

U.S. Department of Justice
FY 2027 Congressional Justifications
Submission

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Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Overview

In the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Congressional Justification (CJ) Submission, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) requests a total of \$303,200,000, 81 positions and 81 FTE to further the Department of Justice's (DOJ's) goal to assist State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in collaborative efforts to Make America Safe Again. Funding highlights include:

- \$256.2 million for the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) to assist in hiring additional sworn law enforcement professionals, including the following set-asides:
 - \$34.0 million for Tribal Resources Grant Program;
 - \$4.0 million for Tribal Access Program (TAP);
 - \$10.0 million for the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program; and
 - \$44.0 million for Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)
- \$12.0 million for the Police Act Program
- \$35.0 million for COPS School Violence Prevention Program

A. Background

Established in 1994, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing common sense community policing by the nation's state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies through direct law enforcement funding, training, and the promotion of promising law enforcement innovations and practices.

Community policing begins with a commitment to building trust and mutual respect between police and communities. It supports public safety by encouraging all stakeholders to work together to address our nation's crime challenges.

When law enforcement and communities collaborate, they more effectively address underlying issues, change negative behavioral patterns, and allocate resources. Rather than simply responding to crime, community policing focuses on preventing it through common sense and strategic problem-solving approaches that leverage collaboration. The COPS Office awards grants to hire community policing officers and support the development and testing of innovative policing strategies. COPS Office funding also provides training and technical assistance to advance public safety and keep communities secure and safe.

Since 1994, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than \$21 billion to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and provide training and technical assistance to help advance community policing.

To date, the COPS Office has funded the hiring of approximately 140,000 additional officers by more than 13,000 of the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies in both small and large jurisdictions.

More than 800,000 law enforcement personnel, community members, and government leaders have been trained through COPS Office-funded training organizations and the COPS Training Portal.

More than 1,000 agencies have received customized advice and peer-led technical assistance through the COPS Office Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center.

The COPS Office has distributed more than nine million topic-specific publications, training curricula, white papers, and digital resources.

The COPS Office also sponsors conferences, roundtables, and other forums focused on issues critical to law enforcement. COPS Office information resources, covering a wide range of community policing topics such as school and campus safety, violent crime, and officer safety and wellness, can be downloaded via the COPS Office's home page, <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.

Research on the COPS Office demonstrates a positive relationship between community-oriented policing strategies and public safety outcomes. A study published in *Journal of Public Economics* by Evans and Owens, Volume 91 (2007) showed that the crime problems targeted by COPS Office grantees "led to a statistically precise drop in crime in subsequent years for four of the seven index crimes." Similarly, work by Princeton University to estimate the causal effects of police on crime concluded that an additional COPS-funded officer is associated with 2.9 fewer violent crimes and 16.23 fewer property crimes per 10,000 residents in the year following their hiring.¹ Other research, by RAND², suggests an estimated 300 percent return on the taxpayer dollar when investing in additional law enforcement officers as a practical means to reduce crime.

The COPS Office commissioned the University of Chicago to conduct an analysis of the relationship between COPS Office hiring grants and crime rates. The 2016 report, titled [*The Effects of COPS Office Funding on Sworn Force Levels, Crime, and Arrests*](#), identifies the measurable effects of COPS Office law enforcement hiring funding on police staffing levels and crime in America. The COPS Office FY 2009 hiring program funding created or preserved 4,699 sworn law enforcement positions for a three-year period. According to the study, the funding not only increased officers per capita in 2009, it also led to declines in reported Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Part 1 crimes of approximately five percent in subsequent years. In 2010, a similar estimated decline in arrests occurred.

Community policing is comprised of three key components:

1. Organizational Transformation

Organizational Transformation is the alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem

¹ Mello, Steven. 2017. *More COPS, Less Crime*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University.

² Heaton, Paul, *Hidden in Plain Sight: What Cost-of-Crime Research Can Tell Us About Investing in Police*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2010. https://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/OP279.html.

solving. The community policing philosophy focuses on the way that departments are organized and managed, and how the infrastructure can be changed to support the philosophical shift behind community policing. It encourages the application of modern management practices to increase efficiency and effectiveness. Community policing emphasizes changes in organizational structures to institutionalize its adoption and infuse it throughout the entire department.

2. Community Partnerships

The COPS Office defines Community Partnerships as collaborative relationships between law enforcement agencies and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police. Community policing, recognizing that police rarely can solve public safety problems alone, encourages interactive partnerships with relevant stakeholders. The range of potential partners is large, and agencies can use these partnerships to accomplish the two interrelated goals of developing solutions to problems through collaborative problem solving and improving public trust. The public should play a role in prioritizing and addressing public safety.

3. Problem Solving

The Problem Solving component of Community Policing is the process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and rigorously evaluate effective responses. Rather than responding to crime only after it occurs, community policing encourages agencies to develop proactive solutions to the immediate underlying conditions contributing to public safety problems. Problem solving must be infused into all police operations and guide decision-making efforts. Agencies are encouraged to think innovatively about their responses and view making arrests as only one of a wide array of potential responses.

