

# HOUSE BILL NO. 6543

December 18, 2020, Introduced by Reps. Aiyash, Gay-Dagnogo, Brenda Carter and Garza and referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

A bill to create the office of social work and police partnerships and to prescribe its powers and duties; to create the social work and police partnerships council and to prescribe its powers and duties; to prescribe the powers and duties of state departments and agencies; to create certain funds; to impose certain duties on certain state and local officials; to make appropriations for various state departments; and to provide for the expenditure of the appropriations.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "social work and police partnerships act".

3           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

4           (a) "Advisory council" or "council" means the social work and  
5 police partnerships advisory council described in section 5.

6           (b) "Community agency" means a community mental health agency  
7 or a social service agency.

8           (c) "Community mental health agency" means a department-  
9 designated community mental health entity as that term is defined  
10 under section 100a of the mental health code, 1974 PA 258, MCL  
11 330.1100a.

12           (d) "Department" means the department of health and human  
13 services.

14           (e) "Disproportionate racial impact" means the percentage of  
15 individuals from a particular race who are arrested or incarcerated  
16 is significantly higher than the percentage of that group in the  
17 population, for that geographical area.

18           (f) "High crime rate" means the rate of crime in the local  
19 unit of government is higher than for 75% of local units of  
20 government in this state as determined by the council.

21           (g) "High incarceration rate" means the rate of incarceration  
22 for individuals from that local unit of government is greater than  
23 that for 75% of communities in this state as determined by the  
24 council.

25           (h) "Licensed professional counselor" means that term as  
26 defined in section 18101 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368,  
27 MCL 333.18101.

28           (i) "Local unit of government" means a city, village, or  
29 township.

1 (j) "Office" means the office of social work and police  
2 partnerships created in section 3.

3 (k) "Organization" means an organization exempt from taxation  
4 under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code of 1986, 26  
5 USC 501, with experience in grantmaking in a target community and  
6 that contracts with the office to administer a social work and  
7 police partnerships grant program under this act.

8 (l) "Psychologist" means that term as defined in section 18201  
9 of the public health code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.18201.

10 (m) "Social service agency" means an agency or organization  
11 that provides services toward the prevention, improvement, or  
12 resolution of health, mental health, social, or environmental  
13 problems that affect individuals, families, specific groups, or  
14 communities.

15 (n) "Social worker" means an individual who is a licensed  
16 bachelor's social worker or a licensed master's social worker as  
17 those terms are defined in section 18501 of the public health code,  
18 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.18501.

19 (o) "Target community" means a local unit of government with a  
20 high crime rate, high incarceration rate, or disproportionate  
21 racial impact.

22 Sec. 3. (1) The office of social work and police partnerships  
23 is created in the department of health and human services.

24 (2) The head of the office is the director of the department  
25 or his or her designee.

26 (3) The office shall do all of the following:

27 (a) Create the social work and police partnerships council  
28 under section 5.

29 (b) Create the social work and police partnerships grant

1 program, review grant applications, and distribute grants under  
2 section 4.

3 (c) Develop a model memorandum of understanding between  
4 community mental health and social service agencies and law  
5 enforcement.

6 (d) Manage external evaluation and ensure that grant data are  
7 collected by grant recipients in order to determine best future  
8 practices and criteria for future grants.

9 (e) Provide technical assistance and coordination, and  
10 facilitate sharing of best practices among grant recipients.

11 (f) Assist with cross-training resources between law  
12 enforcement and social workers, licensed professional counselors,  
13 or psychologists.

14 (g) Work with social work stakeholders and advocates to ensure  
15 proper training for social workers, licensed professional  
16 counselors, or psychologists working with law enforcement.

17 Sec. 4. (1) The office shall create a social work and police  
18 partnerships grant program to provide competitive grants to assist  
19 local units of government and organizations in target communities  
20 identified by the council in section 5.

21 (2) The social work and police partnerships grant program  
22 shall provide that the grant proceeds may be used, as determined by  
23 the office, to provide social workers, licensed professional  
24 counselors, or psychologists to partner with law enforcement  
25 agencies at a community mental health or social service agency.  
26 Each community agency and law enforcement agency receiving a  
27 partnership grant must have and provide to the office a copy of  
28 their memorandum of understanding that delineates how the social  
29 workers, licensed professional counselors, or psychologists and law

1 enforcement will be integrated or coordinated. The social workers,  
2 licensed professional counselors, or psychologists shall perform  
3 duties including, but not limited to, the following:

4 (a) Responding with law enforcement to emergency calls,  
5 including, but not limited to, calls involving mental illness,  
6 substance abuse, and homelessness.

7 (b) Referring individuals to treatment, housing, and other  
8 social services.

9 (c) Counseling crime victims.

10 (d) Counseling individuals on community reentry after  
11 incarceration.

12 (e) Assisting law enforcement officers with trauma and other  
13 mental health needs.

