

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB739

Patron: Jones, M.

Bill Title: Virginia Youth Empowerment and Mentoring Grant Fund and Program; established.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Virginia Youth Empowerment and Mentoring Grant Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, for the purpose of awarding grants to community-based organizations for the purpose of placing mentors with high-risk youth in an effort to transition such youth into careers in certified high-wage trades.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 394

Explanation: Additional funding and one position are needed to administer the new fund and implement the grant program.

Fiscal Summary: This legislation requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish and publish guidelines and criteria governing agreements between the agency and award recipients relating to youth empowerment and mentoring. DCJS shall oversee each grant awarded through the program and ensure thorough reporting by grantees. DCJS shall also maintain data-driven reporting that tracks measurable outcomes, including i) reductions in homicides and shootings in targeted communities and ii) successful youth placement in the workforce, which includes (a) apprenticeship enrollment and (b) job retention rates.

DCJS estimates that it would need one program manager to administer the fund and implement the grant program, with an estimated ongoing annual cost of \$132,003.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
DCJS		\$132,003	\$132,003	\$132,003	\$132,003	\$132,003
TOTAL		\$132,003	\$132,003	\$132,003	\$132,003	\$132,003

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
DCJS		1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL		1	1	1	1	1

Fiscal Analysis: In order to properly administer and implement the grant program as outlined in the bill, DCJS anticipates the need for one full-time position to serve as a program manager to review grant applications,

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monitor grants made from the fund and provide assistance and oversight for funded projects. This position would have an annual salary of \$85,000, plus \$47,003 in benefits, for a total general fund cost of \$132,003. However, depending on the size of the grant fund, the expected number of grantees and the agency's reporting and grant monitoring requirements, additional resources may be needed.

Other: DCJS currently awards funding to a variety of non-profit organizations across the Commonwealth that operate mentorship programs for at-risk youth. Some of these mentorship programs include life skills training for youth and young adults, along with workforce development and job-readiness training.

This is a companion bill to HB947.