



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB1382

Introduced 1/31/2023, by Rep. Kam Buckner

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act  
30 ILCS 105/5.990 new

Creates the Public Empowerment and Community Act and provides that the Act may be referred to as the PEACE Act. Requires the Department of Human Services to establish and administer the PEACE Grant Pilot Program, subject to appropriation. Requires the Department to award annual grants to eligible grantees to create and strengthen community-based alternatives to law enforcement to lessen the reliance on law enforcement agencies as first responders to crisis situations unrelated to fire department or emergency medical service response. Provides that each grantee shall receive a minimum award of \$250,000 per year and that the community-based alternatives may include, but are not limited to, mobile crisis response teams or community paramedicine programs. Requires the Department to prioritize grantees that propose interventions that serve historically marginalized populations and that serve communities with a demonstrated need for community-based alternatives to law enforcement. Contains provisions on grantee requirements and reports; a stakeholder workgroup; a public report by the Department; the Public Empowerment and Community Engagement Program Fund; and other matters. Provides that the Act is repealed on December 31, 2028. Amends the State Finance Act to include the Public Empowerment and Community Engagement Program Fund as a special fund. Effective immediately.

LRB103 05809 KTG 50829 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title; references to Act.

5 (a) Short title. This Act may be cited as the Public  
6 Empowerment and Community Act.

7 (b) References to Act. This Act may be referred to as the  
8 PEACE Act.

9 Section 2. Findings. The General Assembly finds the  
10 following:

11 (1) The complexities of emergency issues surrounding  
12 crises in mental health, intimate partner violence,  
13 community violence, substance abuse, and natural disasters  
14 can, at times, be addressed more safely, with greater  
15 impact, and more cost effectively and efficiently by  
16 community-based organizations, which often have deeper  
17 knowledge and understanding of the issues, trusted  
18 relationships with the people and communities involved,  
19 and specific knowledge and relationships surrounding the  
20 emergency.

21 (2) Furthermore, young people of color, people with  
22 disabilities, people who are gender nonconforming, people  
23 who are formerly incarcerated, people who are unemployed,

1 people with immigration status issues, and people who are  
2 unhoused or homeless, face significant barriers to  
3 engaging with law enforcement and other first responder  
4 personnel. Data demonstrates that these populations often  
5 do not reach out for needed help when dealing with crises  
6 in their communities because of their fear and challenges  
7 with engaging law enforcement, which puts lives and  
8 families at risk for continued harm and trauma.  
9 Community-based organizations that specialize in working  
10 with these populations understand those issues, and by  
11 maintaining deep relationships in their communities, have  
12 a more successful track record of engaging and supporting  
13 them.

14 (3) Elected officials and philanthropic and  
15 community-based organizations have recognized the need to  
16 create alternatives to law enforcement and expand  
17 innovative approaches to emergencies and have established  
18 programs to do so in school districts, cities, and  
19 counties throughout the State.

20 (4) These alternative approaches have strengthened the  
21 response to emergencies in places throughout the State by  
22 reducing harm, saving lives, deepening impact, preventing  
23 violence, de-escalating volatile situations, protecting  
24 property and the environment, reducing law enforcement use  
25 of force, and ensuring the health and safety of  
26 communities while, at the same time, saving money by

1 decreasing calls for service and the sole reliance upon  
2 first responders for emergency situations.

3 (5) Despite the innovative approaches led by  
4 community-based organizations, the State does not have a  
5 policy, a set of protocols, or dedicated funding to  
6 support community-based organizations' involvement in  
7 addressing emergencies.

8 (6) This Act seeks to remedy those issues by  
9 articulating a policy framework to support innovative  
10 approaches to build capacity in, and to make grants for,  
11 community-based organizations to support emergency  
12 response.

13 (7) This Act also aims to inform, leverage, and align  
14 the PEACE Grant Pilot Program with other State investments  
15 for mobile crisis support, with the goal of continuing to  
16 support community involvement in emergency response.

17 Section 3. Purpose. The Public Empowerment and Community  
18 Engagement Act or the PEACE Act is hereby established for the  
19 purposes of creating, implementing, and evaluating the PEACE  
20 Grant Pilot Program in accordance with this Act.

21 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

22 "Community-based organization" means a public or nonprofit  
23 organization, or an organization fiscally sponsored by a  
24 nonprofit, that can demonstrate its ability to effectively

1 provide community-based alternatives to law enforcement, and  
2 has a demonstrated involvement with the identified communities  
3 to be served.

