



COPS Fact Sheet

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COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Value-Based Initiative and Value-Based Reentry Initiative

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) funds a wide variety of projects designed to strengthen the relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. The COPS Value-Based Initiative (VBI) and Value-Based Reentry Initiative (VBRI) fund projects that partner law enforcement agencies with faith-based organizations and other community groups. COPS has invested more than \$6.7 million in VBI and VBRI projects all over the United States since 2000.

As part of the VBRI program, mentors are selected from faith-based and other nonprofit community organizations. Mentor teams are trained to serve as the liaison between the returning offender and various resources and services, including housing, employment, health, and mental health. Training also includes the specific skills needed to work effectively with the offender community.

The recipients of the COPS FY 2004 Value-Based Reentry Initiative grants are:

- Institute of Contemporary Studies, Oakland, CA
- New Commandment Baptist Church/Jobs Partnership of Greater Washington, Washington, DC
- Boston Police Department, Boston, MA
- Transition of Prisoners, Detroit, MI
- Connections to Success, Kansas City, MO

"WE'RE NOT NECESSARILY GOING TO AGREE ON EVERYTHING, BUT AT LEAST IN FORT WAYNE WE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT IT. THAT TRUST LEVEL IS IMPORTANT. TO MAKE COMMUNITY POLICING WORK, YOU HAVE TO SHARE THE POWER."

The VBI provides the start-up resources to develop a local program and create the infrastructure to implement it. A successful VBI program is designed from its inception to build strong, lasting partnerships between law enforcement and faith leaders to address quality-of-life issues and establish local capacity to sustain the initiative beyond federal funding. VBI sites serve as model programs built on the principles of community policing that other communities can replicate.

In 2003, COPS expanded its VBI program to include the new Value-Based Reentry Initiative. Under the VBRI, five sites from around the United States were selected to serve as national models that can be replicated by others seeking to create their own reentry programs. The VBRI program is another element in the effort to create safer, healthier communities by working toward the successful integration of the ex-offender back into the community through a collaborative partnership approach.

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