# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM AND CO-RESPONDER EXPANSION**
**Ordinance 894-2022**

Requesting Entity: Cleveland Division of Police
Geographic Scope of Project: City Wide

Primary Contact Name: Chief Drummond / Sgt. John Mullin
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**AMOUNT REQUESTED $ 5,056,295**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Cleveland Division of Police mental health Co-Responder team is a partnership between police, mental and behavioral health agencies, advocates, and the community that seeks to achieve the common goals of safety, understanding, and service to individuals in crisis, those with behavioral health issues, and their families. The teams are made up of a Specialized Crisis Intervention Team officer and a licensed mental health caseworker. They respond in a collaborative manner to handle both live calls and follow ups on incidents where they were not on scene. These teams are able to assess the situation and refer persons to various mental health agencies.

This initiative will expand the pilot CIT program that exists at the City, doubling the number of teams in the City and expanding both its reach and availability (hours).

Further, this proposal includes a mental health dispatcher who will assist with intake of specifically mental health crisis calls, as there is consensus in research from cities across the U.S. that dispatch centers need to be better equipped with handling mental health calls. This staff member will start in the second year to allow for further planning for this novel role and ensure maximum effectiveness.

This proposal also includes salary for 3 years for a senior level strategist who operates out of the public safety or Mayor's Office. The aim of this position is to stitch together the mental/public health and public safety efforts and outcomes from within City Hall, create a sustainable strategy for Cleveland's CIT model and/or mental health crisis response team, work with the Public Safety grants coordinator to identify DOJ and other county/state/federal funding, streamline existing efforts, and oversee the CIT social workers. This strategist will oversee the long-term strategic plan for and evaluation of this effort.

**TIMELINE**

Start date: October 1, 2022. No end date until funding is exhausted. The goal is for a five year plan. This current program was planned, implemented and expanded using Federal grant funding and Cleveland General Fund dollars. We will continue to seek grant funding as well as City and County funds to sustain the program indefinitely, but no less than a five year period. This initiative will continue to provide value to the community during and after the five year period has ended. The co-responder unit is providing individuals with mental health issues the framework on how to best handle their mental health needs in the future. Part of the strategist's role will be to determine a sustainability plan for a CIT or Co-Responder model.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

This project will be initiated by a senior leader (such as the proposed "Strategist for Public Safety & Health") level from City Hall, situated in Public Health, Public Safety and/or the Mayor's Office. It will be implemented by the Division of Police. A contract is required with the Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board.

**PARTNERS**

Cuyahoga Alcohol, Drug Addiction, & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board – Subcontracts for hiring caseworkers. Carole Ballard 216-479-3307
Case Western Reserve University - Evaluation – Michelle Riske-Morris 216-368-4741
Murtis Taylor (13422 Kinsman Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44120, (216) 283-4400) – Provides Caseworkers for Districts 4, 5
FrontLine Services (1744 Payne Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44114, (216) 623-6555) - Provides Caseworkers for Districts 1, 2, 3
Youth and Family Success, Office of Prevention, Intervention and Opportunity for Youth and Young Adults, Social Support Services Unit. Contact: Sherry Ulery (216) 664-2241. Collaboration between the Specialists in the Unit and CIT.

**GOALS**

The goals of this initiative are: to build upon the successful current Co-Responder program through the Division of Police; to reduce the number of repeat clients calling 911 for potential mental health situations; to increase the number of times co-responder teams responds to a situation that might involve a mental health crisis. There is currently one officer (and when fully staffed, one social worker) for each of the five police districts in the city of Cleveland, who currently work 1200-2200. We are seeking five additional teams to staff from 0800 to 0000, which is when 81.67% of all our CIT calls come in. The current social workers have expressed an interest in being hired by the City of Cleveland and not sourced out through other agencies. CIT programs have been proven effective nationally. It reduces the use of force, increases officer safety, reduces the number of arrests and improves access to mental healthcare. In 2021, there were 2,087 co-responder incidents in total (live calls and follow ups). Also in 2021, 544 individuals were re-linked to their outpatient providers since the start of the program. The goal is that doubling the size of the program would increase CPD's ability to respond to mental health crises by twofold.

