



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #218
IN CITY COUNCIL
September 8, 2025

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I am hereby requesting the appropriation of \$120,000, received from the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Jail Diversion Program, to the Grant Fund Police Department Other Ordinary Maintenance account (\$120,000).

In late June, DMH announced that funding for the FY26 Budget had not been finalized, and so no full year FY26 funding announcements could be made. Instead, DMH made interim short-term awards to preserve existing programs until funding decisions were made at the state level.

Grant funds will be used to continue the Co-response program with one clinician through June 2026. The Department had previously received an interim award of \$30,000 to fund the program through September. If approved the total award for fiscal year 2026 will be \$150,000. Grant funds will be used to support costs related to contracted services of a specially trained clinician that is responding to mental health calls throughout the city. The program is intended to help community members experiencing a mental health crisis get the assistance they need rather than directing them into the criminal justice system, as well as reducing emergency room visits. The co-responder clinician is riding with police officers in cruisers and responding directly to calls for service where they can help evaluate and make recommendations for care on scene.

Very truly yours,

Yi-An Huang
City Manager

