



NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Dear Sheriffs:

The COPS Office has unveiled its new COPS Hiring application for the FY'11 grant process. The COPS Office believes that the new application process will result in comprehensive community policing plans; provide for high grantee flexibility; better identify what the needs/challenges of the field are; and enable all types and sizes of agencies to apply regardless of whether they have had experience submitting grants.

As you recall, during the economic stimulus and the FY'10 grant applications, the two sections scored were the agency's fiscal health and the UCR (Uniform Crime Rate) for the agency's city or county. For FY'11, the COPS application will now focus on two key sections:

1. The Community Policing Plan -the applying agency will need to focus on:
 1. The agency's current commitment to Community Policing
 2. The agency's future Community Policing plan
2. Community Need – the applying agency will need to explain/provide:
 1. The fiscal health – agency health, local government health, community socioeconomic health
 2. The UCR data for the past 3 years of the agency's community

It is important to note that under the Community Policing plan portion of the application, the applying agency will need to identify up to three significant problems within their community that they will use community policing to combat. Within the application, the COPS Office will provide a series of problems/challenges that the applying agency can select – such as: policing in rural areas; immigrant communities; community-oriented government; gang violence; bullying; and policing in a new economy. These are only a **FEW** examples of problems or challenges an agency could be facing. The COPS Office will have an extensive list within the application and will also have an **OTHER** box that will enable the applying agency to list a problem or challenge that may have not been thought of previously and allow the applying agency to explain the problem or challenge.

Additionally, the Community Policing plan portion of the application will **EMPHASIZE** partnerships and multi-agency collaboration and whether the agency will be forming a partnership/task force with other law enforcement agencies to address an issue through Community Policing. The formation/engaging in partnerships to deliver a Community Policing plan is a **NEW** and **VERY IMPORTANT** aspect of the COPS Hiring application, and should also incorporate a problem solving process such as [SARA](#).

Furthermore, another change with the FY'11 COPS Hiring grant application is that agencies can apply who **CONTRACT** to provide law enforcement services to communities who do not have their own law enforcement. This is critically important to sheriffs as many sheriffs around the country have contract municipalities that they provide services for. There is only one way to submit an application for contract services:

- The jurisdiction requesting the services is the applicant, with the law enforcement agency providing the service signing the application as the law enforcement executive.

However, the sheriff's office can also apply for its own needs. Basically, the sheriff's office can apply for themselves only, but multiple jurisdictions can apply for contract deputies from the same sheriff's office.

As a side note regarding UCR, if a sheriff's office is applying for positions for its office (not to provide contract services), the sheriff can use the crime and fiscal health data for their entire jurisdiction (county to include cities within the county)

For sheriffs who have previously applied for COPS Hiring grants; are previous grantees; or have current COPS Hiring grants, you have already received an invitation letter from the COPS Office regarding getting ready for open grant application for the FY'11 COPS Hiring grant. The COPS Office provided a list of information the agency should begin to collect and/or data to update before the grant opens to be prepared. **One important piece of information to make sure your agency has handy is its CCR #.** Please begin to collect information and update your records now – it will save you time when applying.

The FY'11 COPS Hiring grant application will OFFICIALLY OPEN on May 2, 2011. The application DEADLINE will be May 25, 2011, at 8:59 PM, EDT. Applications MUST be submitted via the COPS Office Online Application System by 8:59 PM, EDT, on May 25, 2011 to be considered for FY'11 COPS Hiring funding. PLEASE DO NOT WAIT UNTIL MAY 25th TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION!

Please note that applications for this program must be submitted in two parts:

1. First, applicants must apply online via www.grants.gov to complete the SF-424, which is a government-wide standard form required for competitive grant application packages. The SF-424 is intended to reduce the administrative burden to the Federal grants community, which includes applicants/grantees and Federal staff involved in grants-related activities.
2. Once the SF-424 has been submitted, you will receive an e-mail from the COPS Office with instructions on completing the second part of the CHP application through the COPS Office Online Application System found on the COPS Office website at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

To further assist you in the application process, the COPS Office will have a step-by-step guide on filling out the application posted on their website ONCE the grant opens. The COPS Office will also have a Fact Sheet and a detailed Frequently Asked Questions document posted on their website as well to answer any questions. You will be able to access these documents while you are filling out the application.

Should you need further assistance or technical assistance, the COPS Response Desk will be open Monday-Friday from 9AM-5PM, EST to answer any questions or address any problems you may have with your application. For further information, please visit the main webpage for the [FY'11 COPS Hiring grant](#).

As a side note, it is important to understand that the FY'11 CR only allocated approximately \$247M for the COPS Hiring program – this means that the COPS Office will only be able to fund about 13% of the grant applications received for the program. NSA is working with our law enforcement partners to increase funding in Congress for the COPS Hiring Program for FY'12.

NSA will once again alert sheriffs when the COPS Hiring grant application opens next week; however, we wanted to provide you with the information regarding the change to the FY'11 application process so that the sheriffs can begin to prepare now.

Sincerely,



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Executive Director

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