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April 18, 2022

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**OFFICER WELLNESS PROGRAM GRANTS MADE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
NEW WELLNESS APP IN DEVELOPMENT BY WASPC**

(Lacey, WA) – More than \$587,000 in grants have been allocated to Washington police and sheriffs offices to establish a behavioral health support and suicide prevention program for law enforcement officers over the next two years. The legislature allocated funds in the 2021-2023 state budget to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to establish a behavioral health support and suicide prevention program for law enforcement officers. The program awards grants to leverage access to mental health professionals, critical stress management and resiliency training. *(See chart below for grant details.)*

“Washington State law enforcement officers take pride in providing unwavering service to their communities, even at the risk of their own lives,” said Chief Gary Jenkins, Pullman Police, and a member of the Washington Law Enforcement Officer Mental Health & Wellness Taskforce. “The legislature acknowledged the need to support officers, deputies and their families by providing funding to address the emotional toll of a law enforcement career, and the increasing suicide rate among law enforcement officers.”

“The average person will experience a handful of critical incidents in their lifetime,” added Chief Mike Lasnier, Suquamish Tribe, and co-chair of the WASPC Wellness Committee. “The average police officer will be present at hundreds of them. While officers are expected to function flawlessly during intense moments of danger, loss, violence, horror and death, such incidents can leave a lasting impact. Officers need ways to offload the stress and horror that they see, so they don’t end up carrying it through their lives. These grants allow local communities and departments to protect the people that protect them, and keep them healthy and fit to continue serving”

The following programs and activities were eligible for grant funding:

- Agency information and wellness promotion campaigns
- Embedded mental health professionals
- Peer support programs
- Resiliency training programs
- Critical incident stress management programs

In addition, the legislature allocated \$1 million for fiscal year 2023 for WASPC to establish and coordinate an on-line or mobile-based application (app) for any Washington law enforcement officer; 911 operator or dispatcher; any other current or retired employee of a Washington law enforcement agency and their families to anonymously access on-demand wellness techniques, suicide prevention, resilience, physical fitness, nutrition and other behavioral health and wellness supports.

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WASPC was founded in 1963 and represents executive and top management personnel from law enforcement agencies statewide. With more than 900 members it includes the 39 county sheriffs, and 240 police chiefs, as well as the Washington State Patrol, the Washington Department of Corrections, and representatives of several federal agencies.

Law Enforcement agencies receiving grants are listed in the following table:

Agency	2022	2023	Total
Airway Heights Police Department, in coordination with Spokane Tribal Police Department, Spokane Tribe of Indians Behavioral Health Team, Grassroots Therapy Group, and Mnati Consulting	\$58,373.88	\$46,373.88	\$104,747.76
Auburn Police Department	\$32,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$55,000.00
Bellevue Police Department	\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Bellingham Police Department	\$3,000.00	\$17,200.00	\$20,200.00
Black Diamond Police Department	\$26,170.00	\$0.00	\$26,170.00
Bothell Police Department, with resources available to Kirkland Police Department and Lake Forest Park Police Department	\$2,066.00	\$22,730.00	\$24,796.00
Chelan County Sheriff's Office, in coordination with Chelan County Behavioral Health Unit/Diversion Program and Chelan County Regional Justice Center	\$20,950.00	\$36,550.00	\$57,500.00
Clark County Sheriff's Office	\$16,345.00	\$0.00	\$16,345.00
Ephrata Police Department	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Federal Way Police Department	\$7,536.00	\$10,664.00	\$18,200.00
Lake Forest Park Police Department	\$6,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$15,000.00
Mason County Sheriff's Office	\$25,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$37,000.00
Monroe Police Department	\$20,005.00	\$29,300.00	\$49,305.00
Puyallup Police Department, in coordination with Sumner Police Department, Bonney Lake Police Department, Orting Police Department, Buckley Police Department, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and Code 4 Northwest	\$40,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$60,000.00
Quincy Police Department	\$0.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Spokane Police Department	\$4,500.00	\$5,250.00	\$9,750.00
Steilacoom Police Department	\$1,728.00	\$0.00	\$1,728.00
Tukwila Police Department	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Yakima County Sheriff's Office in coordination with Yakima Police Department	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
	\$283,673.88	\$304,067.88	\$587,741.76