



Supporting Blue Envelope Programs Act

Reps. Norma Torres (CA-35) & John Rutherford (FL-05)

Blue Envelope Programs improve communications and interactions between law enforcement and public safety personnel with individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), or other features that may affect communication with first responders.

In California's 35th Congressional District, the Inland Regional Center, Autism Society Inland Empire, and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department partnered to launch the [San Bernardino County Blue Envelope Program](#), which has been adopted by numerous police departments in the region. Similar programs exist in nearby counties, like [San Diego County](#), and in other states like Florida and [28 other states](#).

Blue Envelope Programs provide participating drivers a physical blue envelope to use during traffic stops, along with optional Blue Envelope-branded products they can wear or display when interacting with law enforcement or other public safety personnel. These materials, provided at no cost, can hold the individual's identification, emergency contacts, and other helpful information, such as vehicle registration and insurance.

In addition, law enforcement and first responders receive training and resources for safer, more effective interactions with individuals with ASD, I/DD, or other communication barriers. Participating community members and their families can also access voluntary training, education, and related resources. To protect privacy, the program does not collect or store any personal data from participants.

The bipartisan *Supporting Blue Envelope Programs Act* aims to provide federal funding to help states and local communities create, expand, or strengthen Blue Envelope programs nationwide. For a list of endorsements, [click here](#).

Supporting Blue Envelope Programs Act Bill Summary:

Grant Authorization

- Authorizes \$5 million annually for Blue Envelope Programs grants from fiscal year 2027 to 2031.

Eligible Recipients

- Law enforcement agencies partnering with nonprofit(s) that provide services and resources for individuals with ASD, I/DD, or other communication barriers.
- Nonprofits (as described above) partnering with law enforcement agencies

Requirements for Blue Envelope Program Grant recipients

- Provide training and resources to law enforcement and first responders on interacting with individuals with ASD, I/DD, or other features that can cause communication barriers
- Offer voluntary training, education, and resources for community members and families.
- Supply physical Blue Envelopes for drivers and may also distribute additional Blue-Envelope branded products, such as car decals, seatbelt covers, lanyards, pins, or similar accessories, to support safer interactions.
- **Must NOT** include any registration system, list of participants, or tracking mechanism, ensuring full protection of individual and family privacy.

Priorities and Report to Congress

- Prioritize programs that are built to last, involve multiple law enforcement agencies, involve entities with experience with person-centered and trauma-informed practices that have a direct link to individuals with ASD and I/DD, their families, and have community support.
- Requires the Department of Justice to (1) write a report to Congress every two years on the implementation of the Blue Envelope grants under this section and best practices and (2) creates an online directory of Blue Envelope programs so members of the public can find their closest program.