A major conceptual vehicle for helping officers to think about problem solving in a structured and disciplined way is the SARA (scanning, analysis, response, and assessment) problem-solving model:

- **Scanning:** Identify and prioritize problems
- **Analysis:** Research what is known about the problem
- **Response:** Develop solutions to bring about lasting reductions in the number and extent of problems
- **Assessment:** Evaluate the success of the responses

COPS also encourages the use of the crime triangle to focus on immediate conditions that give rise to public safety problems (victim/offender/location).

B. Programs Administered by COPS

COPS Hiring Program (CHP). The CHP is designed to reduce crime and advance public safety through common sense community policing by providing direct support to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide. CHP funding supports the hiring of career law enforcement officers to increase an agency's community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. All local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies having primary law enforcement authority are

eligible to apply. The award selection process is highly competitive and based on a variety of factors including problem/focus area, local crime data, agencies' commitment to community policing, agencies' demonstrated financial need, and statutory formulas. Increased community policing capacity has been shown to help law enforcement agencies identify problem factors driving crime, understand the nature of problems, and more effectively solve and resolve specific crimes.

Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness (LEMHWA). This program helps law enforcement agencies establish or enhance mental health care services for their officers and deputies by making grants available to initiate pilot programs that support peer mentoring, annual mental health checks, crisis hotlines, and the delivery of other critical mental health and wellness services. It also supports the development of resources for the mental health providers who deliver tailored, specific services to law enforcement based on the unique challenges they face.

Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP). TRGP aims to expand the implementation of community policing and to meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in tribal nations. TRGP funding can be used for newly hired or rehired career law enforcement officers and village public safety officers as well as to procure basic equipment and training to assist in initiating or enhancing tribal community policing efforts.

Tribal Access Program (TAP). TAP supports the DOJ Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) in expanding the Tribal Access Program (TAP). TAP provides tribes access to national crime information systems for both criminal and civil purposes. TAP allows tribes to more effectively serve and protect their citizens by ensuring the exchange of critical data across the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) systems and other national crime information systems.

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS). This program is administered by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) with funds typically transferred from the COPS Office appropriation, and supports federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies, and other criminal justice agencies through six regional RISS centers by providing the following services:

- A secure online information and intelligence-sharing network;
- Officer safety information and deconfliction services;
- Investigative and analytical support services;
- Loans of specialized investigative equipment and confidential investigative funds; and
- Training, conferences, and publications designed to assist RISS users in investigating and prosecuting regional, national, and transnational criminal activity.

POLICE Act. This program supports active shooter training and supports law enforcement and other first responders with scenario-based, integrated training on preparing for and responding to active shooter and other mass casualty events.

STOP School Violence Act. Supports states, units of local government, Indian Tribes, and public agencies in implementing comprehensive approaches to create safe learning environments with improved security in schools and on school grounds necessary to protect the teaching staff and students in attendance.

Other notable COPS activities include the following:

- Providing certified classroom and virtual training to law enforcement professionals in more than 40 topics ranging from community policing fundamentals to crisis intervention, de-escalation, and active shooter response. All COPS training is available at no cost to law enforcement. In 2025, more than 38,000 registered public safety professionals and partners representing more than 6,500 agencies across the nation utilized these training resources. Every year, the COPS Training Portal expands its catalogue of no-cost training resources to address emerging public safety issues and meet the demands of law enforcement agencies nationwide.
- Providing grants under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) to support the hiring of sworn law enforcement personnel nationwide, while implementing administrative reforms that seek to more closely align the program with a broader array of evidence-based strategies to combat violent crime in partnership with communities;
- Continuing oversight and coordination of the National Blue Alert Network, which promotes rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement, the media and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured or pose an imminent threat to law enforcement, or when an officer is missing in connection with official duties;
- Advancing the work of the national Officer Safety and Wellness (OSW) Group, which brings together representatives from law enforcement, federal agencies, and the research community to focus attention on this critical aspect of public safety. Semi-annual meetings of the OSW Group help amplify critical officer safety issues and result in reports which highlight the latest research and best practices around different safety and wellness topics.

C. Transparency and Accountability

In support of a more transparent and accountable Federal government, the COPS Office continues to review and improve business processes to achieve greater efficiencies and be more responsive to the needs of the law enforcement community. These efforts have led to the implementation of innovative projects to promote the COPS Office's primary mission and improve grantees' access to COPS resources and overall experiences with the COPS Office; expand current e-government capabilities; enhance customer service; and empower employees to meet its mission.

1. Community Policing Enhancements

In FY 2027, the COPS Office will continue to refine COPS Office grant programs and knowledge resource management activities in an effort to advance public safety through community policing. Recent accomplishments include:

- *Comprehensive Community Policing Plan*: The COPS Office requires hiring grant applicants to complete a comprehensive community policing plan that incorporates a problem solving component; asks applicants to specify crime issues that they will target with hiring funding; and provide technical assistance on specific problems identified by grantees, such Violent Crime, Squatting and Encampment Enforcement, Homeland and Border Security, Nuisance Abatement and Quality of Life, School-Based Policing, and Combatting Domestic Terrorism.

