



Fact Sheet

cops.usdoj.gov

2026 COPS Hiring Program

Strengthening Common Sense Community Policing by Hiring Officers/Deputies

The FY 2026 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is designed to advance public safety through community policing by addressing the full-time sworn law enforcement officer/deputy needs of state, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies nationwide. CHP provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire additional sworn career law enforcement officers/deputies and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. As community policing is common sense policing, the terms 'community policing' and 'common sense policing' are used interchangeably, unless otherwise specified.

The FY 2026 CHP award program is an open notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). All local, state, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority are eligible to apply. All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and to any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law. State and local governmental entities must comply with 8 U.S.C. §1373, which provides that state and local government entities may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, receiving from, maintaining, or exchanging information regarding citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual with components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any other federal, state, or local government entity. This includes any prohibitions or restrictions imposed or established by a state or local government entity or official.

WHEN: Deadline for first part of application in Grants.gov is **July 23, 2026**, at 4:59 p.m. ET. Deadline for completed application in JustGrants is **July 9, 2026**, at 4:59 p.m. ET.

Start EARLY. This is more than a one-day process.

WHERE: **1.** Register at www.grants.gov.
2. Complete the application in the [JustGrants Justice Grants System](#).

HOW: Online only. No hard copies sent by U.S. Mail or electronic copies sent via email.

PROGRAM WEBSITE:
<https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp>

Supporting Local Law Enforcement in Advancing Community Policing so Communities Can Thrive

The COPS Office is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing and the Administration's priority of Making America Safe Again by supporting the nation's state, local, territorial, and Tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources. To date, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than \$21 billion to advance community policing including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 141,000 officers.

COPS Office hiring programs like CHP assist law enforcement agencies in advancing public safety by enhancing their community policing efforts. These programs help state, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies maintain sufficient sworn personnel levels to keep their communities safe.

Funding Provisions

FY 2026 CHP awards will provide up to 75 percent of the entry-level salary and fringe benefits for each approved position for a three-year period. There is a minimum 25 percent local cost share (matching funds) requirement, which must be in the form of cash, unless a waiver is approved. The maximum federal share per sworn officer/deputy position is \$125,000 over the three-year period unless a local cost share (matching funds) waiver is approved. Any additional costs for higher than entry-level salaries and fringe benefits will be the responsibility of the recipient agency.

Applicants may request up to 2 percent of the federal award amount for direct costs associated with administering the award. Examples of direct administrative costs may include directly assignable salaries and fringe benefits for staff that recruit officers/deputies to fill the CHP-funded positions, advertisements for CHP-funded vacancies, and administrative staff that collect performance measurement data and submit performance reports in JustGrants.

Note: The current appropriations act cap is \$125,000 per sworn officer/deputy position. Including 2 percent for direct administrative costs would not increase the grant award amount. Any amount used for direct administrative costs will reduce the amount of funding available for sworn officer/deputy salaries and benefits. However, if the local match is waived, the 2 percent would apply to the full federal share.

CHP awards provide funding for three years (36 months) of entry-level salary for each position awarded. The award period of performance is five years (60 months) to accommodate the hiring process. Agencies must retain each CHP-funded position for 12 months following the three years of funding for that position. The additional sworn officer/deputy position(s) should be added to your agency's law enforcement budget with state or local funds (or both) over and above the number of locally funded sworn officer/deputy positions that would have existed in the absence of the award. Absorbing CHP-funded positions through attrition (rather than adding the extra positions to your budget with additional funding) does not meet the retention requirement.

Funding under this program may be used to do the following: (1) hire new full-time officers/deputies (including filling existing officer/deputy vacancies that are no longer funded in an agency's budget); (2) rehire full-time officers/

deputies already laid off (at the time of application) as a result of state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) budget reductions unrelated to the receipt of award funding; or (3) rehire full-time officers/deputies who are (at the time of application) currently scheduled to be laid off by your jurisdiction on a specific future date as a result of state, local, or BIA budget reduction. CHP applicants may request funding in one or more of these three hiring categories. Applicants may request up to 2 percent of the federal award amount for direct costs associated with administering the award.

The COPS Office may grant a waiver of some or all of an applicant's local cost share (matching funds) requirement. During the application review process, waiver requests will be evaluated based on a demonstration of severe fiscal distress.

