

Proposal Name: **Crisis Care Response**

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Begin to staff the 2022-23 unarmed skilled crisis care responder pilots by reallocating the 15 Durham Police Department vacancies (FTE positions which were frozen in the city budget last year) to the Department of Community Safety (DCS).

Effective: Immediately

Background: The allocation of these FTE roles to the DCS is a key step in the implementation of the Department's fundamental charter: to identify behavioral health crises and other emergent, acute community needs that merit skilled, unarmed response, and to shift the burden of responding to those emergencies over to novel, community-informed mobile crisis response units.

The success of the Department of Community Safety and its mission is contingent upon the City of Durham's commitment to dedicating sufficient resources to its activities. Expanding DCS capacities through the reallocation of the currently unused resources tied to those 15 FTE positions meets that obligation with minimum impact to other essential city and community services.

These new positions would guarantee that community members can directly access unarmed skilled compassionate crisis response through the Department of Community Safety without contributing to the overburden of law enforcement and more efficiently responding to diverse community needs. We anticipate this would include the creation of alternative dispatch systems that do not automatically trigger law enforcement response and 24-hour unarmed crisis response services, with maximum coverage during the high volume hours from 10am-10pm.

We would like to see continued equitable community engagement around the following questions about what unarmed skilled crisis care response could look like.

Who - what skill sets, professionals, individuals will be part of the response chain (call center, mobile team, etc)?

What - what services will fall within the scope of work?

Where - geographic boundary of service area?

When - days/hours of call center response; days/hours of mobile team response; desired/expected response times?

Why - what will trigger dispatch or routing to other services. what calls, events, crises, emergent situations?

How - how will the service be called, reached, dispatched?