- *Progress Report Enhancements:* Requiring detailed progress reports on community policing implementation across all COPS programs;
- *Further Integration of Outreach and Technical Assistance into Grants Operations:*
 - Integration of Technical Assistance into Grant Monitoring Activities: Implementing a grant monitoring strategy that involves a comprehensive review of the agency’s community policing efforts and providing additional on-site community policing technical assistance;
 - Customer Care Model of Grantee Outreach: Contacting each grantee several times a year to identify and assist with training and technical assistance needs, assist with potential issues, such as progress report issues, or assist with grant budget modifications and/or extensions. During the outreach, grantees are also made aware of community policing resources available to them through the COPS Office’s Response Center or website.
 - E-Learning Portal: Making training more accessible to law enforcement in a time and cost-effective manner through self-paced, online instruction, that support agency needs and crime reduction efforts to maintain a professional policing force.

2. COPS Business Process Improvement

The COPS Office remains committed to being a continuously improving organization that excels at meeting its mission and providing excellent customer service. The Office is engaged in an on-going effort to maintain and improve business processes and standard operating procedures.

Streamlining of Grant Program Applications:

The COPS Office recognizes and appreciates the time and effort that grant applicants invest in order to receive consideration for competitive grant funding. We are committed to deploying solicitations that are easy to understand with straightforward data/information requirements. The goal is to minimize the overall burden on applicants while still capturing sufficient data/information necessary to establish a level playing field and to make informed funding decisions.

In FY 2019 and 2020, the COPS Office began a routine effort to conduct systematic/thorough reviews of all existing grant-making processes in order to identify additional process improvements. The reviews culminated in significant streamlining actions affecting all grant programs. These efforts continue to simplify application processes, lessen the burden on all applicants, and improve administrative efficiency. In FYs 2024, 2025, and 2026 the COPS Office continued the process to revise and update standard operating procedures to further improve and streamline its operations to support the law enforcement field and communities’ safety.

The establishment of the JustGrants grant management system delivers a shared solution for the DOJ grants management community that leverages existing systems and tools. This program is a

joint effort between the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), COPS, and OJP to define and deliver a hybrid, shared solution that enables common business processes, decreases the number of grants management solutions, and eliminates standalone systems and tools.

OJP, OVW and COPS committed to working on the Justice Grants Information Technology System (JGITS) now referred to as JustGrants. The JustGrants System was launched in October of 2020. This system remains under continues improvement and development of key areas including monitoring. The key focus for FY 2027 is to have a fully functional grants management system where OJP, OVW and COPS grantees can successfully apply and manage their awards efficiently and without significant burden to the public and its users. COPS staff and OJP continue to hold biweekly update meetings with additional meetings occurring as needed (including quarterly Steering Committee and Executive meetings).

3. Evidence and Evaluation

The COPS Office strives to ensure that it executes evidence and evaluation in grant programs and promotes public adoption of evidence-based practices in the law enforcement field in FY 2027 and beyond.

The COPS Office continues to revise accordingly and use the funding methodology first implemented in 2010 to further enhance its hiring grant program application. The current methodology has improved objectivity and evaluation-based community policing criteria. The COPS Office also developed standardized, measurable questions to indicate the extent of an agency's community policing activities and plans as they relate to specific public safety problems. This has allowed the COPS Office to track grant-related outcomes. For example, an agency may indicate on their initial application that they will examine specific types of data to improve their understanding of a specific crime problem. Alternatively, they may commit to implementing a specific type of organizational improvement such as the incorporation of problem solving and partnerships into hiring and promotional decisions. This baseline data is quantitatively captured across applications. Regular progress reports track activities and grantees indicate the implementation status. This process allows the COPS Office to examine agency progress toward community policing implementation that is a direct result of grant funding.

The COPS Office also facilitates the adoption of evidence-based practices in the field through the production of research-based guidance to local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies, providing them with the latest information that can assist them in strategically addressing local priorities. The COPS Office supports demonstration projects that allow for expansion of promising practices.

The Office has also produced knowledge products that follow principles of good guidance, meaning that they are:

- Quality driven, with an emphasis on action statements to drive best practices and reduce variations in performance;
- Evidence-based, with recommendations that are consistent with the weight of the best available evidence identified through systematic review;
- Accessible, with clear language and manageable lengths; and

- Memorable, to encourage immediate actions, or aid when tasks are complex or performed under stress.

4. Efforts to Increase Program Cost Effectiveness

As part of an overall effort to ensure public safety, the COPS Office offers training opportunities for local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies and officers to enhance their skills in performing their duties. By offering an extensive library of classroom-based, train-the-trainer, and online training opportunities, the COPS Office supports agencies and officers as they make strategic decisions about how best to meet their training objectives based on local needs and requirements. Over 35,000 officers chose to participate in a COPS-sponsored training in FY 2025.

COPS Office online training is the key element in helping maximize local control over officer training by providing 24/7 instant access to courses and content in a no-charge, self-paced learning environment. This allows agencies and individual officers to obtain training of their choosing and at their convenience, with none of the expense of traveling or being away from their agencies. State, local, and tribal law enforcement value this type of flexibility and access to systematically developed and field-tested training courses. Current online training offerings include more than 36 courses in basic and advanced community policing, clandestine methamphetamine labs, homicide and violent crime reduction, ethical decision-making, and tactical community policing for homeland security. The COPS Training Portal now has more than 100,000 registered users, enrolled in more than 86,000 courses, and sees nearly 6,500 unique visitors each month.