14 (3) Grants provided under subsection (2) must be matched \$1.00  
15 by the local unit of government for every \$2.00 of grant money  
16 received, potentially utilizing savings from jail reforms or  
17 forfeiture funds. Grants provided under subsection (2) to a local  
18 unit of government must not exceed \$2,000,000.00 in a fiscal year.

19 (4) The office shall create an application process with  
20 selection criteria for grants under subsection (2) and a grant  
21 dispersal process, and post the application process, selection  
22 criteria, and grant dispersal process on the office's website.

23 (5) Each year, a local unit of government or organization that  
24 receives a grant under this section shall report the following to  
25 the office:

26 (a) An accounting of all expenditures under the grant program.

27 (b) The number of calls for service responded to by social  
28 workers, licensed professional counselors, or psychologists,  
29 victims counseled or referred to appropriate services, law

1 enforcement officers counseled or referred to appropriate services,  
2 or individuals counseled for community reentry after incarceration.

3 (c) Whether a call for service was initially a police contact  
4 followed by a response by a social worker, licensed professional  
5 counselor, or psychologist, the reverse, or neither.

6 (d) Whether an arrest or jail admission was made as a result  
7 of the call for service.

8 (e) If an arrest or jail admission was made under subdivision  
9 (d), what was the result of criminal justice involvement.

10 (f) The types of services and referrals provided.

11 (g) The number of arrests, jail admissions, repeat arrests, or  
12 community agency visits in a local unit of government for the same  
13 individual for that year and the percentage change in arrests, jail  
14 admissions, repeat arrests, or community agency visits in a local  
15 unit of government as reported in the immediately preceding  
16 reporting year.

17 (h) The number of clients served by the community agencies  
18 serving the local unit of government for the year and the  
19 percentage change from the number of clients served as reported in  
20 the immediately preceding reporting year.

21 (i) The rate of recidivism as related to number of contacts  
22 with social workers, licensed professional counselors, or  
23 psychologists in a local unit of government and the percentage  
24 change in the rate of recidivism as reported in the immediately  
25 preceding reporting year.

26 (6) Not later than December 31, 2022 and annually thereafter,  
27 the office shall submit a report to the governor and each house of  
28 the legislature and publish a copy of the report on its internet  
29 website. The report must contain all of the following for the

1 immediately preceding fiscal year:

2 (a) The name of each local unit of government or organization  
3 that received a grant and the total amount of the grant.

4 (b) The number and amounts of grants disbursed by each local  
5 unit of government or organization that received a grant under this  
6 act.

7 (c) A detailed analysis of the grants disbursed by the office  
8 to each local unit of government agency or organization.

9 (d) Best practices of the grant recipients.

10 (e) Recommendations for improvements to grant criteria  
11 described in subsection (4).

12 Sec. 5. (1) Within 60 days of the effective date of this act,  
13 the office shall create a social work and police partnerships  
14 advisory council.

15 (2) The council shall consist of the following 15 members  
16 appointed by the office:

17 (a) Three social workers who are community mental health  
18 representatives.

19 (b) Two formerly incarcerated individuals.

20 (c) One jail official.

21 (d) Two law enforcement officers.

22 (e) Two social workers with experience treating substance  
23 abuse issues.

24 (f) Two individuals who were victims of a crime.

25 (g) One public defense attorney.

26 (h) One prosecutor.

27 (i) One community organization representative.

28 (3) Within 90 days of the effective date of this act, the  
29 office shall call the first meeting of the council. At the first

1 meeting, the council shall select from among its members a  
2 chairperson. The council shall meet at the call of the chairperson.

3 (4) If a vacancy occurs on the council, the office shall make  
4 an appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as the  
5 original appointment.

6 (5) The head of the office may remove a member of the council  
7 for incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance during his or  
8 her tenure in office, or any other good cause.

9 (6) A majority of the members of the council constitute a  
10 quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the council.  
11 An affirmative vote of a majority of the members present and  
12 serving is required for official action of the council.

13 (7) The business that the council may perform shall be  
14 conducted at a public meeting of the council held in compliance  
15 with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

16 (8) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or  
17 retained by the council in the performance of an official function  
18 is subject to the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL  
19 15.231 to 15.246.

20 (9) Members of the council shall serve without compensation.  
21 However, members of the council may be reimbursed for their actual  
22 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their  
23 official duties as members of the council.

24 (10) No later than 60 days after its first meeting, the  
25 council shall submit a final report to the office with  
26 recommendations of target communities for grants from the social  
27 work and police partnerships grant program created under section 4.

28 Sec. 6. (1) The social work and police partnerships fund is  
29 created within the state treasury.



1           (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from  
2 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall  
3 direct the investment of the fund. The state treasurer shall credit  
4 to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

5           (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year must  
6 remain in the fund and must not lapse to the general fund.

7           (4) The department of treasury shall be the administrator of  
8 the fund for auditing purposes.

9           (5) The office shall expend money from the fund, upon  
10 appropriation, for the following purposes:

11           (a) Making grant distributions as provided in this act.

12           (b) Paying the reasonable expenses of providing staff services  
13 to the office and council for administering and enforcing the  
14 statutory requirements of this act.