



COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Making a Mark Community Policing Keeps America Safe

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

July 14 - 17, 2002

Washington D.C.

Snapshots

Since 1994, COPS:

- ★ Funded over 114,000 officers.
- ★ Awarded almost 6.5 billion dollars to jurisdictions nationwide.
- ★ Awarded over \$1 billion to fund and implement new technology.
- ★ Awarded \$91 million dollars to combat the production and use of methamphetamine.
- ★ Funded almost 5,000 school resources officers.
- ★ Provides training resources through a national network Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPI's).
- ★ COPS publishes a variety of guides, manuals, and other publications covering many topics, helping law enforcement agencies build partnerships, problem-solve for specific problems in their area, and implement community policing techniques.

Assessing Responses to Problems: An Introductory Guide for Police Problem-Solvers

expected release date: July 24, 2002

COPS invites you to take a look at our newest publication *Assessing Responses to Problems* focuses on:

- ✓ Designing effective responses to problems,
- ✓ Implementing the response plan,
- ✓ Evaluating the plan as executed.

Assessing Responses to Problems helps law enforcement officials answer two main questions:

1. Did the problem decline?
2. If so, did the response cause the decline?

Assessing Responses to Problems is currently available at www.cops.usdoj.gov, and will be available in print at the end of July. Please call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1.800.421.6770 to order your copy today!

Letter from Director Carl R. Peed Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Welcome to the *COPS National Community Policing Conference: Community Policing Keeps America Safe*. I'm honored by your participation in this effort to share information about advancing community policing. Over the past seven years, the COPS Office has helped law enforcement agencies all over the country advance community policing and make America's streets safer. COPS has built partnerships with more than 12,500 local agencies representing over 650,000 law enforcement professionals. Since 1994, the COPS Office has funded additional community policing officers, invested in crime fighting technology, provided training and information resources, and advanced community policing nationwide. This conference will allow our grantees to showcase the successful COPS-funded community policing projects that have been implemented and share strategies used to solve local crime and disorder problems.

The workshops presented at *Community Policing Keeps America Safe* will focus on best practices and expert opinions from across the nation. Topics will include aspects of community policing ranging from methamphetamine use and prevention to school safety to ethics and integrity. This conference brings together some of the most experienced researchers and practitioners in law enforcement to share ideas about community policing.

Community policing is not a new idea. Instead, it's a timeless strategy capable of meeting the many new challenges confronting law enforcement including terrorism. For many years, community policing has helped to restore crime-ridden neighborhoods, build trust between law enforcement officers and citizens, and solve chronic problems that had previously eroded individual quality of life. Recently, and with strong federal support, an overwhelming majority of American law enforcement agencies have adopted community policing. By constructively engaging their communities, policing agencies have made their citizens active stakeholders in preserving public safety.

Today local law enforcement faces many new challenges. When terrorists attacked America on the morning of September 11, local police and sheriffs responded and many brave men and women lost their lives. Since that tragic day, our nation has gained a far greater appreciation for the difficult and often dangerous job performed by law enforcement professionals. The COPS Office is proud to help local law enforcement prevent crime and address new public safety challenges by advancing community policing.

Community policing keeps America safe.
Enjoy the conference.

Come On By

COPS invites you to stop by our booth to pick up some of our recent publications. COPS representatives will be on hand to answer any questions you may have on our publications and programs. COPS publications are also available on our website at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

Putting it in Focus: COPS Grants that Work

COPS In Schools

Recent headlines about school violence are disturbing, and unfortunately, they are not isolated incidents. Now more than ever School Resource Officers (SROs) are needed to mentor, train, and counsel students in more than reading, writing, and arithmetic. SROs are the eyes and ears of the school community and are trained to protect the students' safety and listen to their concerns - before concerns become a crime.

In **New Bedford, Massachusetts**, SROs listened as students came forward with information on a plan to detonate a bomb inside their highschool. According to the plan, the students intended to kill themselves before the police could apprehend them. SROs and other local law enforcement used their eyes and ears in a month long, school wide investigation and charged three students with plotting the New Bedford rampage. Police were able to arrest suspects, and prevent a deadly attack because students came forward to talk to their SROs.

*COPS CIS funding to date: \$600 million
Number of SROs funded: 4,900*

Methamphetamine Funding

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant, is expanding across the United States. Typically made in dangerous, makeshift labs, meth is cheap, addictive, and deadly.

With a COPS Meth grant, **Salt Lake City, Utah** developed a multi-agency collaboration involving 30 government agencies working together to prevent the use and production of methamphetamine. One of the major successes of the Salt Lake City meth initiative was the Drug Endangered Children program (DEC). The DEC addressed the growing number of children exposed to methamphetamine by combining the resources of law enforcement, judicial, and social services agencies. The DEC succeeded in amending Utah's child endangerment statutes to better protect drug-exposed children.

*COPS Meth funding to date: \$90 million
Number of jurisdiction funded: 42*

One of the core elements of community policing is solving problems. Whether through innovative new solutions or simply the judicious execution of proven strategies, COPS grantees are improving the quality of life in communities all over America. These are examples of how COPS grants helped local law enforcement agencies better serve their communities through community policing.

Making Officer Redeployment Effective

MORE grants are a pivotal component of the COPS program, providing financial assistance to purchase needed technology or equipment or to hire civilian administrative personnel. MORE significantly enhances the ability of officers to solve community problems.