The COPS Office online Resource Center is at the center of a broader information-sharing effort, offering hundreds of knowledge products on a wide variety of topics including collaborating with federal law enforcement, improving crime data collection and analysis, recruiting and hiring well-qualified personnel, addressing a multitude of crime problems, and protecting officers in their uniquely dangerous work. In FY 2025, more than 240,000 copies of knowledge products were distributed to requestors, including new resources on the critically important issues of assaults and firearms violence against law enforcement officers, responding to mass casualty events, addressing the opioid crisis, improving crime data analysis, addressing violence and victimization, and promoting law enforcement as a rewarding career.

State, local, and tribal law enforcement officers can quickly and easily search through the online Resource Center library for resources relevant to their local needs. They can be confident that the guidance material they find has been developed in partnership with experts in the field.

The COPS Office also continues to focus on an enhanced web and social media campaign to expand the outreach to practitioners and stakeholders who have access to information and resources around important community policing issues. COPS continues to refresh its homepage, and expand its social media (Facebook and Twitter) outreach and knowledge distribution efforts. COPS currently has nearly 40,000 social media followers on Twitter and Facebook and reaches approximately 45,000 subscribers with news and events; publication and press releases; and monthly issues of the Community Policing Dispatch.

5. COPS Customer Service

The COPS Office continues to promote and apply sound customer service in various business areas. Examples include:

Response Center: The COPS Office's Response Center is the initial customer contact point for general information about the COPS Office. It provides direct access to information regarding COPS Office grant opportunities, resources, and grant reporting. In FY 2025, the Response Center staff answered nearly 5,000 telephone calls, responded to an estimated 3,000 emails, and shipped an estimated 240,000 items/publications. Other important customer service functions performed by the Response Center include:

- Customer support for management of grant and cooperative agreement awards;
- Distribution of community policing publications;
- Maintenance of the publication distribution warehouse;
- Assisting grantees with access to on-line applications and referrals to appropriate COPS Office staff for assistance with pending grant extensions, budget modifications, progress report functions, accessing grant funds, and other grant-related issues; and
- Maintenance of the COPS Office Resource Center Website, ensuring that new and updated publications are 508 compliant and properly posted for individual use.

Application and Award Process: The COPS Office makes annual improvements to its grant application system, with the goals of offering clear guidance for submitting a grant application and ensuring ease of use by applicants. Ultimately, these efforts facilitate the submission of detailed and accurate application information by applicants, allowing the COPS Office to make high quality and informed funding decisions.

Grant Maintenance and Monitoring: The COPS Office maintains a team whose job is to provide direct customer service and technical assistance to assist each grantee with the administrative, programmatic and financial aspects of their grant award(s). Compliance reviews by the COPS Office's Grant Monitoring Division verify that grantees are adhering to grant requirements and remain good stewards of Federal funds. Grant Monitoring efforts ensure COPS Office grantees have successful projects and implement their awards in a manner consistent with applicable laws and policies.

Progress Reporting Assistance: The COPS Office's Progress Report team provides technical assistance to grantees to complete online progress reports, which are required semi-annually. To ensure compliance with COPS grant reporting requirements, the team makes reminder calls throughout the reporting period to grantees that have not submitted their progress reports. At the end of the reporting period, the team reviews the submissions and follows up with the grantee and/or the COPS Office point of contact to resolve any identified issues.

COPS Outreach and Reporting Integration (CORI) System: The ability of the COPS Office to ensure accurate and timely grantee financial and programmatic reporting on active grants has been greatly enhanced by our COPS Outreach and Reporting Integration (CORI) Web Application. The CORI system is a grantee outreach tool that supports hiring and expenditure reporting requirements and provides enhanced customer service to grantees to ensure proper reporting,

expensing, and reimbursement of grant funds. CORI combines programmatic and financial grant data to predict grantee actions and project grant expenditures. The system applies specified parameters to the financial and programmatic data reported by grantees to categorize any potential discrepancy into one of eight common case issues. CORI's predictions and data analysis allow the COPS staff to focus on those grants with potential issues, thus cutting down significantly on research time. In this way, CORI enables enhanced risk management through elimination of improper payments and improved internal controls.

CORI is also a workflow tool. It assigns the grantee's case to a specific user, allowing for customized outreach to grantees and timely resolution of issues. CORI also collects data from staff members to provide a historical profile of grantee issues and service, enabling identification of trends across the grant population and tracking of common grantee issues for specific, proactive grantee communication and training.

