employed at the law en-  
 21 forcement agency for not fewer than 5  
 22 years;

23 (ii) has not been found by an internal  
 24 investigation to have engaged in serious  
 25 misconduct; and

1 (iii) commits to remain employed by  
 2 the law enforcement agency for not less  
 3 than 3 years after the date of receipt of  
 4 the bonus;

5 (7) a stipend for the graduate education of law  
 6 enforcement officers in the area of mental health,  
 7 public health, or social work, which shall not exceed  
 8 the lesser of—

9 (A) \$10,000; or

10 (B) the amount the law enforcement offi-  
 11 cer pays towards such graduate education;

12 (8) providing access to patient-centered behav-  
 13 ioral health services for law enforcement officers,  
 14 which may include resources for risk assessments,  
 15 evidence-based, trauma-informed care to treat post-  
 16 traumatic stress disorder or acute stress disorder,  
 17 peer support and counselor services and family sup-  
 18 ports, and the promotion of improved access to high  
 19 quality mental health care through telehealth;

20 (9) the implementation of evidence-based best  
 21 practices and training on the use of lethal and non-  
 22 lethal force;

23 (10) the implementation of evidence-based best  
 24 practices and training on the duty of care and the  
 25 duty to intervene; and

1           (11) data collection for police practices relating  
2           to officer and community safety.

3           (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPI-  
4           ENTS.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish  
6           reasonable reporting requirements specifically relat-  
7           ing to a grant awarded under this section for eligible  
8           local governments that receive such a grant in order  
9           to assist with the evaluation by the Office of the pro-  
10          gram established under this section.

11          (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing require-  
12          ments under paragraph (1), the Director shall con-  
13          sider the capacity of law enforcement agencies with  
14          fewer than 175 officers to collect and report infor-  
15          mation.

16          (g) DISCLOSURE OF OFFICER RECRUITMENT AND  
17          RETENTION BONUSES.—

18          (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
19          the date on which an eligible local government that  
20          receives a grant under this section awards a signing  
21          or retention bonus described in paragraph (5) or (6)  
22          of subsection (e), the eligible local government shall  
23          disclose to the Director and make publicly available  
24          on a website of the eligible local government the  
25          amount of the bonus.

1           (2) REPORT.—The Attorney General shall sub-  
2       mit to the appropriate congressional committees an  
3       annual report that includes each signing or retention  
4       bonus disclosed under paragraph (1) during the pre-  
5       ceding year.

6       (h) GRANT ACCOUNTABILITY.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—All grants awarded by the  
8       Director under this section shall be subject to the  
9       accountability provisions described in this sub-  
10      section.

11       (2) AUDIT REQUIREMENT.—

12           (A) DEFINITION.—In this paragraph, the  
13       term “unresolved audit finding” means a find-  
14       ing in the final audit report of the Inspector  
15       General of the Department of Justice that the  
16       audited grantee has used grant funds for an  
17       unauthorized expenditure or otherwise unallow-  
18       able cost that is not closed or resolved within  
19       12 months from the date when the final audit  
20       report is issued.

21           (B) AUDITS.—Beginning in the first fiscal  
22       year beginning after the date of enactment of  
23       this subsection, and in each fiscal year there-  
24       after, the Inspector General of the Department  
25       of Justice shall conduct audits of recipients of

1 grants under this section to prevent waste,  
2 fraud, and abuse of funds by grantees. The In-  
3 spector General of the Department of Justice  
4 shall determine the appropriate number of  
5 grantees to be audited each year.

6 (C) MANDATORY EXCLUSION.—A recipient  
7 of grant funds under this section that is found  
8 to have an unresolved audit finding shall not be  
9 eligible to receive grant funds under this section  
10 during the first 3 fiscal years beginning after  
11 the end of the 12-month period described in  
12 subparagraph (A).

13 (D) REIMBURSEMENT.—If an eligible local  
14 government is awarded grant funds under this  
15 section during the 3-fiscal-year period during  
16 which the eligible local government is barred  
17 from receiving grants under subparagraph (C),  
18 the Attorney General shall—

19 (i) deposit an amount equal to the  
20 amount of the grant funds that were im-  
21 properly awarded to the grantee into the  
22 General Fund of the Treasury; and

23 (ii) seek to recoup the costs of the re-  
24 payment to the fund from the grant recipi-

1 ent that was erroneously awarded grant  
2 funds.

3 (3) ANNUAL CERTIFICATION.—Beginning in the  
4 fiscal year during which audits commence under  
5 paragraph (2)(B), the Attorney General shall submit  
6 to the Committee on the Judiciary and the Com-  
7 mittee on Appropriations of the Senate and the  
8 Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on  
9 Appropriations of the House of Representatives an  
10 annual certification—

11 (A) indicating whether—

12 (i) all audits issued by the Office of  
13 the Inspector General of the Department  
14 of Justice under paragraph (2) have been  
15 completed and reviewed by the appropriate  
16 Assistant Attorney General or Director;

17 (ii) all mandatory exclusions required  
18 under paragraph (2)(C) have been issued;  
19 and

20 (iii) all reimbursements required  
21 under paragraph (2)(D) have been made;  
22 and

23 (B) that includes a list of any grant recipi-  
24 ents excluded under paragraph (2) from the  
25 previous year.

1 (i) PROGRAM EVALUATION.—Not less frequently  
2 than annually, the Attorney General shall analyze the in-  
3 formation provided by eligible local governments pursuant  
4 to the reporting requirements established under subsection  
5 (f)(1) to evaluate the efficacy of programs funded by the  
6 grant program under this section.

7 (j) PREVENTING DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Before the Director awards  
9 a grant to an eligible local government under this  
10 section, the Attorney General shall compare poten-  
11 tial grant awards with other grants awarded by the  
12 Attorney General to determine if grant awards are  
13 or have been awarded for a similar purpose.

14 (2) REPORT.—If the Attorney General awards  
15 grants to the same applicant for a similar purpose,  
16 whether through the grant program under this sec-  
17 tion or another grant program administered by the  
18 Department of Justice, the Attorney General shall  
19 submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
20 Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
21 House of Representatives a report that includes—

22 (A) a list of all such grants awarded, in-  
23 cluding the total dollar amount of any such  
24 grants awarded; and

1                   (B) the reason the Attorney General  
2                   awarded multiple grants to the same applicant  
3                   for a similar purpose.

4           (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
6 not more than \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
7 through 2029.

Passed the Senate December 17 (legislative day, December 16), 2024.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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