4 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

5 "Fund" means the Public Empowerment and Community  
6 Engagement Program Fund.

7 "Grantee" means a municipality or county, or a department  
8 of a municipality or county, that receives a grant in  
9 accordance with this Act.

10 "Law enforcement agency" means any police department,  
11 sheriff's department, State's Attorney, county probation  
12 department, transit agency police department, school district  
13 police department, police department of any campus of the  
14 University of Illinois, a community college, or any other  
15 public college or university, the Illinois State Police, the  
16 Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Corrections,  
17 and federal law enforcement agencies, such as the Department  
18 of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
19 Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the  
20 Drug Enforcement Administration.

21 "Law enforcement officer" means an officer, deputy,  
22 employee, or agent of a law enforcement agency.

23 "Program" means the PEACE Grant Pilot Program.

24 "Stakeholder workgroup" means a group of interested  
25 parties convened by the Department to make recommendations on  
26 the implementation of the PEACE Grant Pilot Program.

1 Section 10. PEACE Grant Pilot Program.

2 (a) Pilot Program.

3 (1) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall  
4 establish and administer the PEACE Grant Pilot Program.

5 (2) (A) The Department shall award grants to eligible  
6 grantees, as determined by the Department, based on grant  
7 eligibility criteria developed in partnership with the  
8 stakeholder workgroup.

9 (B) For purposes of this paragraph, an eligible  
10 grantee is a municipality or county, or a department of a  
11 municipality or county, including, but not limited to,  
12 departments of social services, disability services,  
13 health services, public health, or behavioral health. Law  
14 enforcement agencies and organizations are not eligible  
15 grantees.

16 (3) Each grantee shall receive a minimum award of  
17 \$250,000 per year.

18 (4) (A) Funds awarded in accordance with this Act shall  
19 be utilized to create and strengthen community-based  
20 alternatives to law enforcement to lessen the reliance on  
21 law enforcement agencies as first responders to crisis  
22 situations unrelated to a fire department or emergency  
23 medical service response.

24 (B) Community-based alternatives may include, but are  
25 not limited to, providing mobile crisis response teams or

1 community paramedicine programs. Community-based  
2 alternatives shall not include law enforcement officers or  
3 agencies as first responders or co-responders.

4 (5) The Department shall prioritize grantees that  
5 propose interventions that serve historically marginalized  
6 populations and that serve communities with a demonstrated  
7 need for community-based alternatives to law enforcement,  
8 as evidenced by metrics, including a high record of police  
9 use of force, a high volume of civilian complaints, high  
10 rates of imprisonment, and racial profiling.

11 (b) Grantees.

12 (1) Grantees shall award 90% or more of the grant  
13 funds to one or more qualifying community-based  
14 organizations, to create and strengthen community-based  
15 alternatives to law enforcement as described in paragraph  
16 (4) of subsection (a). No more than 10% of the grant funds  
17 shall be used to support program administration of the  
18 grantee.

19 (2) Grantees shall publicly solicit partnerships with  
20 community-based organizations. This public solicitation  
21 shall include, but not be limited to, all of the  
22 following:

23 (A) Issuing a public notice and invitation to  
24 create a partnership to establish a program in  
25 accordance with this Act.

26 (B) Inviting letters of intent from

1 community-based organizations.

2 (C) Convening public meetings to hear questions,  
3 concerns, and suggestions from the community that  
4 would inform the development of the program.

5 (3) Grantees shall prioritize the awarding of program  
6 funds to qualified community-based organizations that  
7 demonstrate the capacity to lead the proposed program and  
8 demonstrate experience providing community-based  
9 alternatives to law enforcement or civilian crisis  
10 response in the communities listed in paragraph (5) of  
11 subsection (a). This includes, but is not limited to, the  
12 ability to do any of the following:

13 (A) Respond to emergency calls.

14 (B) Provide treatment, screening, and assessment.

15 (C) Provide stabilization and de-escalation  
16 services.

17 (D) Coordinate with health, social services, and  
18 other support services, as needed.

19 (E) Maintain relationships with relevant community  
20 partners, including a range of community organizers,  
21 and medical, behavioral health, and crisis providers.