The goals of the CORI system are to:

- Provide a comprehensive view of grantee financial and hiring data, creating a method to monitor and control internal COPS financial and programmatic reporting functions;
- Support identification and correction of reporting inaccuracies and discrepancies between internal reports and grantee submissions;
- Eliminate the potential for improper payments through improved internal controls;
- Enhance insight into policy and procedural challenges faced by grantees that have not fully met their hiring targets and/or requested minimal or inappropriate amounts of grant funds to cover reported expenses;
- Offer technical assistance and encouragement to grantees that accurately report hiring information but outlay insufficient funds to cover actual expenditures;
- Enhance reporting of outlay projections using data collected from grantees during outreach calls;
- Track interactions with grantees from initiation through issue resolution to identify opportunities for improvement (e.g., consistent misreporting that may require more clarity to grantees, etc.); and
- Provide real-time data to ensure users have the most accurate information (i.e., changes to reported numbers because of calls to grantees.)

D. Challenges

There are some key policy challenges facing the COPS Office, particularly with respect to supporting the safety and wellness of law enforcement officers and building and sustaining collaborative relationships between law enforcement agencies and the communities, they serve:

1) reducing all levels of crime and violence; and 2) keeping law enforcement officers safe.

The first challenge relates to assisting the Administration with its efforts to effectively reduce all levels of crime and violence across the country. The COPS Office supports the Administration's innovative approaches to continuing to reduce crime by increasing the presence of law enforcement and surge coordinated resources. Our overriding concern is to ensure communities have the resources needed to successfully address and combat the factors driving crime through improved local and federal law enforcement coordination and cooperation.

In particular, the COPS Hiring Program will continue to put additional officers on the nation's streets to assist in improving public safety. COPS Hiring Program grants support local law enforcement efforts aimed at addressing illicit fentanyl, aggressively enforcing gun laws, human trafficking, drug manufacturing/dealing/trafficking, dismantling criminal gangs, street crews, and drug networks, and cracking down on the open use of illegal drugs.

Law enforcement agencies know and trust the COPS Office to support their law enforcement needs, and the COPS Office is able to provide immediate and flexible technical assistance to agencies upon their request. Whether it is helping law enforcement to address crime, helping an agency prepare for a major event, or providing resources to improve school safety, the COPS Office can provide valuable assistance to agencies through grants and technical assistance.

The second challenge arises from the need to protect our nation's law enforcement officers as they carry out their mission to keep our communities safe. In 2019, the COPS office awarded a grant to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) to monitor and track shootings of law enforcement officers in the United States and its territories—specifically, shootings in which on-duty officers are wounded or killed. The FOP uses media monitoring software and general research to analyze publicly available information. Based on this data, the Department, in partnership with the FOP, issues a Report on Officers Shot, which documents all known shooting incidents in a calendar year, in order to better understand the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. The 2025 Report contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and non-fatally. These types of felonious attacks account for nearly all situations where a Blue Alert would be issued. Tracking data does not include assaults by means other than firearms, due to inconsistent availability of data.

In 2027, the COPS Office will continue to support State, Tribal, and Local Law Enforcement Officers by coordinating with State, tribal, and local governments, and with law enforcement agencies at all levels, including other Federal agencies, to develop executive branch strategies to prevent violence against the brave men and women who have sworn to protect our communities.

The COPS Office will continue its work to coordinate Blue Alert plans with states and local governments. This work includes issuing voluntary guidelines and recommendations; maintaining a national Blue Alert information repository; providing education and technical assistance; developing strategic public and private partnerships; and managing the Advisory Group, which is statutorily charged with providing assistance to states, law enforcement agencies, and other Blue Alert stakeholders.

In 2027, the COPS Office will continue to advance work under the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act by awarding grants to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness services for law enforcement. These activities include training and technical assistance, demonstration projects, and implementation of promising practices related to peer mentoring mental health and wellness programs that are national in scope and responsive to the solicitation topic requirements.

The COPS Office will also continue to convene the Officer Safety and Wellness Group (OSW). Comprised of representatives from law enforcement agencies and associations, federal agencies, and the research community, the purpose of the OSW Group is to bring law enforcement thought

leaders, criminal justice practitioners, and other colleagues together to share their broad perspectives on improving officer safety and wellness.

E. COPS Office Decision Unit and Program Costs

All COPS office programs are integrated into one comprehensive decision unit, Community Oriented Policing. Within the comprehensive decision unit, two primary activities have been identified: *Supporting Law Enforcement by Advancing Community Policing through Grant Resources and Advancing Community Policing through Technical Assistance*. Program funding will continue to be aligned with the two major activity functions through FY 2027 and will support the COPS Office’s mission to advance public safety through community policing.

The management and administration costs associated with managing these programs and other mission-critical, non-grant related activities to ensure results are encompassed within the one comprehensive decision unit. The requested programs, and corresponding grant dollars, are then aligned under one of the two primary activities. The concept of integrating management and administration costs into the individual programs to further illustrate the full cost of each initiative accounts for the performance and compliance monitoring, technical assistance, implementation and closeout support for both current year and prior year grant awards funded under each program.

