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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish within the Department of Health and Human Services a Division on Community Safety, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish within the Department of Health and Human Services a Division on Community Safety, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “People’s Response Act”.

6 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to—

7 (1) catalyze, coordinate, and disseminate re-
8 search on approaches to community safety that re-

1 duce criminal legal contact while expanding oppor-
2 tunity, including a particular focus on groups that
3 have been disproportionately harmed by the criminal
4 legal system;

5 (2) support State governments, local govern-
6 ments, and community-based organizations in imple-
7 menting qualified approaches to community safety;

8 (3) mobilize and coordinate Federal resources
9 to advance qualified approaches to community safe-
10 ty;

11 (4) expand resources to holistically support sur-
12 vivors of mass incarceration, police violence, rape
13 and other forms of sexual assault, harm resulting
14 from detention or deportation, and other forms of vi-
15 olence and abuse; and

16 (5) expand resources to holistically support
17 marginalized communities, including Black commu-
18 nities, Latine/x communities, Indigenous commu-
19 nities, communities of color, poor and working class
20 communities, and LGBTQIA+ communities, to im-
21 plement qualified approaches to community safety,
22 with an emphasis on culturally and linguistically ap-
23 propriate approaches.

24 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
2 term “community-based organization” means a pub-
3 lic or private nonprofit organization of demonstrated
4 effectiveness that—

5 (A) is representative of a community or
6 significant segments of a community; and

7 (B) provides educational or related services
8 to individuals in the community.

9 (2) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.—The term
10 “community health worker” means a frontline public
11 health worker who—

12 (A) is a trusted member of, or has a close
13 understanding of, the community served, ena-
14 bling the worker to serve as a link between
15 health and social services and the community,
16 so as to facilitate access to services and improve
17 the quality and cultural competence of service
18 delivery; and

19 (B) builds individual and community ca-
20 pacity by increasing health knowledge and self-
21 sufficiency through a range of activities such as
22 outreach, community education, counseling (as
23 allowed under State licensing requirements), so-
24 cial support, and advocacy.

1 (3) COMMUNITY LAND TRUST.—The term
2 “community land trust” means a community-based
3 organization that is designed to ensure community
4 stewardship of land and—

5 (A) is not sponsored by a for-profit organi-
6 zation;

7 (B) has a membership open to any adult
8 who resides in the particular geographic area in
9 which the organization operates; and

10 (C) provides low-cost land and housing
11 while maintaining community control over
12 neighborhood resources, including by acquiring
13 land that will be held in perpetuity so as to pro-
14 vide permanently affordable homeownership to
15 those who might not otherwise be able to afford
16 a home.

17 (4) FIRST RESPONDER.—The term “first re-
18 sponder” means an individual with relevant experi-
19 ence who responds to crises in a way that meets the
20 definition of qualified approaches to community safe-
21 ty.

22 (5) QUALIFIED APPROACH TO COMMUNITY
23 SAFETY.—The term “qualified approach to commu-
24 nity safety” means evidence-informed, nonpunitive
25 approaches to prevent, address, and respond to vio-

1 lence and otherwise enhance public safety using pro-
2 grams, services, and infrastructure investments that
3 provide alternatives to law enforcement, criminal
4 courts, prosecution, probation, child welfare services,
5 involuntary treatment, and immigration enforce-
6 ment.

7 (6) PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING.—The term
8 “participatory budgeting” means a democratic en-
9 gagement process in which community members de-
10 liberate and decide directly how to allocate a portion
11 of a public budget.

12 (7) RURAL AREA.—The term “rural area”
13 means an area that is not classified by the Census
14 Bureau as urban.

15 (8) SAFETY NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—The term
16 “safety needs assessment” means a systematic,
17 participatory process for identifying the safety needs
18 in the local community. Such process shall include—

19 (A) soliciting input from persons who rep-
20 resent the broad interests of the local commu-
21 nity, including those who have been harmed by
22 arrest, incarceration, criminal supervision, im-
23 migration detention, or other criminal legal sys-
24 tem involvement;

1 (B) identifying the structural, systemic
2 factors that may lead community members to
3 feel unsafe or may increase the risk that com-
4 munity members may become involved with the
5 criminal legal system;

6 (C) identifying existing resources that are
7 potentially available to address those safety
8 needs as well as any other gaps in necessary re-
9 sources; and

10 (D) providing opportunities that allow peo-
11 ple meaningful opportunities to review, com-
12 ment on, and provide suggested modifications
13 to the draft assessment, such as through public
14 hearings, online publication, and a comment pe-
15 riod that allows sufficient time for community
16 feedback.

