



# 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.

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 and establish local capacity to sustain the initiative beyond federal funding. VBI sites should 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 partnership approach.

As part of the VBRI program, mentors are selected from faith-based and other community organizations. Mentor teams are trained to serve as the liaison between the 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 five sites that have participated in the three-year program and who received grants in 2003, 2004, and 2005 are:

- Institute of Contemporary Studies, Oakland, California
- New Commandment Baptist Church/ Jobs Partnership of Greater Washington, Washington, D.C.
- Boston Police Department, Boston, Massachusetts
- Transition of Prisoners, Detroit, Michigan
- Connections to Success, Kansas City, Missouri

In addition to these five model sites, the COPS Office has also invested in projects that will bring a greater understanding of the reentry challenge to the law enforcement community. To that end, COPS has partnered with the Urban Institute (UI), the Council of State and Local Governments (CSG), and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), to fund a reentry guide, a reentry toolkit, and a national reentry summit. Since 2003, COPS has invested over \$3.5 million in reentry initiatives.

For more information about the COPS Value-Based Initiative and Value-Based Reentry Initiative, contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770 or visit COPS online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).

"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.

"CHIEF RUSTY YORK, FORT  
WAYNE POLICE DEPARTMENT