The COPS Office statutory nonsupplanting requirement mandates that CHP funds must be used to supplement (increase) state, local, or BIA funds that would have been dedicated toward sworn officer/deputy positions if federal funding had not been awarded. CHP award funds must not be used to supplant (replace) local funds that agencies otherwise would have devoted to sworn officer/deputy hiring. The hiring or rehiring of sworn officers/deputies under CHP must be in addition to, and not in lieu of, sworn officers/deputies who otherwise would have been hired or rehired with state, local, or BIA funds.

A law enforcement agency operating below its budgeted strength is eligible to apply for funding so long as the applicant attests that awarded funds will be used in compliance with the nonsupplanting requirement and not used to supplant state, local, or Bureau of Indian Affairs funds that are already budgeted for sworn law enforcement officer/deputy positions. Budgeted strength is the maximum number of sworn law enforcement officers/deputies that a law enforcement agency is authorized to employ in their budget. See the Guidance for Understaffed Law Enforcement Agencies Operating below Budgeted Strength under the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) and Tribal Resources Grant Program—Hire (TRGP—Hire) for additional information (https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2026AwardDocs/Understaffed_LEAs_Fact_Sheet.pdf).

Applicants are required to affirm in their CHP award application that their agency plans to retain any additional officer/deputy positions funded following the expiration of the award and identify their planned sources of retention funding.

Highlights of FY 2026 CHP

Additional consideration in the application review process will be given to applicants that propose a community-based approach to the following Problem/Focus Areas: Violent Crime, Squatting and Encampment Enforcement, Homeland and Border Security, Nuisance Abatement and Quality of Life, School-Based Policing, and Combating Domestic Terrorism. If awarded CHP funding, recipients that chose any of these specific community policing problem areas will not be allowed to change the problem area post-award.

Additional consideration will also be given to applicants that meet any of the following criteria:

- **Ending Deadly Sanctuary City Policies.** Agencies that partner or cooperate with federal officials and agencies on addressing illegal immigration (state and local government applicants only).
- **Homeland Security Task Force Coordination and Participation.** Agencies that coordinate and participate with the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) (www.hstf.gov) or, if awarded, plan to coordinate and participate with the HSTF (law enforcement applicants only).
- **Safe Harbor.** Applicants in states with certain anti-human trafficking laws that treat minors engaged in commercial sex as victims (referred to as “safe harbor” laws) and permit individuals to vacate arrest or prosecution records for nonviolent offenses as a result of being trafficked.
- **Unfunded in Previous Year.** Applicants that did not receive a CHP award in FY 2025 due to the limited availability of funding who submit a quality application in FY 2026.
- **Rural Designation.** Applicants in self-identified rural jurisdictions.
- **Catastrophic Incident.** Applicants that experienced an unanticipated catastrophic event that had a significant impact on the delivery of law enforcement services and which occurred in the time period from January 1, 2025, to present. This includes mass shootings, terrorist attacks, natural disasters, or other events leading to mass casualties.
- **Hiring Veterans.** Applicants that commit to hiring at least one military veteran.
- **National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Data Accuracy.** Agencies that submit accurate race and ethnicity information in NIBRS for each offender, victim, and arrestee involved in each incident.
- **Critically Understaffed Law Enforcement Agencies.** Agencies operating below their budgeted strength due to local fiscal distress or other conditions.
- **Community-based Hires.** Applicants that commit to recruiting officers/deputies from the community in which they will serve.

CHP recipients who use CHP funding to deploy school resource officers (SRO) will be required to submit a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the law enforcement agency and the school partners. In addition, all applicants who receive FY26 CHP funding for SROs will be required to send each awarded SRO position to a training sponsored and subsidized by the COPS Office approved training provider no later than nine months after the date shown on the award congratulatory letter or six months from the SRO hire date, whichever comes first. Additional information about this training requirement will be provided to recipients at the time of award.

How to Apply

Before You Begin: SAM. Register with the SAM (System of Award Management) database or confirm or renew your existing SAM registration.

Confirm your entity’s electronic business point of contact (E-Biz POC) in SAM is accurate.

Step 1: Grants.gov. Register with Grants.gov or confirm your existing registration.

Submit the first part of your application in Grants.gov.

Deadline to complete this step is July 23, 2026, at 4:59 p.m. ET.

Step 2: JustGrants. Onboard your agency to the JustGrants Justice Grants System.

Complete and submit the second part of your application in JustGrants (<https://www.justicegrants.usdoj.gov>).

Further instructions and explanations of the application process can be found on the COPS Office website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.

Complete application packages for the FY 2026 CHP funding opportunity are due by **July 29, 2026, at 4:59 p.m. ET.**

Contact the COPS Office

For more information about COPS Office programs and resources, please contact the COPS Office Response Center at AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov or 800-421-6770.