



COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

Pre-Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for 2024 COPS Office Community Policing Development Accreditation Grant Programs

Q. Are all law enforcement agencies eligible to apply for the Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies Seeking Accreditation solicitation?

A. The solicitation is open only to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority for their jurisdiction.

Q. How do I determine if my agency has primary law enforcement authority?

A. An agency with primary law enforcement authority is defined as the first responder to calls for service for all types of criminal incidents within its jurisdiction. Agencies are not considered to have primary law enforcement authority if they only respond to or investigate specific type(s) of crime(s), respond to or investigate crimes within a correctional institution, serve warrants, provide courthouse security, transport prisoners, have cases referred to them for investigation or investigational support, or some combination of these.

Q. My agency does not have primary law enforcement authority. Can we partner with an agency that is eligible to apply?

A. Yes, partnerships are highly encouraged. If your agency does not have primary law enforcement authority, it can partner with an agency that is eligible to apply. Please keep in mind that the application must be submitted by the agency with primary law enforcement authority.

Q. Under the Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies Seeking Accreditation solicitation can a law enforcement agency already in the accreditation process apply?

A. Agencies can be in the process of seeking accreditation at the time of application. However, agencies seeking renewal or re-accreditation are not eligible.

Q. Under the Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies Seeking Accreditation solicitation what would be a project considered out of scope for the CPD Accreditation program?

A. Law enforcement accreditation is the only type of accreditation supported by the CPD Accreditation program. Applicants seeking communications, jail, training academy, or other non-law enforcement accreditation will not be considered.

Q. Is agency accreditation the same thing as agency certification?

A. No, accreditation should not be confused with agency certification.

- Accreditation involves the process of law enforcement agencies adopting and maintaining standards focused on their operations. To obtain accreditation, a law enforcement agency must ensure that it has the appropriate policy standards as defined by the accreditation entity. The number of standards varies by accreditation entity.
- As described in Executive Order (EO) 13929 [Safe Policing for Safe Communities](#), which requires law enforcement agencies to confirm that their use of force policy adheres to two mandatory requirements to receive DOJ discretionary funding. For questions regarding EO 13929 certification, please see the COPS Office's [Safe Policing for Safe Communities fact sheet](#).

Q. Can my organization apply to be a new state (or regional) accreditation body?

A. Organizations that are eligible to become new state or regional accreditation bodies are as follows:

- All public governmental agencies
- Federally recognized Indian tribes
- For-profit (commercial) organizations
- Nonprofit organizations
- Institutions of higher education
- Community groups
- Faith-based organizations

All applicants must clearly explain the need to establish a new accreditation body.

For the [FY24 COPS Office Solicitations Frequently Asked Questions](#) visit our [How To Apply](#) page.

Questions? For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. eastern time (ET) Monday to Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For programmatic and general assistance with the solicitation requirements, contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or by email at AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov. The Response Center's hours of operation are Monday–Friday (except U.S. Federal Government holidays; see <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/federal-holidays/>) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The Response Center will remain open on the solicitation closing date until 4:59 p.m. ET.