



PUBLIC SAFETY GRANTS

Request: Maintain or increase funding for federal grant programs and initiatives that support local public safety activities.

Community Value:

There are a number of grant programs and initiatives offered through the federal government that directly support local public safety activities. A number of these opportunities are provided through agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office and the Office of Justice Programs.

For more than a decade, funding awarded through federal grant programs has enabled the city of Phoenix to expand its capacity to prevent crime, hire more police officers, improve public safety technology and increase overall levels of public safety service provided to the community.

COPS OFFICE GRANT PROGRAMS

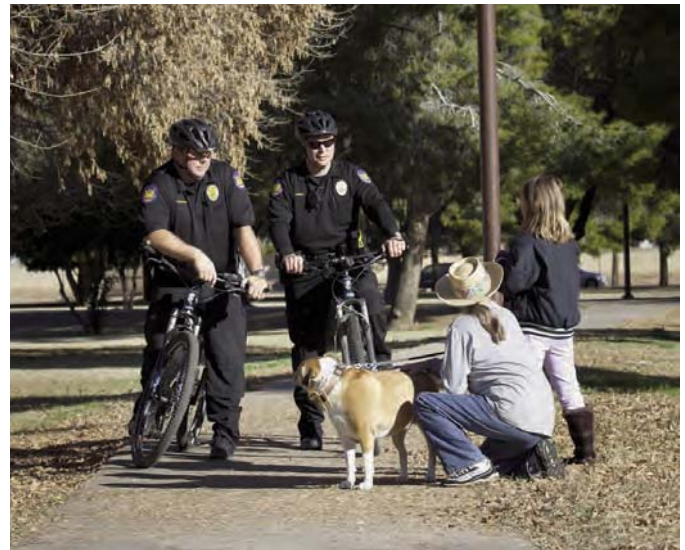
Background:

The COPS Office within the DOJ was established in 1994. The agency serves to advance the practice of community policing in state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies. One of the principal ways the COPS Office has successfully furthered local community policing is through its grant programs.

COPS Hiring Grants

The COPS Office has developed several hiring programs designed to advance public safety through community policing by addressing the full-time sworn officer needs of jurisdictions across the nation. Since their inception, these programs have funded nearly 700 police officer positions in the Phoenix Police Department.

These competitive hiring grants are an asset to law enforcement and have enabled many agencies to increase their sworn officer counts. However, the grants do not cover all costs associated with the hiring of new positions. While provisions have varied over the years, the hiring grants traditionally provide up to 75 percent of approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits for full-time officers over a 36-month period and generally have a maximum federal share (salary cap) applicable per officer position. Agencies also are required to retain the grant-funded positions for at least one year following the end of the grant period. Additionally, the grants cannot be used to fund



equipment for the new positions or to pay the salaries of new hires while they are training in the police academy.

The last time the city applied for a COPS hiring grant was in 2009. The Phoenix Police Department was one of nearly 7,300 applicants to seek funds through the COPS Hiring and Recovery Program offered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, but was not funded. The Phoenix Police Department was eligible to apply for both the 2010 and 2011 COPS Hiring Program solicitations. However, due to severe budgetary constraints caused by the economic downturn, local cash matching funds were unavailable, which prevented the department from applying.

The COPS hiring grants awarded to the city through the years have been instrumental in expanding the Police Department's community policing efforts. The city requests that Congress continue to support this vital program.

Other COPS Grant Programs

In addition to hiring grants, the COPS Office has offered other types of grant programs through the years to advance community-based policing practices. Some of these programs have focused on new technologies and equipment, hiring civilians for administrative tasks and promoting innovative approaches to policing.

In the last decade, funding awarded to the city through these programs has enabled the Police Department and City Prosecutor's Office to replace outdated technology and to automate processes that have increased efficiencies. Funding also has been used to make improvements in the city's crime laboratory and to enhance communication interoperability within the Phoenix metropolitan area.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS GRANTS

Background:

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) within the DOJ works in partnership with the justice community in jurisdictions throughout the country to identify crime-related challenges and provide information and resources to help agencies address those issues. A variety of formula and discretionary grant programs are administered through OJP's offices and program bureaus to aid jurisdictions in developing, implementing and evaluating a range of criminal and juvenile justice programs.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program

One of the cornerstone grant programs administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of OJP, is the JAG Program. According to BJA, the JAG Program is the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions.

Through the JAG Program, states, tribes and local governments are provided with funding to support a range of program areas, including law enforcement, prosecution and courts, crime prevention and education, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, planning, evaluation, technology improvement and crime victim and witness initiatives.

The city of Phoenix relies on annual formula funding allocations provided through the JAG Program to support critical public safety programs and services. Since 2008, nearly \$9.8 million in JAG formula awards has enabled the city to fund a variety of crime suppression efforts, technology improvements, safety equipment acquisitions for officers, crime prevention and education programs, community prosecution efforts and victim services programs that likely would not have been possible without JAG formula funding.

In addition to the JAG Program, there are a number of other formula and discretionary grants administered through OJP that provide funding support for law enforcement initiatives in Phoenix. To ensure the city is able to continue these efforts, and to further enhance overall public safety services, the city requests that Congress maintain or increase funding levels for these vital programs.

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