17 (9) STATE.—The term “State” means any
18 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
19 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
20 lands, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mar-
21 iana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands,
22 the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Repub-
23 lic of Palau.

24 (10) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term
25 “unit of local government” means any city, county,

1 township, town, borough, parish, village, or other
2 general purpose political subdivision of a State.

3 **TITLE I—DIVISION ON**
4 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

5 **SEC. 101. DIVISION ON COMMUNITY SAFETY.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the
7 Department of Health and Human Services a Division on
8 Community Safety (referred to in this Act as the “Divi-
9 sion”). The Division shall be headed by an Assistant Sec-
10 retary for Community Safety (referred to in this Act as
11 the “Assistant Secretary”) who shall be designated by and
12 report directly to the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services.

14 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Division shall have re-
15 sponsibility for overseeing activities that promote qualified
16 approaches to community safety, including—

17 (1) coordinating and carrying out other over-
18 sight activities with respect to the grant programs
19 established under title II;

20 (2) funding, conducting, coordinating, and pub-
21 licly disseminating the findings of, research into poli-
22 cies, programs, infrastructure, and other invest-
23 ments that serve to increase qualified approaches to
24 community safety, including through interdiscipli-

1 nary collaborations involving scholars, nonprofits,
2 and other nongovernmental actors;

3 (3) providing and funding technical assistance
4 to State and local governments to implement quali-
5 fied approaches to community safety;

6 (4) establishing—

7 (A) the National Advisory Committee
8 under section 102;

9 (B) the Interagency Task Force under sec-
10 tion 103;

11 (C) the Community Safety Grant for com-
12 munity-led organizations under section 201;

13 (D) the Community Safety Grant for Local
14 Governments under section 202;

15 (E) the Community Safety Grant for
16 States under section 203; and

17 (F) the First Responder Hiring Grants
18 under section 204;

19 (5) coordinating, streamlining, and imple-
20 menting qualified approaches to community safety in
21 collaboration with the Assistant Secretary for the
22 Administration for Children and Families, Director
23 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
24 Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
25 Administration, Director of the Indian Health Serv-

1 ice, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and
2 Substances Use, and other relevant agencies within
3 the Department of Health and Human Services;

4 (6) supporting and helping to coordinate inter-
5 agency initiatives that advance, streamline, and oth-
6 erwise implement qualified approaches to community
7 safety;

8 (7) administering grant programs that support
9 State governments, local governments, and commu-
10 nity-based organizations in implementing qualified
11 approaches to increasing community safety;

12 (8) developing data systems and processes for
13 evaluating the impact of grants made under title II,
14 including through the use of data matching and
15 other tools to inform target populations and geo-
16 graphic areas;

17 (9) providing to the public updates, findings,
18 and recommendations on qualified approaches to
19 community safety collected from the reports made by
20 recipients of grants under title II; and

21 (10) establishing and maintaining a complaint
22 system responsible for the resolution of complaints
23 from members of the general public regarding grant
24 funding for programs not compliant with the quali-
25 fied approaches to community safety standards.

1 **SEC. 102. NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Division shall establish a na-
3 tional advisory committee to advise and make rec-
4 ommendations to the Assistant Secretary about the activi-
5 ties of the Division established under section 101 and
6 grant programs under title II, to be known as the National
7 Advisory Committee (referred to in this Act as the “Advi-
8 sory Committee”).

9 (b) COMPOSITION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Committee
11 shall be composed of individuals to be selected by the
12 Secretary.

13 (2) REPRESENTATION.—The Assistant Sec-
14 retary shall ensure that individuals selected to serve
15 as members of the Advisory Committee—

16 (A) have personal experience with the
17 criminal legal system, including—

18 (i) individuals who have been detained
19 or incarcerated;

20 (ii) individuals who are currently on
21 community supervision (such as probation
22 or parole) or who have been on community
23 supervision;

24 (iii) individuals who have been ar-
25 rested or cited by law enforcement;

1 (iv) individuals who have been harmed
2 by police violence or other forms of vio-
3 lence, including domestic violence, sexual
4 assault, rape, and other forms of sexual or
5 intimate partner violence; and

6 (v) immediate family members of indi-
7 viduals who have been harmed by police vi-
8 olence; and

9 (B) are advocates or grassroots practi-
10 tioners working to advance educational equity,
11 health equity, housing equity, environmental
12 justice, racial justice, gender justice, disability
13 justice, or Indigenous justice.

