

Subtopic 10. Youth Engagement

Topic Area Highlights

Topic summary: The COPS Office seeks to provide law enforcement agencies funding for demonstration or pilot projects that increase their capacity to implement innovative projects that address youth engagement.

Topic name in section 1 of the COPS Office Online Application System: Youth Engagement

Youth are at risk of involvement with the criminal justice system as both offenders and victims. Law enforcement agencies are looking for proactive ways to engage with youth to prevent their involvement in criminal activity and to intervene in effective ways to attempt to prevent juveniles from becoming crime victims. Working with youth also enables law enforcement to intervene in effective ways with children and teens who are victims, including secondary trauma victims, and provide help as a trusted adult to youth prior to their becoming a victim of crime.

The COPS Office will provide funding to law enforcement agencies seeking to develop or enhance programs supporting youth-police engagement. Funding should be used to promote positive youth and police interactions in ways that have positive outcomes for youth victimization, safety, and offending as well as in improving relationships between youth and law enforcement. Applicants should identify a list of activities and strategies that are based on prior research, best/promising practices, and other publications. The applicant should clearly source each activity and strategy in the project narrative. A variety of objectives can be proposed to achieve the project goal(s) and may involve agency personnel and resources as well as community partners.

Applicants should review COPS Office publications, such as *Combating Youth Violence in American Cities: Programs and Partnerships in 30 Cities* and *A Review of Minneapolis's Youth Violence Prevention Initiative* for ideas on strategies.

In addition, applicants should consider reviewing the National Institute of Justice's [CrimeSolutions.gov](https://www.crimesolutions.gov). The clearinghouse presents programs and practices that have undergone rigorous evaluations and meta-analyses. The programs and practices are identified, screened, reviewed, and rated using a standardized process. To learn more, please visit <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/Default.aspx>.

Goal

The goal of these projects is to provide law enforcement agencies funding for demonstration or pilot projects that increase their capacity to implement innovative projects that address youth engagement.

Deliverables

Applicants must propose the development of at least one deliverable for publication or production by the COPS Office to describe the program or activity, share lessons learned with other law enforcement agencies around the country, and include data on the success of the initiatives.

Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to describe their outreach efforts. Those efforts may include highlighting the newly developed resources via articles, conference presentations, social media, etc.

Projects out of scope of this subtopic area

Projects related to the hiring of local law enforcement personnel will not be considered. *If you are seeking this type of funding, please visit the COPS Office website for information on the COPS Hiring Program (CHP).*

Partnerships/Subawards

Where appropriate, collaboration and partnership with other organizations that have a demonstrated understanding of community policing and the knowledge and experience to address youth engagement are encouraged.

Any proposed partnerships or subawards should include documentation indicating support for the project by the partner as an attachment in section 13 of the application.

Other requirements and information

In addition to the general requirements listed in the application guide, applicants should consider what youth age range(s) are appropriate for the project.

Applicants should identify a list of activities and strategies that are based on prior research, best/promising practices, and other publications. The applicant should clearly source each activity and strategy in the project narrative.

Youth-centered projects that involve interactions with minors under the age of 18 years old will be subject to a special award condition requiring recipients and subrecipients to make determinations of suitability before certain covered individuals interact with participating minors in the course of activities funded under the award.

Goals

Program goals

Under this solicitation, the COPS Office seeks to support demonstration projects that allow for the identification and expansion of promising practices and produces knowledge products that follow the principles of good guidance:

- Quality-driven, with an emphasis on action statements to drive promising practices and reduce variations in performance
- Evidence-based, with recommendations that are consistent with the weight of the best available evidence identified through systematic review
- Accessible, with clear language and manageable lengths that are appropriate and relevant for the law enforcement field
- Memorable, to encourage immediate actions or aid for the complex situations law enforcement professionals face

Project-specific goals

Applicants should explain in the project narrative **how they will accomplish the following general categories when developing their own specific project goals**. Applicants should cite any relevant research or methodology as appropriate.

Develop knowledge. Develop new knowledge or leverage existing knowledge about community policing activities and strategies that show promise.

Increase awareness. Increase the number of agencies and individuals who are aware of the most effective community policing strategies.

Increase skills and abilities. Increase the skills and abilities of law enforcement agencies, relevant stakeholders, and individuals to engage in proven community policing practices.

Increase practice. Increase the number of law enforcement agencies, relevant stakeholders, and individuals using proven community policing practices.

Institutionalize practice. Increase the number of law enforcement agencies, relevant stakeholders, and individuals that systematically use and integrate proven community policing strategies as part of their routine business and will continue to engage in these practices for the foreseeable future.

Applicants should also consider the COPS Office performance measures when developing their own specific project goals and activities.

Performance measures

To assist in fulfilling the U.S. Department of Justice's responsibilities under the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act (GPRA Modernization Act) of 2010, P.L. 111–352, recipients who receive funding from the Federal Government must measure the results of work that funding supports. This act specifically requires the COPS Office and other federal agencies to set program goals, measure performance against those goals, and publicly report progress in the form of funding spent, resources used, activities performed, services delivered, and results achieved.

Performance measures for CPD Microgrants are as shown in table 1 on page 20.

Table 1. Performance measures for CPD Microgrants

Objective	Performance measures	Data recipient provides
Increase the capacity of law enforcement agencies to implement community policing strategies that strengthen partnerships for safer communities and enhance law enforcement’s capacity to prevent, solve, and control crime through funding for personnel, technology, equipment, and training.	<p>Extent to which COPS Office award funding (e.g., officers, equipment, training, technical assistance) has increased your agency’s community policing capacity?</p> <p>Extent to which COPS Office knowledge resources (e.g., publications, podcasts, training) have increased your agency’s community policing capacity?</p>	Recipients will rate the effectiveness of the COPS Office funding in increasing community policing capacity. Data will be collected on a periodic basis through progress reports.

COPS Office awards target increasing recipient capacity to implement community policing strategies within the three primary elements of community policing: (1) problem solving; (2) partnerships; and (3) organizational transformation. The COPS Office requires all CPD applicants to describe how the personnel, technology, equipment, supplies, travel, or training requested will assist the applicant in implementing community policing strategies.

To read an overview of the principles of community policing, please see the COPS Office publication *Community Policing Defined*, which can be found at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P157>.

As part of the programmatic progress report (see “Reporting, monitoring, and evaluation requirements” beginning on page 91 for more on reporting), CPD Microgrants recipients will be required to report on their progress toward implementing community policing strategies. Based on the data collected from recipients, the COPS Office may make improvements to the CPD Microgrants program to better meet the program’s objective and law enforcement agency needs.