



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COPS in Schools ***The COPS Commitment to School Safety***

Background

*"WE WANT THEM [STUDENTS] TO BE
COMFORTABLE COMING TO US WITH A
PROBLEM AND REALIZE WE'RE PEOPLE,
NOT JUST A UNIFORM."*

DETECTIVE MARK DUBOIS

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

WAYNE (NJ) POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has awarded almost \$748 million to more than 3,000 law enforcement agencies to fund over 6,500 school resource officers (SROs) through the COPS in Schools (CIS) Program. In addition, COPS has dedicated approximately \$23 million to training COPS-funded SROs and the school administrator in the partnering school(s) or school district(s) to work more collaboratively through the CIS program. This partnership encourages the use of community policing strategies to prevent school violence and implement educational programs to improve student and school safety.

Communities throughout the nation recognize that trained, sworn law enforcement officers assigned to schools make a difference. SROs serve in a variety of roles, including law enforcement officer, law-related educator, problem-solver, and community liaison. The SROs funded through the COPS in Schools program teach classes in crime prevention, substance abuse awareness, and gang resistance. SROs monitor and assist troubled students through mentoring programs and promote personal and social responsibility by encouraging participation in community service activities. SROs continue to build upon the respect and understanding between law enforcement and the school communities. These officers also identify physical changes in the environment that could reduce crime in and around primary and secondary schools, and help develop school policies that address criminal activity and school safety.

Training

Recipients of CIS grants are required to attend one three-day CIS training workshop sponsored by the COPS Office. Grantees must send each of the CIS SROs and one designated school official from the specific school(s) or school district(s) into which the officer(s) will be deployed to the training. The COPS Office will pay for the training, travel, lodging, and per diem up to a maximum of \$1,200 per required participant.

To advance the Administration's efforts to secure our homeland, the COPS Office will enhance our current training program to include topics on terrorism prevention, emergency response, and the critical role schools can play in community preparedness.

Program Requirements

The CIS grant program provides a maximum federal contribution of up to \$125,000 per officer position over the three-year grant period, with any remaining costs to be paid with local funds. CIS grant funding is for payment of entry-level salaries and benefits of newly-hired, additional SROs to be deployed to work in and around primary and secondary schools. Alternatively, CIS funds may be used to pay for entry-level salaries and benefits of newly-hired, additional officers who will backfill the positions of locally-funded veteran officers deployed as the SRO.

Each SRO must devote at least 75 percent of his or her time (measured weekly, monthly, or annually) to work in and around primary and secondary schools, in addition to the time that agencies would have devoted to SRO functions in the absence of the CIS grant.

To be eligible under this grant program, agencies must demonstrate that they have primary law enforcement authority within the partner school(s) identified in their application and demonstrate an inability to implement this project without federal assistance.

Contact COPS

For more information, call the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

COPS offers a variety of publications, products, and training opportunities to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS publications and products offer insights and experiences from others in the field addressing specific problems including:

- ✓ Problem Oriented Guides for Police: Bullying in Schools
- ✓ SchoolCOPS software and accompanying Guide to Using School COP to Address Student Discipline Problems
- ✓ COPS Innovations: Addressing School Related Crime and Disorder

COPS also sponsors training opportunities and conferences to give law enforcement professionals an opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas. COPS publications and training opportunities are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.