14 (3) PAY.—Members of the Advisory Committee
15 shall serve at a rate of pay to be determined by the
16 Secretary.

17 (4) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The duties of the Ad-
18 visory Committee are as follows:

19 (A) Making recommendations regarding
20 annual priorities and funding for research and
21 technical assistance and evaluating, on an an-
22 nual basis, research conducted or supported by
23 the Division and technical assistance provided
24 by the Division.

1 (B) Based on the evaluations conducted
2 under subparagraph (A), producing, and sub-
3 mitting to the Administrator, annual rec-
4 ommendations on the following:

5 (i) Whether activities conducted by
6 the Division adequately reflect the specific
7 needs and interests of all individuals, in-
8 cluding Black individuals, Asian-American
9 individuals, Latinx individuals, Indigenous
10 individuals, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and
11 transgender individuals, disabled individ-
12 uals, and other individuals who are mem-
13 bers of communities that have been dis-
14 proportionately impacted by the immigra-
15 tion and criminal legal system.

16 (ii) Whether funding made available
17 to the Division is sufficiently flowing to or-
18 ganizations that are led by individuals who
19 represent communities that have been dis-
20 proportionately impacted by the criminal-
21 legal system, such as those referred to in
22 clause (i).

23 (iii) Changes that the Division could
24 make to address any issues uncovered dur-
25 ing such evaluations, including ways to en-

1 sure that grants awarded under this title
2 are serving to enhance racial equity and
3 benefit community-based organizations
4 that have diverse leadership and composi-
5 tion.

6 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date on which the Division receives the recommenda-
8 tions under paragraph (4)(B), the Division shall
9 submit a report to Congress, which details—

10 (A) steps the Division has taken or will
11 take to implement the Advisory Committee’s
12 recommendations; or

13 (B) for any recommendations not imple-
14 mented or planned to be implemented, an expla-
15 nation as to why such recommendation was in-
16 feasible or conflicted with the Division’s statu-
17 tory obligations.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
20 necessary to carry out the duties of the Advisory Com-
21 mittee.

22 **SEC. 103. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

23 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services shall establish an interagency task force
25 (referred to in this Act as the “Task Force”) to coordinate

1 and promote holistic, qualified approaches to community
2 safety.

3 (b) MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall be composed
4 of the following members:

5 (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
6 ices, or the designee of the Secretary.

7 (2) The Attorney General, or the designee of
8 the Attorney General.

9 (3) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
10 opment, or the designee of the Secretary.

11 (4) The Secretary of Education, or the designee
12 of the Secretary.

13 (5) The Secretary of Labor, or the designee of
14 the Secretary.

15 (6) The Administrator of the Environmental
16 Protection Agency, or the designee of the Adminis-
17 trator.

18 (7) Other agencies, as determined necessary by
19 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

20 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall carry out the fol-
21 lowing:

22 (1) Conduct a comprehensive audit of all funds
23 allocated and programs supported by the Depart-
24 ment of Justice and other Federal agencies that
25 fund law enforcement, jails, prisons, and other de-

1 tention facilities, and other coercive or carceral ap-
2 proaches to public safety.

3 (2) Conduct a comprehensive audit that as-
4 sesses all Federal funds allocated to, as well as Fed-
5 eral programs supporting, initiatives that are in-
6 tended to enhance qualified approaches to commu-
7 nity safety, disaggregated by jurisdiction.

8 (3) Facilitate ongoing efforts to streamline the
9 application, monitoring, and reporting processes to
10 make Federal funds provided pursuant to any grant
11 made under this Act maximally accessible to small,
12 grassroots organizations that work to develop, imple-
13 ment, or evaluate qualified approaches to community
14 safety.

15 (d) MEETINGS.—For the purpose of carrying out this
16 section, the Task Force may hold such meetings, and sit
17 and act at such times and places, as the Task Force con-
18 siders appropriate.

19 (e) INFORMATION.—The Task Force may secure di-
20 rectly from any Federal agency such information as may
21 be necessary to enable the Task Force to carry out this
22 section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Task
23 Force, the head of such agency shall furnish such informa-
24 tion to the Task Force.

