

Amanda Price
Commissioner

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Department of
Public Safety

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

DPS Allocating Federal Funds to Cover Law Enforcement COVID-19 Costs

Federal Government provided \$3.6 million to support Law Enforcement during Pandemic

April 14, 2020 (Anchorage, AK) – As the state administering agency for funding through the US Department of Justice (USDOJ), the Department of Public Safety was allocated \$3.6 million that will be awarded through the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program. Of the funding, \$1 million will go to support the needs of rural law enforcement agencies, \$1 million will be provided to other state agencies that support the DPS, and \$1.6 million will be retained by the DPS to help with department costs due to COVID-19. This grant program is part USDOJ’s \$850 million effort to help public safety agencies respond to the challenges posed by the outbreak of COVID-19.

The grant funds can be used to purchase vital personal protective equipment, barriers, and other supplies needed to reduce risk of exposure to and transmission of COVID-19 to first responders. The funds can also be used for overtime costs attributed to responding to COVID-19 issues within communities, coverage for other first responders becoming ill or being quarantined, and other response, mitigation, and recovery efforts related to the COVID-19 emergency declaration.

“Alaska’s first responders are some of the highest risk workers, next to medical providers, to being exposed to COVID-19. They are a finite resource that must be protected in order to continue to protect Alaskans during this crisis,” said Commissioner Amanda Price, Department of Public Safety. “These funds will be critical to acquiring the protective equipment first responders need as well as ensuring smaller agencies have adequate staffing coverage in the event of their officers need to self-quarantine.”

Funding requests from local or municipal law enforcement agencies will go through the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s State Emergency Operations Center. The State Emergency Operations Center’s COVID-1 Incident Command will provide jurisdictions funding based on need and other available funding such as FEMA, state funds, and other funds until expended.

The state agencies that provide critical services that support public safety such as Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Justice, Alaska Court System, and the Department of Law will be able to use the funds for personal protection equipment purchases, overtime costs, and for addressing the medical needs of inmates in prisons, jails, and detention centers.

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Media Contact: Megan Peters, Communications Director