



COPS Fact Sheet

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COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Child Sexual Predator Program

Protecting Communities and America's Children from Predators

THE COPS OFFICE IS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AS THEY WORK AGGRESSIVELY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO PREDATORY CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN.

The Child Sexual Predator Program (CSPP) is a new funding initiative implemented by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (the COPS Office) aimed at reducing and preventing child endangerment and protecting communities from sexual predators. Launched in 2008, the program provides grants to help locate, arrest, and prosecute child sexual predators and exploiters, and enforce state sex offender registration laws. The program will support community policing initiatives throughout the United States by promoting partnerships between law enforcement and United States Attorneys Offices (USAO), as well as with other community partners, such as the U.S. Marshals Service, parole and probation offices, social service agencies, and state or local prosecutors, to collectively reduce and prevent child endangerment by sexual predators.

To assist the COPS Office in targeting agencies that could benefit most from this program, each USAO was asked to nominate two state, local, or tribal law enforcement agencies from within its district that have a particular need for additional resources to locate, arrest, and prosecute child sexual predators. Nominated agencies were invited to apply and compete for funding under this targeted, competitive grant program. Through a peer review process, approximately \$10 million in funding was awarded to 23 agencies based on the scope of the existing problem; the need for additional resources in this area; the quality and likelihood of success of the proposed strategies, including the value of the proposed partnerships; and plans for sustaining these strategies after the grant period expires.

Funding Provisions

The 2008 CSPP awarded up to \$500,000 in grants per jurisdiction with no local match required. The grant period is 2 years in duration and sample grant projects will include such activities as these:

- Developing, enhancing, or maintaining sex offender registration programs or functions
- Improving information sharing between law enforcement and other service providers to investigate and prevent child sex crimes and to increase offender accountability
- Managing high-risk offenders in the community through strategic problem analysis and response development
- Establishing or enhancing any other efforts to locate, arrest, and prosecute known child sex offenders.

Agencies awarded under the CSPP are required to partner and coordinate with their district USAO to implement this initiative. Furthermore, priority consideration was given to applicants that demonstrated a partnership with their U.S. Marshal. Preference was also given to agencies that demonstrated a multijurisdictional and/or multidisciplinary approach to locating, arresting, and prosecuting child sexual predators. In addition, the COPS Office is encouraging the development or support of existing task forces focused exclusively on these efforts by agencies funded under this initiative.

To support the development of partnerships and the sharing of information and strategies, all CSPP grantees will be required to attend a COPS-sponsored technical assistance kickoff conference. The CSPP Technical Assistance provider is the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC). NCMEC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1984 that offers law enforcement powerful resources, free of charge, to help investigate cases of missing and sexually exploited children, track attempted abductions of children, and locate noncompliant registered sex offenders. To learn more about NCMEC or request assistance with a case, call the toll-free, 24-hour hot line at 1.800.THE.LOST® (1.800.843.5678) or visit the web site at www.missingkids.com and click the *Law Enforcement* link under the *Resources for* heading on the left side of the home page.

The safety and well-being of America's children are crucial to healthy communities, and the COPS Office is committed to supporting state, local, and tribal law enforcement as they work aggressively to

prevent and respond to predatory crimes against children. We assist agencies through grant funding and a variety of resources that support community policing partnerships and strategies in combating this problem, including publications such as *Child Pornography on the Internet*, to help police identify and respond to Internet child pornography crimes; *Juvenile Runaways*, a street-smart guide to aid police officers as they encounter juveniles who have run away from home; and a *Teen Action Toolkit: Building a Youth-Led Response to Teen Victimization*, a hands-on implementation guide for the Teen Action Partnership Program.

Contact the COPS Office

For more information, call the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.