



# **COPS** Fact Sheet

www.cops.usdoj.gov

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

## Methamphetamine Initiative

### Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names such as crank, speed, ice, or crystal, has been a persistent problem for law enforcement agencies across the United States in recent years. Methamphetamine is cheap and addictive, and was traditionally developed in clandestine laboratories which were often located in remote areas. Methamphetamine spread quickly, most noticeably in rural areas, largely due to the simple preparation methods used as well as manufacturers having easy access to the necessary precursor chemicals. In more recent years, changing trends in methamphetamine production and distribution have created new obstacles for law enforcement and public health agencies. While law enforcement efforts and precursor chemical sale restrictions have been successful in decreasing the domestic production of methamphetamine, foreign drug traffickers have capitalized on this decreased availability by quickly expanding their avenues of methamphetamine distribution as users have sought out new, reliable supplies.

### COPS Methamphetamine Grants

Since 1998, COPS has invested more than \$448 million nationwide to combat the spread of methamphetamine. In fiscal year 2006, COPS awarded nearly \$63 million to fight the escalating methamphetamine problem.

COPS Meth funding supports enforcement, training, and prevention 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 their 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.

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. In FY 2007, the DEA received \$19.9 million in COPS funds for methamphetamine lab clean-up efforts.

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<sup>1</sup>National Drug Intelligence Center: National Drug Threat Assessment 2007.  
Retrieved from <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs21/21137/meth.htm>

## **2007 Funding Provisions**

The 2007 COPS Methamphetamine Initiative is a competitive, targeted program, with a focus on assisting localities with identified meth problems. Program goals for invited applicants may include:

- Establishing or enhancing existing comprehensive methamphetamine reduction efforts through coordinated prevention, intervention/treatment, and enforcement activities;
- Increasing the use of community policing strategies (including problem-solving, partnerships and organizational changes) to reduce the manufacture, distribution, and use of methamphetamine; and
- Increasing coordination, information sharing, and collaboration among local, state, and federal public and/or private entities involved in prevention, intervention/treatment, and enforcement activities related to methamphetamine.

Approximately \$47 million is available under the 2007 COPS Meth Initiative. Each grant is two years in duration, and there is no local match. A maximum of \$450,000 may be awarded to each grant recipient.

## **Contact COPS**

For more information on COPS Methamphetamine Initiative funding, please call the COPS Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).