



# FORT BRAGG POLICE DEPARTMENT



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## **\*\*MEDIA RELEASE\*\***

### **FBPD Awarded \$1 Million Prop 47 Grant for Care Response Unit Expansion 09/25/2024**

In May, the Fort Bragg Police Department partnered with Mendocino County to apply for a grant from the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and the Proposition 47 Grant Program to expand Care Response Unit (CRU) outside of Fort Bragg on the coast. The total grant awarded is \$2.5 million to be used over the next three and a half years. This was a competitive grant process with dozens of applicants across the state. Recently, FBPD was notified their grant proposal was selected to be awarded.

Proposition 47 passed in 2014, with the intent of reducing the number of people sent to prison. Part of the proposition was the resulting savings generated by reduction in the prison population would be deposited into a special fund. Sixty-five percent of those funds were to be used annually for BSCC to administer a competitive grant program. BSCC requires at least 50% of awarded funds are passed through to community-based providers.

The Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center will be receiving \$1.5 million to expand behavioral health services outside of Fort Bragg to more of the Mendocino Coast. These funds will also be used to dedicate temporary and transitional housing to CRU Team clients.

The \$1 million portion to the Fort Bragg Police Department pays for a third Care Response Unit team member, whose time will be split between Fort Bragg and county areas from Albion to Westport. A part-time administrative assistant, administrative costs, and other associated costs are also covered.

Also included in this partnership is the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, who will have a CRU team member to address the same issues in the county in which CRU has been so successful with in the City of Fort Bragg.

Chief Neil Cervenka said, "The Care Response Unit program was imagined by Captain Thomas O'Neal, who got the first grant to start it in 2022 to address the homeless crisis in Fort Bragg. Over the past two years, CRU has proven a successful model and grown to be a holistic answer to many of the social struggles law enforcement is tasked with solving. With the support of Mendocino County and Sheriff Kendall, we will show the model can be expanded to much larger areas and still be successful."

City Manager Isaac Whippy highlighted the significance of the CRU program and its expansion, stating, "The Care Response Unit has become an integral part of how we approach public safety in Fort Bragg. By addressing complex social challenges like homelessness and mental health, the CRU program has made a real difference in our community. What sets this program apart is its

ability to provide not only safety but also compassion, treating people with the respect and dignity they deserve in difficult times. By partnering with the Sheriff's Office to expand this successful Fort Bragg model along the coast we are ensuring that all coastal residents, no matter where they live, have access to the care, support, and services they need. This partnership allows us to better serve our community while easing the burden on our law enforcement officers, letting them focus on their core duties. It's a smart, compassionate approach, and I'm proud to support it."

This information is being released by Chief Neil Cervenka. All media inquiries should contact him/her/them at [ncervenka@fortbragg.com](mailto:ncervenka@fortbragg.com).

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