

Governor Phil Murphy

Governor Murphy Proposes \$10M Investment to Expand ARRIVE Together Law Enforcement-Mental Health Collaboration Statewide

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Also Announces Upcoming Expansion of Initiative to Over Two Dozen Additional Municipalities in 10 Counties

PERTH AMBOY – Governor Phil Murphy today announced that his upcoming budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2024 will include \$10 million in funding to expand the ARRIVE Together program to the entire state, creating the first statewide law enforcement and mental health co-responder collaboration in the country.

Governor Murphy, joined by Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin, also announced the upcoming expansion of the program, which connects mental health professionals with law enforcement officers to more effectively respond to mental-health-crisis calls, set to take place this year. Utilizing \$2 million in funds set aside by the Governor and state lawmakers in the current FY2023 state budget, over two dozen municipalities in 10 different counties will be joining ARRIVE Together starting in May 2023.

"The ARRIVE Together program is a game changer, and I am incredibly pleased by the success the program has had during its pilot stages in connecting those experiencing behavioral health crises with a certified mental health professional," said **Governor Murphy**. "This proposed investment and the expansion of the program will help our efforts to enhance law enforcement's servicing of neighborhoods and will strengthen the bonds between our officers and the communities they serve. Attorney General Platkin, Colonel Callahan, and I will continue to work with our state's law enforcement and mental health professionals to ensure these crises are de-escalated safely, fairly, and efficiently to protect individuals in mental distress."

"ARRIVE Together began as a State Police pilot program, and through partnerships forged between law enforcement and mental health providers we are building it into a statewide program," said **Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin**. "It has been a transformative and powerful model, consistently de-escalating situations that could have had far worse outcomes for everyone involved. With the support and vision of Governor Murphy, I am committed to continuing to grow this program and improve services for our most vulnerable residents."

That imminent expansion will bring the total number of law enforcement agencies involved in the initiative to over thirty. In most jurisdictions, mental health professionals will accompany plainclothes officers in unmarked police vehicles to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service relating to mental or behavioral health crises, although each county may employ a slightly different framework of interaction between the mental health and law enforcement responders. Nine different health care providers around the state have signed on to dedicate their resources to work with police on this effort, which is designed to form relationships between individuals needing help and law enforcement and mental health professionals, in order to de-escalate situations and transition away from law enforcement relying on emergency rooms or use of force.

In addition, in 2022, the New Jersey State Police won a federal "Connect and Protect" grant for approximately \$550,000 to expand the ARRIVE Together program. Today, Attorney General Platkin announced the agencies being awarded sub-grants from that money to bring the initiative to their jurisdictions.

"The deployment of mental health professionals, in concert with New Jersey State Troopers, has provided vital services to those in mental distress at the time where it is needed the most," said **Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police**. "We have taken the program to the forefront as an investment into the well-being of the citizens we are sworn to serve. Just as emergency medical services are summoned to a scene to serve as a higher level of patient care, the State Police recognizes that the trusted partners of the ARRIVE Together Program have the ability to mitigate crisis, reduce the risk of physical harm, and potentially bridge the gap into continued compassionate care for citizens struggling with mental health issues. We celebrate the expansion of this indispensable plan of action and look forward to joining new law enforcement partners as they join in this altruistic project."

"A law enforcement response is rarely the most effective or appropriate way to help someone experiencing mental health crisis," said **Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman**. "New Jersey's ARRIVE Together program – which puts mental health professionals at the center of the intervention – is an evidence-based solution to address this national and systemic challenge. This expansion of ARRIVE Together will continue to improve public safety, prevent tragedies and serve NJ residents more effectively."

With today's expansion, police officers from the following municipalities and agencies will be participating in the program:

Atlantic County Atlantic City

Camden County
Clementon
Gibbsboro
Lindenwold
Pine Hill
Voorhees

Cape May County
Lower Township
Middle Township

Cumberland County
Bridgeton
Cumberland County Sheriff's Office
Millville
Vineland

Essex County
Bloomfield
East Orange
Orange

Hudson County
Bayonne
Hudson County Sheriff's Office



Mercer County

Ewing
Hamilton

Middlesex County

Edison
Highland Park
Woodbridge

Ocean County

Beachwood
Berkeley
Ocean Gate
Pine Beach

Union County

Clark
Cranford
Elizabeth
Linden
Plainfield
Roselle Park
Scotch Plains
Union County Commissioners
Union County Police
Union County Sheriff's Office
Westfield

View full list of participating law enforcement leaders and partners, here ([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/7ely0i/7ys5259b/j01231__!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!N65BYI7AHdMFyCUXWR5eFs8UPSqclMPqPcx1Vymp6yl6XVUuGFE_ZD29nMVIP0RWXy-bzSwDZyFOiBC5\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/7ely0i/7ys5259b/j01231__!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!N65BYI7AHdMFyCUXWR5eFs8UPSqclMPqPcx1Vymp6yl6XVUuGFE_ZD29nMVIP0RWXy-bzSwDZyFOiBC5$)).

ARRIVE Together first launched as a pilot program in December 2021 by the State Police in Cumberland County, in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Human Services, the Cumberland County Guidance Center, and the Cumberland County Prosecutor. In June 2022, the program expanded to a pilot in Union County run by the Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments and Trinitas Medical Center.