1 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date on which the Task Force completes the au-
3 dits described in subsection (c), the Task Force shall sub-
4 mit a report to Congress, which summarizes—

5 (1) the contents of such audits; and

6 (2) any recommendations, based on such audits,
7 with respect to additional investments or policy
8 changes that would improve the implementation of
9 qualified community safety approaches and maxi-
10 mize community safety outcomes in all jurisdictions
11 served.

12 **TITLE II—GRANTS IN SUPPORT** 13 **OF COMMUNITY SAFETY**

14 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANT** 15 **FOR COMMUNITY-LED ORGANIZATIONS.**

16 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
17 of Health and Human Services (in this Act referred to
18 as the “Secretary”), shall award grants, on a rolling basis,
19 to community-based organizations that are designing, im-
20 plementing, monitoring, or otherwise supporting qualified
21 approaches to community safety, including as inter-
22 mediaries making subgrants to other local organizations
23 and community leaders who are leading qualified commu-
24 nity safety programming.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—A community-based organization
2 seeking a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
3 tion to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
4 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

5 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
6 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to community-based
7 organizations that—

8 (1) serve, are located in, and directly employ
9 people who live in communities that have been dis-
10 proportionately impacted by the immigration or
11 criminal legal system, as evidenced by high rates of
12 individuals who have been cited, arrested, or incar-
13 cerated in the year preceding the year for which the
14 application for such grant is submitted, compared to
15 the surrounding region;

16 (2) are led by, or employ, individuals who have
17 been harmed by the criminal legal system, including
18 via arrests, incarceration, witnessing or being vic-
19 tims of police violence, or having a family member
20 who was arrested, incarcerated, or a victim of police
21 violence;

22 (3) are led by individuals who have proven ties
23 to the community in which the organization oper-
24 ates; or

1 (4) primarily serve federally recognized Native
2 American Tribes and their members.

3 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A community-based organiza-
4 tion receiving funds under this section shall use such grant
5 funds for any purpose that has demonstrable connection
6 to improving community safety through the use of quali-
7 fied approaches to community safety, including grant writ-
8 ing or funding that furthers one or more of the following
9 purposes:

10 (1) Crisis intervention, including unarmed first
11 responder agencies and 9–1–1 dispatchers for divert-
12 ing calls to first responders.

13 (2) Programs that interrupt or prevent violence,
14 including violence and abuse interruption and pre-
15 vention programs, neighborhood mediation pro-
16 grams, community violence intervention programs,
17 school-based violence prevention programs, and safe
18 passage to school programs.

19 (3) Participatory investments into the built en-
20 vironment, including park redevelopment,
21 streetlights, home repairs, remediating vacant lots,
22 trash collection, and public transportation.

23 (4) Public health activities and voluntary health
24 services, including harm reduction-based treatment
25 for mental health and substance use, hiring of com-

1 community health workers, long-term supportive hous-
2 ing, lead abatement, pollution reduction, and nutri-
3 tion access, such as through establishing farmers
4 markets, nonprofit and employee-owned grocery
5 stores, and school-based nutrition programs.

6 (5) Housing security programs and initiatives,
7 including outreach programs, permanent supportive
8 housing, community land trusts, and housing for in-
9 dividuals experiencing temporary or chronic home-
10 lessness.

11 (6) Support for youth and families, including
12 school-based counselors, trauma-informed practices,
13 youth and mentorship programs, after-school and
14 enrichment programs, credible messenger in schools
15 programs, social-emotional learning programs, wrap-
16 around services, summer jobs, targeted workforce
17 development, and two-intergenerational program-
18 ming.

19 (7) Support for victims, including survivors of
20 domestic violence, sexual violence, and rape, and tar-
21 geted services to help victims, witnesses, and sur-
22 vivors process trauma, achieve financial and housing
23 independence, make individualized, needs-based safe-
24 ty plans, and otherwise access the help that they
25 need.

1 (8) Reentry support for people who are exiting
2 incarceration or criminal supervision, including edu-
3 cational and workforce programs, stipends, housing
4 programs, and support for worker coops.

5 (9) Capacity building support to local advocates
6 and community-based organizations, including legal
7 assistance, and startup assistance for coops, commu-
8 nity land trusts, and nonprofit organizations.

9 (e) ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
10 may authorize additional uses of funds that—

11 (1) have a demonstrable connection to improv-
12 ing community safety through the use of qualified
13 approaches to community safety; and

14 (2) support the objectives of the Division on
15 Community Safety.

