

ANDRÉ CARSON  
7TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

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SENIOR WHIP

April 29, 2021

Chair Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member Kay Granger  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Diversion for Persons with Mental Health Issues Program in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Indianapolis, located at 200 East Washington Street Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

The City of Indianapolis is making criminal justice system reforms rooted in diverting people with behavioral health issues away from the criminal justice system and into treatment. The early diversion system is focused on Intercepts 0-2 of the Sequential Intercept Model with a focus on high utilizers of the criminal justice system, health crisis systems and the homelessness system.

The purpose of this funding is for: 1) integrated data and analysis for early identification of people with recurring needs and informed design of a collaborative response; 2) behavioral health response integrated into 911 emergency dispatch; 3) expansion of the Assessment Intervention Center (AIC) as the diversion center point for the system; 4) development of a multidisciplinary HUMS team to provide direct intervention for individuals in crisis. In order to identify people and help them recover from behavioral health issues we need early identification and coordinated response. This requires new technology at 911 and the AIC and coordination of the responses systems.

This initiative is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because in these times of growing gun violence in our cities, diversion programs like this one serve to get justice-involved citizens with behavioral health conditions directly to the appropriate program to get them appropriate service and avoid jail. This approach is one of many that our country needs to adopt to help de-escalate violence and reduce police-involved shootings.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AC' with a flourish.

André Carson  
Member of Congress