22 (4) A grantee and the community-based organization  
23 that receives funds may collaborate on program planning  
24 and implementation of community-based alternatives to law  
25 enforcement, including, but not limited to, any of the  
26 following:



- 1 (A) Local stakeholder engagement.
- 2 (B) Mechanisms for response requests.
- 3 (C) Crisis response activities.
- 4 (D) Crisis response follow up, including
- 5 coordination with local services and supports,
- 6 tracking service delivery data, and submitting grant
- 7 reports.
- 8 (c) Grantee reports. A grantee shall report at least
- 9 annually to the Department on the use of program funding,
- 10 which shall include data reporting on clients served and
- 11 program outcomes, as determined by the Department in
- 12 consultation with stakeholder workgroup.
- 13 (d) Stakeholder workgroup.
- 14 (1) The Department shall convene a stakeholder
- 15 workgroup to make recommendations to the Department
- 16 regarding implementation of the program. The Department
- 17 shall convene regular meetings with the stakeholder
- 18 workgroup in which the workgroup shall do all of the
- 19 following:
- 20 (A) Provide input regarding criteria for qualified
- 21 grantees.
- 22 (B) Provide best practices and program
- 23 recommendations.
- 24 (C) Provide consultation on implementation and
- 25 priorities for technical assistance.
- 26 (D) Identify barriers to implementation and

1 suggest solutions to address those barriers.

2 (E) Recommend anonymous data to be collected.

3 (F) Collaboratively review data and program  
4 outcomes.

5 (G) Advise on the design of the evaluation.

6 (2) (A) The members of the stakeholder workgroup shall  
7 include, but not be limited to, a minimum of one of each of  
8 the following individuals:

9 (i) Emergency medical system practitioners with  
10 experience providing community-based,  
11 trauma-informed, culturally competent care,  
12 de-escalation strategies, and harm reduction support.

13 (ii) Public health or behavioral health  
14 practitioners with specific experience in community  
15 health and an understanding of health care, mental  
16 health services, trauma-informed, culturally competent  
17 care, de-escalation strategies, and harm reduction  
18 support.

19 (iii) Members of the public, who have survived an  
20 emergency or crisis, and have used community-based  
21 services in response to the emergency or crisis.

22 (iv) Survivors of police brutality.

23 (v) Surviving family members of someone who has  
24 been subject to use of force resulting in death or  
25 serious bodily injury by a law enforcement officer.

26 (B) The stakeholder workgroup shall not include

1 current or former law enforcement officers or immediate  
2 family members of law enforcement officers.

3 (e) The Department shall issue a public report, to be  
4 posted on its website 6 months following the end of the  
5 program, on the programmatic and fiscal savings associated  
6 with the program, key conclusions, populations served and the  
7 benefits conferred or realized, using quantitative and  
8 qualitative data, and resulting policy recommendations to  
9 provide guidance to the General Assembly and the Governor in  
10 fully implementing and scaling a permanent program.

11 Section 15. Public Empowerment and Community Engagement  
12 Program Fund.

13 (a) The Public Empowerment and Community Engagement  
14 Program Fund is created as a special fund in the State  
15 treasury. The Fund shall consist of any moneys appropriated to  
16 the Department for the purposes of this Act. Subject to  
17 appropriation, moneys in the Fund shall be used for carrying  
18 out the purposes of this Act and for no other purpose. All  
19 interest earned on moneys in the Fund shall be deposited into  
20 the Fund.

21 (b) The Department may enter into agreements with one or  
22 more entities to facilitate implementation of the program,  
23 which may not exceed 5% of funds appropriated for purposes of  
24 this Act, including, but not limited to, any of the following:

25 (1) Convening and facilitating the stakeholder

1 workgroup.

2 (2) Providing technical assistance to grantees and  
3 community-based organizations receiving funding in  
4 accordance with this Act.

5 (3) Evaluating program data and information and  
6 preparing the public report described in subsection (e) of  
7 Section 10.

8 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b), the Department may not  
9 expend more than 5% of funds appropriated for purposes of this  
10 Act on its administrative costs.

11 (d) The Department shall award all grants under this Act  
12 on or before January 1, 2024.

13 Section 20. Implementation.

14 (a) This Act shall be implemented only if appropriate  
15 funding is made available to the Department.

16 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, funding awarded in  
17 accordance with this Act shall be exempt from the Illinois  
18 Procurement Code in accordance with Section 1-10 of that Code.

19 (c) The Department shall be immune from any liability  
20 resulting from the activities of a grantee or community-based  
21 organization under the program.

22 Section 25. Repealer. This Act is repealed on December 31,  
23 2028.

1 Section 30. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
2 Section 5.990 as follows:

3 (30 ILCS 105/5.990 new)

4 Sec. 5.990. The Public Empowerment and Community  
5 Engagement Program Fund. Fund.

6 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
7 becoming law.