



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## Department of Criminal Justice Services

The Honorable Jackson H. Miller  
Director

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To: Criminal Justice Services Board

From: Mr. Tracy Matthews, Law Enforcement Grants and Programs, Manager, Public Safety Training and The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

Date: October 9, 2025

Re: FY 2026 Peer-Supported Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Funding

Name of Person Presenting: Mr. Tracy Matthews, Law Enforcement Grants and Programs, Manager, Public Safety Training and The Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety

The FY 2026 Peer-Support Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Grant Program provides state funding to support nonprofit organizations offering post-critical incident seminars and peer-supported stress management programs to law enforcement agencies and their personnel. This program helps law enforcement staff manage the emotional and psychological effects of critical incidents through targeted education and peer support, promoting their wellbeing and operational effectiveness.

Grant Application Review	
# Grants Submitted	5
# Grants Denied	3
# Grants Recommended	2

DCJS Recommendations	
Amount Requested	\$904,894
Amount Denied	\$460,894
Amount Reduced	\$144,000
Total Amount Recommended	\$300,000

The FY 2026 Peer-Support Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program will fund two (2) Virginia-based nonprofit agencies with a proven track record of success in delivering these vital services to law enforcement personnel throughout the Commonwealth.

**Three (3) applications were denied.** One (1) application was deemed ineligible due to failure to meet the statewide service eligibility criteria. Another was denied based on the limited scope of

its target audience, which did not sufficiently align with the grant's objectives. The final denial was attributed to an application not meeting the grant's stated objectives.

Reductions in requested amounts were a result of the limited funding available.

**In summary, DCJS staff request approval to fund two (2) applications for the 12-month period (7/1/2025-6/30/2026), totaling \$300,000, using the FY 2026 Peer-Support Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program funding allocated for this purpose.**

# CISM -- Criminal Justice Services Board (Cover Report)

## FY 2026 Peer-Supported Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program

9-Oct-2025

Application Number	Applicant	Organization Type	Requested		Requested Total	Recommended		Recommended Total
			DCJS Funds	Local		DCJS Funds	Local	
558946	Valhalla's Mission Force	Non-Profit Organization	\$289,546.00	\$0.00	\$289,546.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
557184	Virginia Assoc of Chiefs of Police & Foundation	Other	\$159,085.00	\$0.00	\$159,085.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
557935	Virginia Commonwealth University	State University	\$12,263.00	\$0.00	\$12,263.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
558382	Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program	Other	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
558899	Virginia Peer Support Association	Non-Profit Organization	\$244,000.00	\$0.00	\$244,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
<b>Grant Program Total:</b>			<b>\$904,894.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$904,894.00</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>

# CISM -- Criminal Justice Services Board (Summary Report)

## FY 2026 Peer-Supported Critical Incident Stress Management Grant Program

9-Oct-2025

Application Number	Applicant	Organization Type	Type of Application	Requested Funding	Recommended Funding	Application Criteria	Grant Project Description
558946	Valhalla's Mission Force	Non-Profit Organization	New	\$289,546.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	Valhalla's Mission Force is a statewide first responder wellness initiative using peer-supported, hands-on knife build workshops grounded in CIT and CISM principles. Conducted at six regional academies across Virginia, the program combines tactile therapy, guided stress discussions, and peer bonding to reduce stigma and promote mental health support. Each 3-day session includes a commemorative knife build, peer buddy check system, and a family training dinner (Operation Homefront Allies). Serving 600-900 first responders and significant others in its first year, the initiative fosters resilience, encourages help-seeking, and builds sustainable peer and family support networks.
557184	Virginia Assoc of Chiefs of Police & Foundation	Other	New	\$159,085.00	\$0.00	Does not meet criteria	The VACP Executive CISM & Peer Support Initiative is Virginia's first trauma-informed program supporting law enforcement leadership wellness and resilience. Led by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP), it offers Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training, builds a statewide peer support network, and hosts Post-Critical Incident Seminars (PCIS) for chiefs and command staff. This unique program supports about 258 executives and hundreds more command staff, including assistant chiefs, captains, and other executive-level personnel, providing confidential, leadership-specific support. Guided by licensed clinicians and experienced police executives, it addresses the unique challenges of public safety leadership.
557935	Virginia Commonwealth University	State University	New	\$12,263.00	\$0.00	Ineligible	The VCU Police Wellness Unit aims to secure grant funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Office of First Responder Wellness to train and certify up to 20 police employees as peer support team members. This initiative will enhance the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of VCU Police personnel through a structured peer support program, addressing the unique stressors faced by law enforcement officers. Expected Outcomes: Certification of up to 20 VCU Police employees as peer support team members, creating a sustainable in-house support network. Improved mental health outcomes for officers, reducing absenteeism, burnout, and trauma-related issues.
558382	Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program	Other	New	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	Meets criteria	The Virginia Law Enforcement Assistance Program offers a multi-faceted approach to the provision of stress management and peer support to Virginia law enforcement professionals including police officers, deputies, corrections officers, communications officers and their families through Post Critical Incident Seminar, Critical Incident Stress Management services, CISM Peer training and Pre-Event Education. These services are intended to mitigate the adverse effects of incident-specific and cumulative stress inherent to the law enforcement profession which profoundly impacts a law enforcement professional's performance, health and career longevity.
558899	Virginia Peer Support Association	Non-Profit Organization	New	\$244,000.00	\$100,000.00	Meets criteria at reduced level	The Virginia Peer Support Association (VAPSA) proposes a statewide program to deliver peer-supported Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) services to Virginia law enforcement officers. This includes 6 Level 1 Peer Support trainings (3 days each) at regional academies, 6 recertification classes (1 day each), and 1 Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) / Health and Wellness Seminar. These activities will train up to 300+ officers to provide support that will enhance resiliency, ensure confidentiality, and address trauma from critical incidents. Partnerships with LE agencies ensure geographically diverse access.