II. Summary of Program Changes

| Item Name | Description | | | | Dollars (\$000) | |
|---|--|------|-----|-----------|-----------------|--------|
| | | Pos. | FTE | | | |
| DISCRETIONARY CHANGES: | | | | | | |
| COPS Hiring Program | IN FY2027, Tribal Resources Grant Program increased funding by \$2 million from FY2026 funding levels. In 2027 Collaborative Reform decreased by \$5.5 million. | 0 | 0 | \$3,106 | | |
| Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Police Act | Funding increased from FY2026 to FY 2027 | 0 | 0 | \$500 | | |
| STOP School Violence Act | Funding decreased from FY2026 to FY 2027 | 0 | 0 | -\$18,000 | | |
| Community Policing Development | Consistent with FY2025 President’s Budget | | | -\$18,000 | | Note 1 |
| De-escalation Training | Consistent with FY2025 President’s Budget | | | -\$15,000 | | Note 1 |
| Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces | Consistent with FY2025 President’s Budget | 0 | 0 | -\$13,500 | | Note 1 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------|--------|
| Anti-Heroin Task Forces | Consistent with FY2025 President's Budget | 0 | 0 | -\$34,500 | Note 1 |
| COPS Discretionary Grants (One-time Congressional projects) | Consistent with FY2025 President's Budget | 0 | 0 | -\$401,406 | Note 1 |
| TOTAL | | 0 | 0 | -\$496,800 | |

Note 1: Funding for these programs are not requested in FY 2027.

III. Appropriations Language and Analysis of Appropriations Language

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For activities authorized by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–322); the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 ("the 1968 Act"); the Violence Against Women and Department of Justice Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109–162) ("the 2005 Act"); the American Law Enforcement Heroes Act of 2017 (Public Law 115–37); the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (Public Law 115–113) ("the LEMHW Act"); the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act (Public Law 115–271); and the Supporting and Treating Officers In Crisis Act of 2019 (Public Law 116–32) ("the STOIC Act"), [\$800,000,000] *\$303,200,000*, to remain available until expended: Provided, That any balances made available through prior year deobligations shall only be available in accordance with section 504 of this Act: Provided further, That of the amount provided under this heading—

(1) [\$253,094,000] *\$256,200,000* is for grants under section 1701 of title I of the 1968 Act (34 U.S.C. 10381) for the hiring and rehiring of additional career law enforcement officers under part Q of such title notwithstanding subsection (i) of such section: Provided, That, notwithstanding section 1704(c) of such title (34 U.S.C. 10384(c)), funding for hiring or rehiring a career law enforcement officer may not exceed \$125,000 unless the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services grants a waiver from this limitation: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$34,000,000 is for improving Tribal law enforcement, including hiring, equipment, training, anti-methamphetamine activities, and anti-opioid activities: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$44,000,000 is for regional information sharing activities, as authorized by part M of title I of the 1968 Act, which shall be transferred to and merged with "Research, Evaluation, and Statistics" for administration by the Office of Justice Programs: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, no less than \$4,000,000 is to support the Tribal Access Program: Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph, \$10,000,000 is for training, peer mentoring, mental health program activities, and other support services as authorized under the LEMHW Act and the STOIC Act; and Provided further, That of the amounts appropriated under this paragraph;

(2) \$12,000,000 is for activities authorized by the POLICE Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-199);

(3) \$35,000,000 is for competitive grants to be administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services Office for purposes authorized under the STOP School Violence Act (title V of division S of Public Law 115-141).

(CANCELLATION)

Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, [\$35,000,000] *\$15,000,000* are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts may be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. (Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2023.)

Analysis of Appropriations Language

The above language shows amendments from the 2026 Enacted language for comparison purposes. Requested changes to that language include the following:

Addition/Deletion: \$253,094,000 change to \$256,200,000 for COPS Hiring Program

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will increase from \$253,094,000 to \$256,200,000 to enhance support for hiring local law enforcement officers and deputies and advance common sense, community policing.

Addition/Deletion: \$11,00,000 is deleted and \$12,000,000 is added for the Police Act.

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will increase from \$11,500,000 to \$12,000,000 to increase the survivability of active shooter and other hostile events through evidence-based multi-disciplinary training for law enforcement officers and other public safety first responders that focuses on response integration, improvements to critical decision making, and the execution of appropriate judgment during critical events.

Addition/Deletion: \$53,000,000 is deleted and \$35,000,000 is added for the STOP School Violence Act.

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will decrease from \$53,000,000 to \$35,000,000 to establish and enhance a variety of school safety equipment, training, and coordination initiatives in support of school safety efforts to prevent school violence within their communities.

Deletion: \$18,000,000 is deleted for Community Policing Development.

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line for will not be funded in FY2027.

Deletion: \$15,000,000 is deleted for De-escalation Training.

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will not be funded in FY2027.

Deletion: \$34,500,000 is deleted for Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces.

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will not be funded in FY2027

Deletion: \$13,500,000 is deleted for Anti-Heroin Task Forces.

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will not be funded in FY2027.

Deletion: \$401,406,000 is deleted COPS Discretionary Grants (One-time congressionally funded projects).

Explanation of addition/deletion: This budget line will not be funded in FY2027

Addition: (Cancellation) Of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading, \$15,000,000 are hereby permanently cancelled: Provided, That no amounts may be cancelled from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended. (Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2023.)

Explanation of addition: Allows for a proposed \$15,000,000 cancellation.