16 (f) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—The Secretary may au-
17 thorize additional funds under this section to community-
18 based organizations that previously received funds under
19 this section if the Secretary determines the previously re-
20 ceived funds were successfully deployed and additional
21 funding would assist in expanding qualified approaches to
22 community safety and ensuring a sustainable, coordinated
23 approach in the jurisdiction the organization serves.

24 (g) GRANT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount
25 of a grant awarded to a single community-based organiza-

1 tion under this section, the Secretary shall base such de-
2 termination on—

3 (1) the number of people who will be served by
4 the program or intervention;

5 (2) the depth of need demonstrated, including
6 attention to specific activities planned, the socio-
7 economic characteristics of the community served by
8 the organization, and current patterns of criminal
9 legal involvement; and

10 (3) such other factors as the Secretary deter-
11 mines are relevant.

12 (h) LIMITATIONS.—

13 (1) QUALIFIED APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY
14 SAFETY.—Funds made available under this section
15 may be used only to carry out programs, services, or
16 activities that use qualified approaches to commu-
17 nity safety.

18 (2) RURAL AREAS.—Not less than 30 percent
19 of the total amount of funding made available for
20 grants under this section shall be awarded to organi-
21 zations located in rural areas.

22 (i) REPORTING.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than
24 one year after the date on which a community-based
25 organization receives a grant under this section, and

1 biannually thereafter, the organization shall prepare
2 and submit a report to the Secretary and Assistant
3 Secretary containing such information as the Sec-
4 retary may require, including—

5 (A) the use of grant funds;

6 (B) an estimation of the number of people
7 served through activities carried out using
8 grant funds, including demographic information
9 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gender,
10 disability status sexuality, ZIP Code, and socio-
11 economic status (where such information is rea-
12 sonably available and voluntarily provided); and

13 (C) any relevant feedback received by such
14 organization from the populations served by
15 such organization regarding—

16 (i) the efficacy of support from
17 sources other than programs and services
18 provided by such organization using grant
19 funds; and

20 (ii) additional resources and services
21 needed by such populations with respect to
22 improving community safety.

23 (2) PRIVACY.—The report submitted to the
24 Secretary and Division on Community Safety pursu-
25 ant to this section must protect the privacy of the

1 individuals served. All of the information gathered
2 as part of the reporting process shall be aggregated,
3 anonymized, and, except as required to be disclosed
4 by State or Federal law, used only for the purposes
5 listed in this section and shall not be used to initiate
6 or contribute to any criminal, legal, immigration, or
7 Child Protective Services actions or proceedings.

8 (j) EVALUATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Division on Community
10 Safety shall review and evaluate information pro-
11 vided in the reports submitted by organizations re-
12 ceiving funds under this section, and other informa-
13 tion available to the Division, including by con-
14 ducting data matching and other forms of data anal-
15 ysis, and periodically submit such analyses to the
16 Secretary.

17 (2) INCORPORATION OF ANALYSES.—The Sec-
18 retary shall incorporate analyses provided by the Di-
19 vision on Community Safety into decision-making re-
20 garding awarding additional grants under this sec-
21 tion.

22 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$4,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026
25 through 2030.

1 **SEC. 202. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANT**
2 **FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
4 shall award grants, on a rolling basis, to units of local
5 government to assess safety needs, conduct research on,
6 fund programming on, and otherwise support the develop-
7 ment of qualified approaches to community safety.

8 (b) APPLICATION.—A unit of local government seek-
9 ing a grant under this section shall submit an application
10 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
11 taining such information as the Secretary may require, in-
12 cluding an assurance that the unit of local government
13 shall develop, and submit to the Secretary, during the
14 grant period, a safety needs assessment to guide local in-
15 vestments in qualified approaches to community safety.

16 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
17 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to a unit of local
18 government that—

19 (1) has taken steps toward, or is submitting
20 proposals within the application for such a grant for
21 purposes of—

22 (A) increasing human liberty, including
23 through measures that reduce incarceration,
24 pretrial detention, arrests, criminal supervision,
25 immigration detention, and other forms of
26 criminal justice involvement;

1 (B) ending the criminalization of poverty,
2 mental illness, homelessness, substance use, and
3 related issues by addressing root causes of
4 those issues rather than imposing criminal pun-
5 ishment and other punitive responses; or

6 (C) ending racial, economic, gender, and
7 other disparities in criminal punishment, and
8 discipline in schools;

9 (2) has a high rate of poverty, as well as dis-
10 proportionately high shares of residents who have
11 been impacted by violence and the criminal legal sys-
12 tem (as determined by the Secretary and compared
13 to the surrounding region); or

14 (3) has prepared and developed the application
15 submitted under this section in consultation with the
16 community the unit of local government serves, espe-
17 cially individuals in such community who have been
18 harmed by the criminal legal system.