In both counties, ARRIVE Teams have been responding two days per week to calls and following up with residents they have previously assisted. Both programs expanded to three days this year, plus additional jurisdictions joined ARRIVE in 2023: the Bridgeton and Roselle Park Police Departments.

The program also spread to Atlantic County, with the Atlantic City Police trying out an innovative new version of ARRIVE in which telehealth tools aid law enforcement officers in better responding to mental health-related calls. Officers are equipped with tablets that can be used by individuals in distress to obtain real-time telehealth services from mental health professionals at AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center.

The teams of law enforcement officers paired with mental health screeners have made over 300 contacts with residents suffering from mental health disorders or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. During those interactions, there have been no injuries, and no response by an ARRIVE Together team has escalated into an arrest. Responding officers have only used force for involuntary transports of individuals ordered by the mental health professionals who co-responded.

The Attorney General has formed a Statewide Steering Committee to advise on the ARRIVE Together initiative as it continues to grow. The Steering Committee is comprised of law enforcement executives, mental health professionals, prosecutors, and community leaders. The group will provide insight and feedback from their various perspectives on the future direction of the program in order to best serve the residents of the State. "ARRIVE Together is proving to be an effective collaboration between law enforcement and mental health professionals," **said Senate President Nick Scutari**. "It allows them to respond to crisis situations by de-escalating conflicts, protecting the safety of everyone involved, and providing behavioral health assistance for those in need. This is a smart and resourceful program that will now be utilized in more communities in New Jersey."

"There is a clear and growing need for accessible and responsive behavioral health care in New Jersey, I applaud Governor Murphy and General Platkin for recognizing that and making it a priority," **said Assembly Speaker Craig J. Coughlin**. "By continuing to expand ARRIVE Together with enhanced partnerships between law enforcement and mental health professionals, we reach the goal of keeping individuals in their communities, out of hospitals and the criminal justice system, and connected to the behavioral health services they critically need."

"I welcome the Governor's announcement to expand the ARRIVE Together program to more NJ towns. Individuals with mental health issues, particularly in a crisis moment, should be met with trained professionals who understand and can respond to these complex personal struggles. Embedding mental health professionals with law enforcement is critical to that end. Moreover, this program coupled with the recent roll out of 988 – the national suicide and crisis hotline – and mobile crisis response teams will help ensure people are connected to the services they need," **said Senator Joseph Vitale**.

"I am extremely grateful to be a part of this Pilot Program which will change how the public views and interacts with law enforcement. The "ARRIVE Together Initiative" has the potential to save lives of those who are suffering with a mental health, emotional, suicidal ideation, and those who are in a non-threatening crisis; also, reduce the tension which currently exists between Law Enforcement within the minority community," **said Rev. Dr. Michael K. Keene., Sr Pastor of Trinity A.M.E Church in Fairfield Township, Cumberland County**. "In addition to having a mental health screener ride with the State Trooper to assess in real time, the mental health screener can assist the officer in processing his or her feelings at the end of their shift or in between calls. This additional benefit will assist the trooper in learning self-care and how to live with the trauma of the job at the job and not to take it home to his or her family, resulting in an improved home life and become more proactive on the job."

"We wholeheartedly support the ARRIVE together initiative. Pairing people experiencing a mental health crisis with professionals in real-time is critical for first responders and the communities we serve. This endeavor will reduce the risk of injury to police and the people they are called upon to serve," **said Richard Rivera, Co-founder of the National Coalition of Latino Officers**. "The program also underscores the necessity for reviewing and analyzing force encounters with police to improve training and better community relations."

"We are pleased to see the steady growth of the ARRIVE Together program in New Jersey, as an increasing number of municipal police departments are collaborating with mental health providers," **said Thomas Dellane, president of the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police**. "While this program is only in its infancy, it has enormous potential. ARRIVE Together has already demonstrated itself as a vital tool for law enforcement, as we respond to incidents involving individuals suffering from mental or behavioral struggles. We salute Attorney General Matthew Platkin's commitment to this initiative, as well as the State Police and local police departments that are already involved. We look forward to its steady expansion across New Jersey."

View the full ARRIVE Together Expansion Map, **here** ([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/7ely0i/7ys5259b/zs2231__!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!N65BYI7AHdMFyCUXWR5eFs8UPSqclMPqPcx1Vymp6yl6XFE_ZD29nMVIP0RWXy-bzSwDZyFOiBC5\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/7ely0i/7ys5259b/zs2231__!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!N65BYI7AHdMFyCUXWR5eFs8UPSqclMPqPcx1Vymp6yl6XFE_ZD29nMVIP0RWXy-bzSwDZyFOiBC5$)).

View the ARRIVE Together video, **here** ([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/7ely0i/7ys5259b/f13231__!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!N65BYI7AHdMFyCUXWR5eFs8UPSqclMPqPcx1Vymp6yl6XFE_ZD29nMVIP0RWXy-bzSwDZy5unP3P\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/7ely0i/7ys5259b/f13231__!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!N65BYI7AHdMFyCUXWR5eFs8UPSqclMPqPcx1Vymp6yl6XFE_ZD29nMVIP0RWXy-bzSwDZy5unP3P$)).

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	(/governor/news/acappointments)		
	Statements on Legislation		
	(/governor/news/statements/approved/statements_archive.shtml)		
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