IV. Program Activity Justification

A. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

| <i>Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)</i> | Direct Pos. | Estimate FTE | Amount |
|--|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 2025 Enacted | | | \$417,169,000 |
| 2026 Enacted | | | \$800,000,000 |
| Adjustments to Base and Technical Adjustments | | | 0 |
| 2027 Current Services | | | \$800,000,000 |
| 2027 Program Increases | | | \$3,606,000 |
| 2027 Program Offsets | | | (\$500,406,000) |
| 2027 Request | | | 303,200,000 |
| Total Change 2026-2027 | | | |

V. Program Increases by Item

Item Name: **Community Oriented Policing Services**

Budget Decision Unit(s): COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

Organizational Program: COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

Program Increase: Positions 0 Agt/Atty 0 FTE 0 Dollars **\$3,106,000**

Description of Item

The FY 2026 President's Budget requests \$256.2 million for the COPS Hiring Program (CHP), an increase of \$3.1 million above the FY 2026 Enacted level of \$253.1 million. This program aims to increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to implement community policing strategies that strengthen partnerships for safer communities and enhance law enforcement's capacity to prevent, solve, and control crime through funding for additional officers. The proposal for the COPS Hiring Program in FY 2027 includes \$92.0 million in carve outs of the following programs:

- Tribal Access Program (TAP) \$4.0 million which is the same as FY 2026 Enacted. This program provides tribes access to national crime information systems for both criminal and civil purposes. TAP allows tribes to more effectively serve and protect their citizens by ensuring the exchange of critical data across the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) systems and other national crime information systems.
- Tribal Resources Grant Program (TRGP) is \$34.0 million which is a \$2.0 million increase above the FY 2026 Enacted. This program is a comprehensive program that aims to expand the implementation of community policing and to meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in tribal nations. TRGP funding can be used for newly hired or rehired career law enforcement officers and village public safety officers as well as to procure basic equipment and training to assist in initiating or enhancing tribal community policing efforts.
- Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness (LEMHWA) \$10.0 million is at the same level as FY 2026 Enacted will help law enforcement agencies establish and enhance mental health care services for their officers and deputies.
- Regional Information Sharing System \$44.0 million is administrated by the Office of Justice Programs.

Justification

COPS Hiring Program promotes common sense, community policing, and increased law enforcement capacity which has been shown to help police gather information about crime and

disorder problems, understand the nature of the problems, and solve specific crimes. Moreover, law enforcement agencies are more effective when they adopt policies and practices that promote fairness, legitimacy, and positive community partnerships. Increases to this program bolster the Administration’s commitment to support law enforcement.

CHP goals are to:

- Enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to implement common sense community policing strategies that effectively reduce crime.
- Promote partnerships between local and federal law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders for the purpose of crime reduction and related problem solving to make and keep America safe.
- Encourage and empower law enforcement agencies to maintain a professional police force that leverages modern and effective policing strategies.

Impact on Performance

COPS Hiring Program: Increased funding will be used to further support state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement in making and keeping American communities safe. The need to further invest in local law enforcement agencies continues to be a focal point of national discussions on policing. The COPS Office has the ability to promote public safety and public trust by prioritizing support for law enforcement to ensure agencies have additional law enforcement officers and deputies with a high level of professionalism and training to better protect and serve their communities.

Funding

Base Funding

| FY 2025 Enacted | | | | 2026 Enacted | | | | FY 2027 President | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|---------|--------------|--------------|-----|---------|-------------------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | \$(000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | \$(000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | \$(000) |
| N/A | 0 | N/A | 297,400 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 253,094 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 256,200 |

Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Not Applicable.

Non-Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Not Applicable.

Total Request for this Item

| | Pos | Agt/Atty | FTE | | Personnel (\$000) | Non- Personnel (\$000) | Total (\$000) |
|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|--|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Current Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 253,094 |
| Increases | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 3,106 |
| Total Request | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 256,200 |

Item Name: **Community Oriented Policing Services**

Budget Decision Unit(s): COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

Organizational Program: Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Police Act

Program Increase: Positions 0 Agt/Atty 0 FTE 0 Dollars **\$500,000**

Description of Item

The FY 2027 President's Budget requests \$12.0 million for the Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Police Act, an increase of \$500,000 above the FY 2026 Enacted level of \$11.5 million. This program aims to improve the safety and resiliency of law enforcement officers, other first responders, and communities nationwide through multidisciplinary training to counter active shooter threats or acts of terrorism against individuals or facilities; and to enhance the ability of law enforcement to not only secure the scene, but to increase the survivability of the event and protect officers and first responders from the long-term effects of exposure to trauma.

Justification

The COPS Office created the PASS Program in 2017 to provide multidisciplinary, scenario-based training as described under the POLICE Act of 2016. By training first responders using real-life scenarios in real-world settings, they are more likely to make appropriate decisions to contain and control an active shooter event in their jurisdiction. Simulating the stress and confusion that often accompany these events trains first responders on how to exercise the judgment that will preserve the most lives, including their own. By planning and training together in multidisciplinary settings, local responders are better prepared to understand how their roles will work together in a crisis, to ensure the necessary lines of communication are not just compatible but functional, and ultimately to more quickly stabilize and move the injured to where they can receive critical care while not impeding law enforcement's first duty to neutralize the threat. This training in communication and decision-making is critical to saving the lives of both civilians and officers. Incredible damage can occur in just minutes, with data on past incidents showing that 70% of them end within five minutes.³

The overarching goal of PASS is to increase the survivability of active shooter and other hostile events through evidence-based multi-disciplinary training for law enforcement officers and other public safety first responders that focuses on response integration, improvements to critical decision making, and the execution of appropriate judgment during critical events.