**COMMUNITY IMPACT**

This initiative will have an immense community impact. Based on 2021 numbers, we expect the 10 CIT teams to respond to around 4,000 incidents (therefore affecting at least that many individuals) per year. Over 5 years, this is about 20,000 residents/visitors in Cleveland. Mental health does not only affect the person diagnosed, but also their family, friends and sometimes neighbors. When individuals receive services for untreated mental health issues, the issues and stress level of all those affected lowers, creating less need for a police response. A Resource Guide of has been developed by the Social Support Services Unit that identifies a comprehensive-but not exhaustive- list of community partners that collaborate with our Social Support Services Specialists to provide a "warm handoff" of services to our patrons. This Resource Guide will be shared with our Crisis Intervention Teams for easy reference to community partners.

## DIFFERENTIATION

Co-Responder programs are becoming valuable response systems in addressing mental health needs. The Cleveland Division of Police started this program on January 1, 2020. An expanded unit would continue to have Cleveland serve as a model for other police agencies. With the support of collaborators from institutions like the Begun Center for Violence Prevention at Case Western Reserve University and the Center for Racial Justice at Stanford University, the proposed senior level strategist will seek best practices across the country to develop a unique and potentially novel CIT model that other cities can emulate.

## FINANCIAL LEVERAGE

Currently, this program is matched with General Fund dollars that pay for the costs of the police officers who are assigned full-time to the Co-Responder Unit. Additionally, the Cuyahoga County ADAMHS Board has provided matching funds to help pay for some of the social workers assigned to the program. The total grant amount received was $750,000. Of that, there is $90,000 remaining. The original grant expires on 09/30/22. The city has requested an extension through 03/20/23, but the remaining funds will not last until them.

The Social Support Services Unit is has issued an RFP for a software solution to recordkeeping and documentation that is HIPAA compliant. The Crisis Intervention Team is exploring the possibility of this software package meeting the needs of the CIT, resulting in a shared solution. Proposals indicate costs ranging from $50k-$175k for implementation and $103k-$123k for ongoing yearly support. The City of Cleveland's general fund budget will provide the software that the Social Support Services Unit is willing to share if appropriate.

This program was planned, implemented and expanded using Federal grant funding and Cleveland General Fund dollars. We will continue to seek grant funding as well as City and County funds to sustain the program.

There is one additional grant we have that supports the program that the City has not initiated yet. This is a COPS grant that will support two additional caseworkers. They will cover assist the 5 main teams if someone is on furlough, or it a district is having a surge in cases. They will also assist at locations like the airport and anywhere else that needs extra assistance. That is a two year grant that will run through September, 2024. The award amount is $250,000.

## BUDGET

| Item | Units | Cost per unit per year | Total 1 Year | Total 3 Years | Total 5 Years | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Safety/Mental Health Strategist | 1 | $ 135,000.00 | $ 135,000.00 | $ 405,000.00 | $ 405,000.00 | end year 3 |
| Licensed Social Worker - salary and benefits | 10 | $ 75,000.00 | $ 750,000.00 | $ 2,250,000.00 | $ 3,750,000.00 | |
| Mental Health Dispatch Personnel (begin in year 2) | 1 | $ 65,000.00 | | $ 130,000.00 | $ 260,000.00 | begin year 2 |
| Unmarked Equipped Vehicle | 10 | $ 38,000.00 | $ 380,000.00 | $ 380,000.00 | $ 380,000.00 | |
| Bullet resistant vest | 11 | $ 1,345.00 | $ 14,795.00 | $ 14,795.00 | $ 14,795.00 | |
| Uniforms | 10 | $ 400.00 | $ 4,000.00 | $ 12,000.00 | $ 20,000.00 | |
| IT - laptops | 11 | $ 1,000.00 | $ 11,000.00 | $ 11,000.00 | $ 11,000.00 | |
| Office supplies and business cards | 11 | $ 100.00 | $ 1,100.00 | $ 3,300.00 | $ 5,500.00 | |
| Travel and Training | 11 | $ 2,000.00 | $ 22,000.00 | $ 66,000.00 | $ 110,000.00 | |
| Evaluation / Strategic Plan | 1 | $ 100,000.00 | $ 100,000.00 | $ 100,000.00 | $ 100,000.00 | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | **TOTAL** | **$ 1,417,895.00** | **$ 3,372,095.00** | **$ 5,056,295.00** | |