



Fact Sheet

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COPS Office Tribal Resources

“We will modernize our computer systems and buy equipment for vehicles, add two officers, and provide more training. For a small department these grants are essential.”

Rick Norris
Former Police Chief
Washoe Tribe (Nevada)

Background

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) created the Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP), Tribal Hiring Renewal Grant Program (THRGP), Tribal Mental Health and Community Safety Initiative (TMHCSI), and the Tribal Court Pilot Program (TCPP) to meet the needs of law enforcement in Native American communities. These programs address quality-of-life issues and cover law enforcement expenses, including hiring and training new community policing officers, training existing forces, and purchasing new equipment, technology, vehicles, and more.

Since 1995, the COPS Office has awarded more than \$350 million to help Native American communities hire more than 1,700 new or redeployed community policing officers, provide training, and purchase basic equipment, vehicles, and technology for safer communities. Many of these communities have limited resources and suffer from high rates of crime and violence.

Grant Program Funding Provisions

In fiscal year 2009, the COPS Office awarded nearly \$20 million through TRGP to bolster community policing within Native American communities. Priority consideration was given to TRGP grant requests that 1) reflected the most serious law enforcement needs of an agency not funded with state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) funds and 2) linked to the implementation or enhancement of community policing.

In an effort to further assist tribal agencies in addressing their hiring needs throughout Indian Country, some of the existing FY09 tribal hiring applications on file with our office were funded through the Tribal Resources Grant Program.

Funding provisions in fiscal year 2009 included approximately \$5 million for TRGP hiring grants to be used to hire new (or rehire laid off) sworn law enforcement officers. The FY09 TRGP grants for equipment and training included more than \$14.5 million for training, basic standard-issue equipment, uniforms, technology, and police vehicles. Training includes basic and specialized police training at a state academy or at the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, New Mexico, as well as community policing and computer training. TRGP covers 100 percent of the grant request, and there is no local match requirement.

Requirements

Federal regulations require monitoring of the financial assistance provided by the federal government to ensure that funds are used properly. Supplanting of local or BIA funds already budgeted for law enforcement with COPS grant funds is prohibited. Any use of TRGP funds must be in addition to, not in lieu of, previous funding commitments for law enforcement staffing, training, and/or equipment.

Contact the COPS Office

For more information about TRGP and other COPS Office programs and resources, call the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

The COPS Office offers a variety of publications and products to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS Office publications and products offer insights and experiences of others in the field that address specific problems, including the following:

- Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs, 2nd Edition
- Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention Resources for Law Enforcement CD-ROM
- Law Enforcement Tech Guide for Small and Rural Police Agencies
- Law Enforcement Intelligence: A Guide for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies
- Tribal Law Enforcement CD-ROM
- Strategies to Address Gang Crime: A Guidebook for Law Enforcement

COPS Office publications are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.