19 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A unit of local government re-
20 ceiving funds under this section shall use such grant funds
21 to carry out the following:

22 (1) Establish or designate a community-led en-
23 tity that—

24 (A) employs qualified approaches to com-
25 munity safety; and

1 (B) can coordinate and make investments
2 in community safety, including by using
3 participatory budgeting or other community-led
4 processes.

5 (2) Develop a safety needs assessment and cre-
6 ate an action plan targeted to address such safety
7 needs.

8 (3) Invest in programs, interventions, or policy
9 initiatives that have a demonstrable connection to
10 improving community safety, including programs
11 interventions, or policy initiatives that are designed
12 to address needs related to economic stability, sur-
13 vivor safety, physical and behavioral health, environ-
14 mental safety, housing stability, and educational eq-
15 uity and opportunity such as those listed in section
16 201(d).

17 (4) Train and hire community health workers,
18 including individuals who are trained in first re-
19 sponse and violence prevention, who can help to ad-
20 dress such identified safety needs.

21 (5) Administer programming, including via
22 grants to community-based organizations and the di-
23 rect deployment of community health workers, to im-
24 plement the action plan.

1 (e) ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
2 may authorize additional uses of funds that—

3 (1) have a demonstrable connection to improv-
4 ing community safety through the use of qualified
5 approaches to community safety; and

6 (2) support the objectives of the Division on
7 Community Safety.

8 (f) GRANT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount of
9 a grant awarded to a unit of local government under this
10 section, the Secretary shall base such determination on—

11 (1) the number of people who live in the juris-
12 diction of the local government;

13 (2) the depth of need demonstrated, including
14 attention to activities planned, the socioeconomic
15 characteristics of the community and residents with-
16 in that jurisdiction, and current patterns of spend-
17 ing in systems of incarceration; and

18 (3) such other factors as the Secretary deter-
19 mines are relevant.

20 (g) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—The Secretary may au-
21 thorize additional funds under this section to units of local
22 government that previously received funds under this sec-
23 tion if the Secretary determines the previously received
24 funds were successfully deployed and additional funding
25 would assist in expanding qualified approaches to commu-

1 nity safety and ensuring a sustainable, coordinated ap-
2 proach in the jurisdiction of the local government.

3 (h) LIMITATIONS.—

4 (1) Funds made available under this section
5 may be used only to carry out programs, services, or
6 activities that use qualified approaches to commu-
7 nity safety.

8 (2) Not less than 30 percent of the total
9 amount made available for grants under this section
10 shall be awarded to units of local government with
11 less than 50 percent of their total land area jurisdic-
12 tion classified as urban by the Census Bureau.

13 (2) Each unit of local government receiving a
14 grant under this section shall certify to the Sec-
15 retary that any individual hired using funds received
16 through such grant will be paid a wage, which shall
17 be at least the highest of the following:

18 (A) \$17 an hour.

19 (B) The minimum wage under the applica-
20 ble State or local minimum wage law.

21 (C) The prevailing rates of pay for individ-
22 uals employed in similar occupations by the
23 same employer.

1 (D) The Federal minimum wage in effect
2 under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Stand-
3 ards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).

4 (i) REPORTING.—Beginning not later than 6 months
5 after the date on which a local government receives a
6 grant under this section, and biannually thereafter, the
7 unit of local government shall prepare and submit to the
8 Secretary, and make publicly available, a report containing
9 information about—

10 (1) how the grant funds were used;

11 (2) the number of people who were cited, ar-
12 rested, or jailed by any State or local law enforce-
13 ment officers in the previous year in the jurisdiction
14 of the local government, as compared to the number
15 cited, arrest, or jailed during the term of the grant;

16 (3) the reasons for such citing, arresting, or de-
17 tained or imprisoned;

18 (4) demographic data of individuals cited, ar-
19 rested, or jailed or referred by local law enforcement
20 officers, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, gen-
21 der, and disability status; and

22 (5) the percentage of grant funds that ulti-
23 mately benefited community-based organizations.

