



United States
Department of Justice

US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services



Briefing to U.S. DOJ's Global Advisory Committee
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Highlights of recent accomplishments:

COPS Assistance on the Nationwide Broadband Network

On February 17, 2012, the historic 700 MHz D-Block legislation was passed as part of the broader Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012. The COPS Office is pleased and proud to have played a role in a genuine partnership with state, local and tribal public safety officials and other federal agencies in a series of events that helped make this a reality.

On the federal level, these efforts were a culmination of a strong working partnership involving various other components of the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Vice President's Office, Department of Commerce, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the National Institute of Standards (NIST), and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. These federal partners worked in tandem with state, local, and tribal public safety officials to support the groundwork and eventual passage of the bill that will enable a truly interoperable nationwide wireless broadband network, a vision long anticipated and one that was identified as an urgent need in *The 9-11 Commission Report*.

The role of the COPS Office in this process began in the Summer of 2010 through work with other federal partners to convene a nationwide panel of public safety representatives. The forum, held that August, was attended by 21 active public safety practitioners, representing a cross-section of urban, state, rural, and tribal public safety practitioners (law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical services) from around the country. These 21 attendees represented 15 of the original 700MHz waiver applicants. The efforts and outcome of that forum are described in more details in the report, the **National Forum on Public Safety Broadband Needs**, which is referenced in the *Recent Publications* section below.

Subsequent forums were led by other federal partners working in close coordination. In mid-September of 2010, the Department of Commerce convened and led the **Public Safety Vendor/Carrier Broadband Forum**. Building off of the August Forum led by COPS, the purpose of the Department of Commerce forum was to provide attendees with an overview of the Public Safety Requirements that had identified by the consensus public safety practitioners in August and to obtain feedback from wireless carriers and device manufacturers about the technical and commercial viability of this approach as well as to identify opportunities to move forward with a nationwide broadband network. This was followed by another meeting, the **Public Safety Communications Planning Forum**, led by DHS. In this meeting, federal partners, public safety representatives, chief information officers from various localities, and

representatives from wireless broadband carriers and associated device manufacturers worked to lay out the basic contours and key elements of a nationwide broadband plan. Along with regular meetings among the federal partners –the *Public Safety Working Group* organized through the Office of the Vice President -- these collective efforts contributed to the passage of the 700 MHz D-Block legislation.

Recent Publications:

National Forum on Public Safety Broadband Needs

This report summarizes the COPS sponsored forum discussed above. The forum was designed to convene key participants from the public safety practitioner community to help identify, discuss, and develop solutions and recommendations that would help accurately reflect public safety's operational and business requirements for a nationwide public safety broadband network. Also included in the report is a list of 15 operational requirements identified by the group as critical to a national public safety broadband network.

The Impact of the Economic Downturn on American Police Agencies

The economic crisis that began in 2008 has changed America in many ways. Unemployment rates have increased sharply, the stability of the housing market has collapsed, consumer spending has slowed, and city revenues have lessened. Law enforcement agencies are some of the hardest hit by the current economic climate, and they face a new reality in American policing—one that requires a shift in the methods they use to uphold levels of service while dealing with ever shrinking budgets. The importance of maintaining and expanding community policing practices during this time of economic hardship is paramount. Drawing from reputable surveys, publications, and a variety of data sets, *The Impact of the Economic Downturn on American Police Agencies* outlines the ways in which law enforcement agencies have been affected, and examines the ways some have responded.

New Issue Briefs

The COPS Office expects to release several Issue Briefs, developed by SEARCH, by July 2012. These Issue Briefs will support the management of public safety technology projects, such as interoperable communications projects. These Issue Briefs are designed for practitioners with limited time and a need to know about the latest industry-based knowledge.

- Issue Brief No.7: Developing Interoperability Standard Operating Procedures
- Issue Brief No. 8: The Accidental Project Manager
- Issue Brief No. 9: An Introduction to Long Term Evolution (LTE)
- Issue Brief No. 10: Improving Lifecycle Planning for IT Projects
- Issue Brief No. 11: Free Project Management Tools
- Issue Brief No. 12: Using Social Media to Support Project Management Marketing

Grant Announcements

COPS Hiring Program

For this fiscal year, COPS will allocate approximately \$111 million towards the hiring of new deputies and officers or for retaining law enforcement positions in jeopardy of being cut.

A number of mandates are still in place, including state minimums and a population split. And this year, in order to broaden the reach of these dollars as far as possible, a local match of 25 percent - up to a cap of \$125,000 per officer - will also be required.

There's a special emphasis on veterans this year. All new hires acquired through COPS funding must be a military veteran. This was an important focus of the Administration and helps provide an excellent career opportunity for the men and women coming home from active duty.

Community Policing Development Program

The COPS Office Community Policing Development (CPD) Program for fiscal year 2012 will be opening for applications in early April. CPD funds are used to advance the practice of community policing in law enforcement agencies through training and technical assistance, the development and documentation of innovative community policing strategies, applied research, guidebooks, and best practices that are national in scope.

The 2012 CPD Program has been established to fund specific project needs that will be identified related to the following topic areas: (1) policing in a new economy; (2) ethics and integrity; (3) children and youth safety; (4) police operations; (5) community policing enhancement; (6) veterans support. In addition to these specific project needs, there will also be an open topic area for the submission of proposals focused on other community policing-related topics that benefit the wider law enforcement field not listed here.