Since the tragedy at Columbine High School in 1999, law enforcement and other first responders have worked to improve their tactical training to active shooter events. With more than 75 active shooter events between 2016 and 2018 alone, killing 306 (including 15 law enforcement officers)

³ <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-study-2000-2013-1.pdf/view>

and wounding 850, a well-trained first responder workforce is critical to saving lives.⁴ Since 1999, law enforcement especially has made great strides in training, policy development, and accountability; however, the dynamics of society have created a need for continuous improvement in processes to enhance the decision-making and application of appropriate judgments by law enforcement. PASS supports the expanded development and delivery of scenario-based, interdisciplinary active shooter training for first responders through a multi-pronged approach to training and auxiliary assistance including:

- Funding courses designed to improve the tactical response to active shooter situations, including tactical medical training for first responders as proposed by the Hartford Consensus.
- Funding train-the-trainer courses that allow law enforcement agencies to train citizens on when to run, when to hide, when to fight, and how to stop the bleed, as these are commonly understood as the most critical skills and knowledge for citizens to possess in order to most effectively escape or intervene in an active shooter situation.
- Funding training on resiliency and post-event wellness to ensure that caring for law enforcement officers does not end when the scene is secured.
- Creating a suite of refresher courses, downloadable scenarios for intra-agency training, and other online resources to help officers maintain their knowledge and skills.
- Building a portfolio that offers a mix of traditional classroom, train-the-trainer, virtual reality, and online distance learning modalities in order to serve the largest possible number of first responders in the most efficient way possible.
- Developing and providing school-specific training for law enforcement who are based in K-12 schools as well as higher education and setting aside a portion of all training dollars to target campus-based training.

There are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in this country and large numbers of dispatchers, firefighters, and EMTs who are also integral to any response to an active shooter event. The ability to train all first responders in integrated, scenario-based classes is critical to saving lives.

Impact on Performance

Since 2018, PASS has provided hands-on training to more than 39,000 first responders in almost 1,800 classes.

Additional classes in advanced medical skills, solo officer rapid deployment, civilian casualty care, and exterior response to active shooter events were added to the PASS portfolio starting in 2018.

⁴ Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Center at Texas State University, *Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2016 and 2017* (Washington, DC: Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2018), <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-shooter-incidents-us-2016-2017.pdf/view>.

More than 16,000 first responders have participated in an online class, and exploratory work into adding virtual reality into training is being added to the PASS portfolio to expand the types of scenarios that officers are trained in.

Requests for training continue to exceed available class seats, with more than 500 requests pending with the current training provider from agencies across the country. Although some very large agencies maintain their own training programs for active shooter response, that is beyond the capability of the vast majority of law enforcement agencies, fully 50% of which have fewer than 10 sworn officers and will be critically dependent on their multidisciplinary partners in the event of an incident.

With \$12.0 million in FY 2027, the COPS Office can support an additional 600 classes to train over 20,000 additional first responders and contribute to the reduction of violent crime and the protection and safety of first responders and citizens across the nation.

Funding

Base Funding

| FY 2025 Enacted | | | | 2026 Enacted | | | | FY 2027 President | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|---------|--------------|--------------|-----|---------|-------------------|--------------|-----|---------|
| Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | \$(000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | \$(000) | Pos | Agt/ Atty | FTE | \$(000) |
| N/A | 0 | N/A | 12,000 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 11,500 | N/A | 0 | N/A | 12,000 |

Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Not Applicable.

Non-Personnel Increase Cost Summary

Not Applicable.

Total Request for this Item

| | Pos | Agt/Atty | FTE | | Personnel (\$000) | Non- Personnel (\$000) | Total (\$000) |
|------------------|-----|----------|-----|--|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Current Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 11,500 |
| Increases | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 500 |
| Total Request | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 12,000 |

VI. Program Offsets by Item

Item Name: **Community Oriented Policing Services**

Budget Decision Unit(s): Community Oriented Policing Services

Organizational Program: Various Programs

Program Increase: Positions 0 Agt/Atty 0 FTE 0 Dollars **\$-18,000,000**

Description of Item

The FY 2027 President's Budget request includes the following decreases and program eliminations totaling -\$505.9 million: -\$13.5 million Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces (elimination), -\$34.5 million Anti-Heroin Task Forces (elimination), -\$18.0 million STOP School Violence (reduction), -\$18.0 million Community Policing Development (elimination), -\$15.0 million De-escalation Training (elimination), -\$5.5 million for Collaborative Reform (elimination), and -\$401.4 million in one-time congressionally directed projects.

Justification

These proposals will allow the Department to redirect this funding to higher priority areas and reduce costs to the U.S. taxpayer.