24 (j) EVALUATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Division on Community
2 Safety shall review and evaluate information pro-
3 vided in the reports submitted by units of local gov-
4 ernment receiving funds under this section, and
5 other information available to the Division, including
6 by conducting data matching and other forms of
7 data analysis, and submit such analyses to the Sec-
8 retary.

9 (2) INCORPORATION OF ANALYSES.—The Sec-
10 retary shall incorporate analyses provided by the Di-
11 vision on Community Safety into decision-making re-
12 garding awarding additional grants under this sec-
13 tion.

14 (k) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An unit of local
15 government receiving a grant under this section may use
16 Federal funds received through the grant only to supple-
17 ment the funds that would, without such Federal funds,
18 be made available from State and local sources, and not
19 to supplant such funds.

20 (l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to implement this section
22 \$3,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026
23 through 2030.

1 **SEC. 203. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY GRANT**
2 **FOR STATES.**

3 (a) GRANT PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—The Secretary
4 shall award grants, on a rolling basis, to States to conduct
5 research on, fund, and otherwise support the development
6 of qualified approaches to community safety.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—A State seeking a grant under
8 this section shall submit an application to the Secretary
9 at such time, in such manner, and containing such infor-
10 mation as the Secretary may require, including an assur-
11 ance that the State shall—

12 (1) establish or designate a State agency, de-
13 partment, or office equivalent to the Division on
14 Community Safety established under section 101, to
15 oversee and support the use of qualified approaches
16 to community safety statewide; and

17 (2) provide matching funds equal to the amount
18 of Federal funds received under the grant—

19 (A) to fund qualified approaches to com-
20 munity safety; and

21 (B) to provide an ongoing framework for
22 continued funding of such qualified approaches.

23 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
24 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to a State that meets
25 one or more of the same criteria specified in paragraphs
26 (1), (2), and (3) of section 202(c).

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—A State receiving funds under
2 this section shall use such grant funds to—

3 (1) make grants to community-based organiza-
4 tions implementing one or more qualified approaches
5 to community safety, including as intermediaries
6 making subgrants to other local organizations and
7 community leaders who are leading qualified commu-
8 nity safety programming on these issues;

9 (2) fund local governments to undertake the ac-
10 tivities described in section 202(d); or

11 (3) fund education training for individuals who
12 are taking jobs that advance qualified approaches to
13 community safety.

14 (e) ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
15 may authorize additional uses of funds that—

16 (1) have a demonstrable connection to improv-
17 ing community safety through the use of qualified
18 approaches to community safety; and

19 (2) support the objectives of the Division on
20 Community Safety.

21 (f) GRANT AMOUNTS.—In determining the amount of
22 a grant awarded to a single recipient under this section,
23 the Secretary shall base such determination on—

24 (1) the number of people who live in the State;

1 (2) the depth of need demonstrated, including
2 attention to activities planned, the socioeconomic
3 characteristics of the community, and current pat-
4 terns of involvement in the criminal legal system;
5 and

6 (3) such other factors as the Secretary deter-
7 mines are relevant.

8 (g) **ADDITIONAL GRANTS.**—The Secretary may au-
9 thorize additional funds under this section to States that
10 previously received funds under this section if the Sec-
11 retary determines the previously received funds were suc-
12 cessfully deployed and additional funding would assist in
13 expanding qualified approaches to community safety and
14 ensuring a sustainable, coordinated approach in the State.

15 (h) **LIMITATIONS.**—

16 (1) Funds made available under this section
17 may be used only to carry out programs, services, or
18 activities that use qualified approaches to commu-
19 nity safety.

20 (2) Not less than 30 percent of the total
21 amount made available for grants under this section
22 shall be awarded to States with less than 50 percent
23 of their total land area classified as urban by the
24 Census Bureau.

1 (i) REPORTING.—Beginning not later than 6 months
2 after the date on which a State receives a grant under
3 this section, and biannually thereafter, such State shall
4 prepare and submit a report to the Secretary containing
5 information about—

6 (1) how the grant funds were used;

7 (2) the number of people who were cited, ar-
8 rested, or jailed by State or local law enforcement
9 officers in the previous year, as compared to the
10 number cited, arrest, or jailed during the term of
11 the grant;

12 (3) the reasons for such citing, arresting, or
13 jailing; and

14 (4) demographic data of individuals cited, ar-
15 rested, or jailed or referred by State or local law en-
16 forcement officers, disaggregated by race, ethnicity,
17 age, gender, and disability status.

