

# FY23 CPD Accreditation Cohort Annual Report

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**COPS**  
*Community Oriented Policing Services*  
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# Introduction

Law enforcement agency (LEA) accreditation is a self-initiated process of adopting and maintaining standardized policies and procedures. LEAs operate within a specific set of state- and nationally recognized standards that are determined and defined by accreditation bodies. To obtain accreditation, an LEA must work with a state or national accreditation body to develop and adopt a specific set of operational standards, the number of which varies by accreditation entity, and maintain compliance during the accreditation period. Tribal LEAs may seek accreditation through either state or national accreditation bodies.

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) support agency accreditation and recognize the importance of adhering to the highest standards of police policies and operations. The community benefits when its law enforcement personnel follow standardized policies and procedures that provide efficient, effective, and fair policing. Agency accreditation helps to ensure the accountability and transparency that can enhance community confidence and trust in law enforcement.

Since 2021, the COPS Office has supported accreditation efforts through a separate funding opportunity of the Community Policing Development (CPD) program. Accreditation solicitations vary from year to year but have included the following subcategories:

- **Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation.** Establishment of accreditation entities in states that do not have an accreditation body.
- **Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities.** Support and enhancement of existing law enforcement accreditation bodies to increase the number of agencies accredited.
- **Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation.** Funds costs such as officer overtime, accreditation fees, and policy software related to obtaining law enforcement accreditation from an existing state or national law enforcement accreditation entity.
- **Accreditation Resources and Implementation Support.** Development of a national marketing program and provision of technical assistance in support of law enforcement accreditation.
- **Supporting Tribal Agency Accreditation.** Support of an accreditation body in assisting tribal law enforcement agencies through the accreditation process. [Offered in 2021 only]

# Accreditation Awards

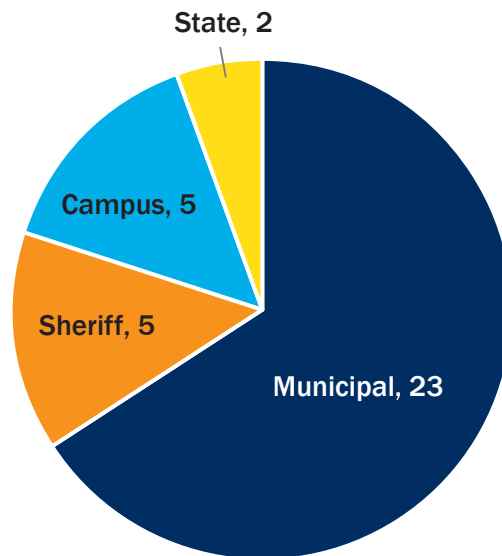
In 2023, the COPS Office received 103 accreditation applications across all subcategories and funded 47 organizations and agencies for \$8,139,568 (see appendix A for the full list of recipients). The FY 2023 funding is a significant increase from the FY 2022 total of \$3,800,738, with a similar number of applicants (in FY22 there were 109 applications across all subcategories and 56 funded organizations and agencies). The FY 2023 funding included three awards under *Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation*, eight awards under *Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities*, one award under *Accreditation Resources and Implementation Support*, and 35 awards under the *Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation* category.

**Table 1. Accreditation bodies and entities that received an award in 2023**

Accreditation body	Award category
Alaska Municipal League	Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation
Iowa Police Chiefs Association	Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, Inc.	Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation
Arizona Chiefs of Police	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Foundation, Inc.	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, Inc.	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
New Hampshire Department of Justice Office of the Attorney General	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
The New Mexico Association of Counties	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
Rhode Island Police Accreditation Commission	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
Department of Criminal Justice Services Virginia	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities
Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities

For the *Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation* category, the 35 recipients include 23 municipalities, five sheriffs' offices, five campus agencies, and two state level agencies across 18 states (see figure 1).

**Figure 1. Types of law enforcement agencies funded in 2023 by agency type (n=35)**



Total awards from Fiscal Years 2021 through 2023 for the Accreditation program are shown in table 2.

