Community Policing (COPS)

FY 2018 Budget Request At A Glance

| FY 2017 Continuing Resolution:  | $200.6 million (188 positions; 11 attorneys) |
| Current Services Adjustments:   | +$11.0 million |
| Program Changes:                | +$6.4 million |
| FY 2018 Budget Request:         | $218.0 million (102 positions; 11 attorneys) |
| Change From FY 2017 Continuing Resolution: | +$17.4 million (+8.7%) (-86 positions) |

Mission:

The COPS Office mission is to advance public safety through the practice of community policing. By proactively addressing the root causes of criminal and disorderly behavior, rather than simply responding to crimes once they have been committed, community policing concentrates on preventing both crime and the atmosphere of fear it creates. Community policing also promotes the use of operational strategies and the development of mutually beneficial relationships between law enforcement and the communities served. By earning community trust and making those individual community members stakeholders in their own safety, law enforcement can better understand and address the community’s needs, and the factors that contribute to crime.

Resources:

The FY 2018 Budget request for COPS totals $218.0 million, which is a 8.7% increase over the FY 2017 Continuing Resolution.

Organization:

The COPS Office is headed by a Director, who is appointed by the Attorney General. The COPS Office was established in 1994 to assist state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies in building their capacity to increase the safety and wellness of officers and advance public safety through the implementation of community policing strategies.

Personnel:

The COPS direct positions for FY 2018 total 102 positions. COPS FY 2018 request includes a decrease of -86 positions from the FY 2017 Continuing Resolution of 188 direct positions.

Funding (FY 2015 - 2018)

Personnel (FY 2015 - 2018)
FY 2018 Strategy:

Over the past two decades, the COPS Office programs and initiatives have provided funding to more than 13,000 law enforcement agencies. To date the COPS Office has funded over 129,000 officers. More than 700,000 law enforcement personnel and community members have been trained on community policing topics including crime control strategies, police ethics and integrity, terrorism prevention and preparedness, school safety, partnership building, problem-solving and crime analysis.

In FY 2018, the COPS Office will continue to fulfill its mission of advancing the practice of community policing by:

- Funding additional officers to address policing challenges, including efforts to combat and reduce spikes in violent crime;
- Continuing to support innovative programs that respond directly to the emerging needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement. These innovative programs shift law enforcement's focus to prevent, rather than react to crime and disorder;
- Providing oversight and coordination of the National Blue Alert System;
- Advancing the work of the national Officer Safety and Wellness Group;
- Supporting the work of the Attorney General’s Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety, in collaboration with other DOJ components;
- Developing state-of-the-art training and technical assistance for law enforcement;
- Promoting collaboration between law enforcement and community members to develop innovative initiatives to prevent crime;
- Providing responsive, cost-effective service delivery to COPS grantees; and

Supporting evidence-based community policing practices that have proven to be effective, can be easily replicated by a broad cross-section of law enforcement agencies, and are sustainable.

FY 2018 Program Changes:

COPS Hiring Program: $20.4 million and 0 positions
The FY 2018 Budget includes $20.4 million for the COPS Hiring Program to provide a total funding level of $207 million. Included within this total is $30 million for tribal law enforcement, $10 million for community policing development activities, and $10 million for collaborative reform.

DEA/COPS Methamphetamine Enforcement and Cleanup: $21,000 and 0 positions
An additional $21,000 is available to reimburse DEA for Meth Enforcement and Cleanup to equal the FY 2016 enacted level of $11 million.

Program Offset - Anti-Heroin Task Forces: -$7.0 million and 0 positions
The FY 2018 Budget request for COPS includes a program elimination of $7.0 million for the Anti-Heroin Task Forces.

Program Offset - Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces: -$7.0 million and 0 positions
The FY 2018 Budget request for COPS includes a program elimination of $7.0 million for Anti-Methamphetamine Task Forces.

Rescission - COPS: -$10.0 million and 0 positions
The Budget proposes to cancel $10.0 million in unobligated balances.