18 (j) EVALUATION.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Division on Community
20 Safety shall review and evaluate information pro-
21 vided in the reports submitted by States receiving
22 funds under this section, and other information
23 available to the Division, including by conducting
24 data matching and other forms of data analysis, and
25 submit such analyses to the Secretary.

1 (2) INCORPORATION OF ANALYSES.—The Sec-
2 retary shall incorporate analyses provided by the Di-
3 vision on Community Safety into decision-making re-
4 garding awarding additional grants under this sec-
5 tion.

6 (k) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—A State shall
7 use Federal funds received under this section only to sup-
8 plement the funds that would, without such Federal funds,
9 be made available from State and local sources, and not
10 to supplant such funds.

11 (l) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to implement this section
13 \$3,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026
14 through 2030.

15 **SEC. 204. FIRST RESPONDER HIRING GRANTS.**

16 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall
17 carry out a grant program under which the Secretary
18 makes grants to community-based organizations, health
19 departments, States, units of local government, Indian
20 tribal governments, other public and private entities, and
21 multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia for the purposes
22 described under subsection (b).

23 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant awarded under sub-
24 section (a) may be used to—

25 (1) recruit, hire, and train first responders;

1 (2) procure equipment, technology, support sys-
2 tems, or pay overtime, to increase the number of
3 first responders available to a community;

4 (3) increase the number of first responders in-
5 volved in activities that are focused on interaction
6 with members of the community on crisis response
7 and community violence and trauma prevention;

8 (4) provide education and training to first re-
9 sponders to enhance their conflict resolution, medi-
10 ation, problem solving, service, and other skills need-
11 ed to work in partnership with members of the com-
12 munity, including by programs that incentivize indi-
13 viduals to complete such education and training;

14 (5) develop and implement innovative programs
15 that support members of the community to work
16 with community-based organizations, emergency first
17 responders, and State, Tribal, and local officials in
18 community violence and trauma prevention efforts;
19 and

20 (6) establish school-based partnerships by em-
21 ploying and retaining first responders in pre-Kinder-
22 garten, elementary, and secondary schools to support
23 trauma-informed care and behavioral and mental
24 health services, and to operate school-based health
25 centers in local schools.

1 (c) ADDITIONAL USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary
2 may authorize additional uses of funds that—

3 (1) have a demonstrable connection to improv-
4 ing community safety through the use of qualified
5 approaches to community safety; and

6 (2) support the objectives of the Division on
7 Community Safety.

8 (d) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—The Secretary may au-
9 thorize additional funds under this section to entities that
10 previously received funds under this section if the Sec-
11 retary determines the previously received funds were suc-
12 cessfully deployed and additional funding would assist in
13 expanding qualified approaches to community safety and
14 ensuring a sustainable, coordinated approach in the juris-
15 diction the entity serves.

16 (e) LIMITATIONS.—

17 (1) Funds made available under this section
18 may be used only to carry out programs, services, or
19 activities that use qualified approaches to commu-
20 nity safety.

21 (2) Not less than 30 percent of the total
22 amount made available for grants under this section
23 shall be awarded to entities located in rural areas.

24 (2) Each entity that receives a grant under this
25 section shall certify to the Secretary that any indi-

1 vidual hired using funds received through such grant
2 will be paid a wage, which shall be at least the high-
3 est of the following:

4 (A) \$17 an hour.

5 (B) The minimum wage under the applica-
6 ble State or local minimum wage law.

7 (C) The prevailing rates of pay for individ-
8 uals employed in similar occupations by the
9 same employer.

10 (D) The Federal minimum wage in effect
11 under section 6(a)(1) of the Fair Labor Stand-
12 ards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 206(a)(1)).

13 (f) EVALUATION.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Division on Community
15 Safety shall review and evaluate information pro-
16 vided in the reports submitted by entities receiving
17 funds under this section, and other information
18 available to the Division, including by conducting
19 data matching and other forms of data analysis, and
20 submit such analyses to the Secretary.

21 (2) INCORPORATION OF ANALYSES.—The Sec-
22 retary shall incorporate analyses provided by the Di-
23 vision on Community Safety into decision-making re-
24 garding awarding additional grants under this sec-
25 tion.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$2,500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026
4 through 2030.