



Rick Staly, Sheriff
FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

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FCSO Awarded Nearly \$135K Grant to Support Mental Health Initiatives for Employees

BUNNELL, Fla. — The Flagler County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a \$134,878 grant from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to support the agency's mental health initiatives for employees and their families.

The funds were awarded through the COPS Office's Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act Implementation Projects. This federal grant aims to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement officers through the implementation of peer support, training, family resources, suicide prevention, and other practices for wellness programs.

The funds will be used to implement a tiered support model, including agency-wide mental health training, confidential access to licensed therapists and peer support with first responder expertise, and family-focused workshops that address the ripple effects of chronic exposure to trauma.

"Our employees do a great job keeping our citizens safe, but it's important they also take care of themselves," said Sheriff Rick Staly. "Being a law enforcement officer comes with many emotional situations most of the population never have to experience. The nature of the job can also take a toll on family members who worry their loved one might not come back from their shift. That's why I believe it's incredibly important for all our employees and their families to have access to a variety of mental health programs and resources, so they know they are never in this job alone."

Under Sheriff Staly, FCSO has implemented a multitude of mental health and resiliency programs for

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employees. Currently, all employees and their family members have free access to employee assistance program services through Public Safety EAP, a comprehensive benefits program tailored to the unique emotional and mental health needs of first responders and their families. They can also utilize MAGNUSWorx, a wellness app specifically designed for FCSO employees.

“This grant will allow us to build upon the foundational programs we already have and take our resiliency program to the next level,” Sheriff Staly added.

Since 2017, under Sheriff Staly’s leadership, FCSO has received nearly \$5 million in federal and state grants.

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