One sheriff's deputy in Florida targeted this new technology on car thefts in **Broward County**. Deputy Eduardo Ponce identified parts of Broward County's central district as havens for stolen vehicles. With his newly installed COPS-funded MDT, Deputy Ponce began tracking and recovering stolen vehicles. His hard work and innovative use of this time-saving technology resulted in 27 arrests and the recovery of 32 stolen cars.

*COPS MORE funding to date: \$1.25 billion
Officers funded: 42,805*

Value-Based Initiatives

COPS Value-Based Initiatives (VBI) help law enforcement agencies develop partnerships with faith based organizations.

In **Redlands, California**, law enforcement agencies used a COPS VBI grant to introduce the faith community to existing youth development programs. In addition, the Redlands VBI included the COPS and Clergy Network, which engages the faith community to combat neighborhood crime by involving local congregations in the Redlands Drug Court, the Redlands Youth Accountability Board, and prisoner re-entry programs.

COPS VBI funding to date: \$4.2 million

COPS Innovations

The Local Police Response to Terrorism Prevention and Preparedness

The COPS Office published COPS Innovations to discuss the types of resources that local police may want to consider in responding to terrorism prevention and preparedness. It highlights the efforts of several COPS Office grantees who have utilized resources provided by COPS to strengthen their response to terrorism by:

- ♦ improving data and intelligence collection and processing;
- ♦ increasing the capacity to address terrorism by capitalizing on technological advancements;
- ♦ communicating with other public safety agencies; and
- ♦ assisting victims and responding to citizen fear.

The general discussion about how the police can effectively prevent and respond to terrorism, along with specific examples of the advances agencies are currently making in practice and policy, are intended to assist police with conducting their own security needs assessment and implementing systems and procedures. This can ultimately help bolster the existing security measures that are already present in communities across the country.

Tribal Resource Grant Programs

The COPS Tribal Resource Grant Programs are designed to meet the most critical needs of law enforcement in Native American communities. Many tribal communities have limited resources and are plagued by high crime rates. Recruitment and retention of police officers poses significant problems in Indian Country. The relationship between police tribal youth is also of paramount importance.

In response to this need, the **Western Community Policing Center**, funded through a COPS Tribal grant, developed partnerships with several stakeholders to design the first-ever National Indian Youth Academy. This two-week academy brings together Indian youth and tribal police officers to experience first hand the type of training police officers receive, including community policing. They build relationships, remove communication barriers, and are taught the importance of staying in school and staying out of trouble to pursue a career in law enforcement.

*COPS Tribal funding to date: \$99.4 million
Officers funded: 566*

Justice-Based After-School Program

The primary goal of the Justice-Based After-School program (JBAS) is to create a preventive approach for juvenile crime and victimization to improve the quality of life in communities across the country. JBAS grants encourage law enforcement agencies to build partnerships with community-based organizations to achieve their goal.

The Stamford Police Department in Stamford, Connecticut uses COPS JBAS grants to partner with two other agencies, Trailblazers Academy and the Domus Foundation, to create an after-school program for at-risk children. COPS funds were used to enhance the hours of the program so it can stay open year-round, enhance its range of activities, and serve more children. Activities and amenities of the Stamford program include a computer lab, homework hour, specialized tutoring, sports, community volunteer activities, nutrition activities, aerobics, arts and crafts, and lectures on life skills. The presence of law enforcement officials serves a dual purpose: creating a safe environment for youth, and serving as a role model.

COPS JBAS funding to date: \$3.2 million

New Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Guides!

COPS presents new POP Guides, reinforcing local law enforcement efforts in the fight to protect citizens from crime. The Guides focus on identifying the underlying factors of specific problems. The newest additions to the POP Guides series are:

- ✓ Bullying in Schools
- ✓ Clandestine Drug Labs
- ✓ Acquaintance Rape

Call 800.421.6770 for copies of these, and all COPS publications. All COPS publications are available at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

Please keep an eye out for the new COPS website debuting soon.

Centers for Excellence in Integrity

Community policing builds strong relationships between law enforcement officials and the communities they serve. Trust is a necessary component in building those relationships. That is why ethics and integrity training programs are offered at the Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs).

COPS funds two RCPIs to specialize in these issues: The RCPI of New England (in Boston) and the Mid-Atlantic RCPI (in Baltimore). RCPI New England addressed organizational integrity by developing a series of four modules of "Train the Trainer" sessions for law enforcement leadership. Four other RCPIs now offer Train the Trainer sessions as well.

COPS initially met the challenges of training for integrity issues by sponsoring a series of conferences in 1996 and 1997. These seminars focused on defining and maintaining integrity at both the individual officer and organizational levels. In 1999, the COPS Office coordinated with the Attorney General's conference on strengthening police-community relationships. Subsequent working groups focused on data collected on police stops as they relate to racial profiling. By 2001, the

COPS Office had expanded its police integrity portfolio to include applications of technology, development of promising practices, applied assessments, and an expanded scope for training and technical assistance.

COPS partnered with experts in various aspects of ethics to develop a course called "Ethics for the Individual Officer." Currently, RCPIs send instructors to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center to take this course. Its unique personal assessment approach is taught through case studies and exercises. "Ethics for the Individual Officer" is available at all COPS-funded RCPIs across the country.

Tell Us about It!

COPS values feedback from law enforcement practitioners, and we want to hear from you! Please send us an email letting us know about your successful community policing efforts to reduce crime. You can send us an email at TellCOPS@usdoj.gov - we look forward to hearing from you.



School can be rough...



COPS can help you make it safe

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