



COPS Fact Sheet

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COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPS Interoperable Communications Technology

"THE ABILITY TO EFFECTIVELY

COMMUNICATE ACROSS BUSINESS

SECTORS IS A QUANTUM LEAP FOR

PUBLIC SAFETY."

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PORTLAND 9-1-1

BUREAU OF EMERGENCY

COMMUNICATIONS

PORTLAND, OREGON

Communications interoperability refers to the ability to talk across disciplines and jurisdictions via radio communications networks on demand, in real time. One of the major issues currently facing emergency services providers is the inability of first responders to communicate with each other. Effective emergency response requires coordination, communication, and sharing of vital information among numerous public safety agencies. Unfortunately, many emergency service providers rely on communications systems developed to meet their own unique needs that are often not compatible with those of neighboring agencies.

The COPS Office awarded 23 agencies more than \$80 million in FY2004 to address this growing need through the COPS Interoperable Communications Technology grant program. This initiative was coordinated with the Office of Justice Programs, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the SAFECOM Program. Targeted agencies were invited to apply for funding for both voice and data interoperability projects.

Interoperable Communications Technology grants fund projects that explore uses of equipment and technologies to increase interoperability and data information sharing among the law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service communities. These projects are the result of thorough and rigorous planning, and demonstrate how new technologies and operating methods can help communities achieve interoperability.

Designated jurisdictions with large and small population centers were invited to submit applications for interoperable communications projects that include the following:

- Purchasing interoperable communications equipment for multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional public safety communications projects.
- Providing local jurisdictions with the equipment or services they need to participate on larger public safety, commercial, or other shared networks.
- Purchasing and deploying portable gateway solutions.
- Purchasing technologies to upgrade or enhance the ability of law enforcement systems to improve the timeliness, effectiveness, and accuracy of criminal justice information exchanges.
- Purchasing any other technology that can be demonstrated to significantly increase interoperability within the public safety community.

The recipients of the COPS FY 2004 Interoperable Communications Technology grants include the following:

- Anchorage Police Department, AK
- Birmingham Police Department, AL
- Orange County Sheriff's Department, CA
- Sacramento Police Department, CA
- City of San Diego, CA
- Colorado Springs Police Department, CO
- Denver Police Department, CO
- City of Wilmington, DE
- Boise Police Department, ID

COPS offers a variety of publications, products, and training opportunities to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS publications and products offer insights and experiences from others in the field addressing specific problems including:

- ✓ Call Management and Community Policing
- ✓ Law Enforcement Tech Guide: How to plan, purchase and manage technology (successfully!)
- ✓ Law Enforcement Responds to Terrorism: Lessons in Prevention and Preparedness
- ✓ Guidelines to Implement & Evaluate Crime Analysis & Mapping in Law Enforcement
- ✓ Geocoding in Law Enforcement

COPS also sponsors training opportunities and conferences to give law enforcement professionals an opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas. COPS publications and training opportunities are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

- City of Coeur d'Alene, ID
- City of Shreveport, LA
- City of Bangor, ME
- City of Warren, MI
- City of Missoula, MT
- Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, NC
- Fargo Police Department, ND
- Lincoln Police Department, NE
- Omaha Police Department, NE
- City of Cincinnati, OH
- Ogden City Corporation, UT
- City of Virginia Beach, VA
- City of Seattle, WA
- City of Tacoma, WA

Cost Share Requirements

Grant awards will require a 25 percent nonfederal cost share. The source of the match funds must be identified in the grant application.

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