



COPS *Fact Sheet*

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

Methamphetamine Initiative

Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names crank, speed, ice, or crystal, is expanding across the United States. Developed in clandestine laboratories often located in remote areas, methamphetamine is cheap and addictive. Methamphetamine spreads easily, due largely to easy access to the necessary precursor chemicals and simple preparation methods. Today, methamphetamine labs can be found almost anywhere-suburban settings, apartments, hotels, warehouses, and garages. The facilities used to produce meth can range in size from small mom-and-pop labs to superlabs. They pose serious health risks both to the citizens who live near them and the law enforcement professionals who seize them.

COPS Methamphetamine Grants

Since 1998, COPS has invested more than \$350 million nationwide to combat the spread of methamphetamine. In fiscal year 2004, COPS awarded nearly \$54 million to fight the escalating methamphetamine problem. This funding supports enforcement, training, and lab cleanup activities nationwide, but is concentrated in areas with the greatest need for assistance in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use. The COPS Office encourages agencies to focus on community policing approaches to methamphetamine reduction. COPS also works directly with state and local law enforcement agencies to craft innovative strategies, track and evaluate implementation,

and disseminate results to other jurisdictions confronting similar challenges. To combat methamphetamine in their communities, COPS encourages sites to develop partnerships with other agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, fire departments, local businesses, mental health organizations, child protection services, and other local law enforcement entities.

Among the projects funded in fiscal year 2004, the COPS Office selected 19 law enforcement agencies to take part in the COPS Methamphetamine Training Initiative. This federal grant program was designed to assist law enforcement agencies in developing or enhancing comprehensive methamphetamine eradication strategies that emphasize training and technical assistance. Funds were used to pay for training, equipment, supplies, officer overtime, community outreach campaigns, meth lab cleanup, and other approved costs.

For several years, COPS has also hosted an annual national methamphetamine conference. This conference is intended to address the information needs of police practitioners, health care professionals, and judicial and social services. Information presented at the conferences assist these agencies in building partnerships and increasing collaborative efforts in their local communities. These conferences include interactive workshops and presentations by experts from federal, state, and local agencies and are organized around the themes of enforcement, prevention, treatment, drug endangered children, information sharing, and intelligence gathering.

COPS funds are also used by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to provide training to state and local law enforcement professionals on clandestine lab enforcement operations including basic certification, officer safety, and tactical training. The DEA also uses COPS funding to improve the clandestine lab information-gathering capabilities of the El Paso Intelligence Center, carry out regional information-sharing conferences, and assist state and local law enforcement in cleaning up methamphetamine lab sites.

Contact COPS

For more information on COPS methamphetamine funding, please call the COPS Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.