Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

FY 2015 Budget Request At A Glance

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<td>$214.0 million</td>
<td>+$0 million</td>
<td>+$60.0 million</td>
<td>$274.0 million</td>
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Mission:

The mission of the COPS Office is to advance public safety through the practice of community policing. By 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. Additionally, community policing encourages the use of operational strategies and the development of mutually beneficial relationships between law enforcement and the community. By earning the trust of the members of their communities and making those individuals 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 2015 budget request for COPS totals $274.0 million, which is a 28.0% increase over the FY 2014 Enacted. The FY 2015 budget also proposes to rescind $26.0 million in prior year balances.

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 law enforcement agencies in enhancing public safety through the implementation of community policing strategies.

Personnel:

The COPS’ direct positions for FY 2015 total 188 positions and is the same as FY 2014 Enacted. However, between January 2011 and December 2013, the number of COPS’ onboard staff declined by 26 staff (2 attorneys).
FY 2015 Strategy:

Over the past decade, the programs and initiatives developed by the COPS Office have provided funding to more than 13,000 of the nation’s 18,000 law enforcement agencies. Approximately 81% of the Nation’s population is served by law enforcement agencies practicing community policing. To date the COPS Office has funded over 125,000 officers. With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the COPS Office ensured that over 6,000 additional law enforcement officer jobs were created or saved in law enforcement agencies across the country. The total number of officers that the COPS Office funded from FY 2009 through 2013 was more than 9,000 between its hiring programs and tribal law enforcement programs.

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 2015, the COPS Office will continue to fulfill its mission of advancing the practice of community policing by:

- Funding additional officers to address community policing challenges;
- Continuing to support innovative programs that respond directly to the emerging needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement in order to shift law enforcement’s focus to preventing, rather than reacting to crime and disorder within their communities;
- Developing state-of-the-art training and technical assistance to enhance law enforcement officers’ problem-solving and community interaction skills;
- Promoting collaboration between law enforcement and community members to develop innovative initiatives to prevent crime;
- Providing responsive, cost-effective service delivery to the COPS Office’s grantees to ensure success in advancing community policing strategies within their communities; 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 2015 Program Changes:

**COPS Hiring:** An increase of $67.0 million for a total of $247 million for this program will be used to fund officers and thereby support the efforts of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in meeting the challenge of keeping their communities safe. Within this amount, $15.0 million will be dedicated specifically towards hiring of tribal law enforcement officers, $15.0 million will be for community policing development activities, and $10.0 million will support the COPS Collaborative Reform Model of technical assistance to assist law enforcement agencies with significant law enforcement-related issues. FY 2015 current services resources for this initiative are $180.0 million.

**Tribal Law Enforcement:** An additional $3.5 million for a total of $20.0 million. FY 2015 current services are $16.5 million.

**DEA Methamphetamine Enforcement and Cleanup:** $7.0 million is requested for this program. FY 2015 current services are $10.0 million.

**COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Task Force:** The COPS Office requests to eliminate this program in FY 2015. The FY 2015 current services are $7.5 million.

**Research:** The FY 2015 request continues the proposal to set-aside up to 3 percent of funds for research, evaluation and statistical purposes.

**Rescission:** The budget proposes to rescind $26.0 million in prior year balances.

**FY 2015 Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative:** The FY 2015 base discretionary budget meets the cap levels set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. In addition, the FY 2015 Budget's Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative includes targeted investments for State and local justice assistance grants, with additional resources for the COPS Hiring Program.