**Table 2. Total accreditation awards by subcategory, 2021–2023**

Solicitation	No. of awards	Total award amount
Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation	4	\$1,365,195
Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities	20	\$4,158,807
Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies in Seeking Accreditation	124	\$12,545,184
Accreditation Resources and Implementation Support	1	\$250,000
Supporting Tribal Agency Accreditation	1	\$148,498
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>\$18,467,684</b>

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# CPD Accreditation cohort

To manage the Accreditation cooperative agreements and grants, a team of Community Policing Advancement (CPA) Directorate staff, termed the Accreditation Cohort, works cooperatively with all recipients to support award management and oversight. In addition, the Accreditation Cohort provides technical assistance to support project management and implementation, as well as training opportunities via multimedia resources—for example, a webinar to highlight successes and lessons learned for other agencies seeking accreditation.

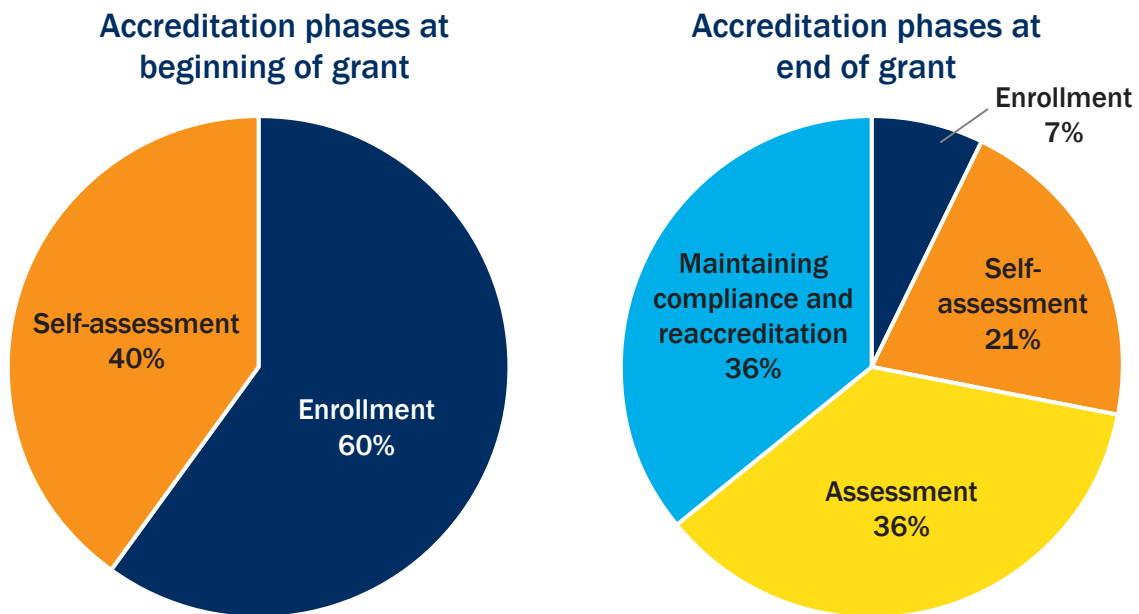
Since October 2022, the Accreditation Cohort's accomplishments have included the following:

- Individual kickoff meetings for all cooperative agreement recipients in the fall of 2022
- A kickoff meeting for 2022 grant award recipients on December 1, 2022 with 81 individual attendees, at which the following topics were presented:
  - Overview of COPS Office
  - Accreditation Award Overview and Objectives
  - Award Package and Recipient Materials
  - JustGrants Navigation
  - Summary
- Internal coordination via regular meetings and communication channels
- Maintenance of the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) Accreditation web page ([https://cops.usdoj.gov/LEA\\_accreditation](https://cops.usdoj.gov/LEA_accreditation)), which launched in the Community Policing Topics resources section of the COPS Office website on May 19, 2022, and has an interactive map of state and national accreditation bodies with links to the organizations and links to resources and publications related to accreditation and is updated on a regular basis by the cohort
- Coordination of two articles for the *Community Policing Dispatch* monthly newsletter on accreditation topics:
  - In the October 2022 issue, "[The New Mexico Association of Counties Adds Sheriffs' Accreditation Program](#)." This article describes the development of a new law enforcement accreditation program for county sheriff's offices in the state.
  - In the November 2023 issue, "[Accreditation for Tribal Law Enforcement: Voices from the Field](#)." This article describes four tribal law enforcement agencies that have discovered the benefits of accreditation.

# Agency Accreditation Progress

COPS Office funding allows award recipients to obtain any state or national accreditation. Generally, accreditation is a five-step process: (1) enrollment, (2) self-assessment, (3) assessment, (4) commission review and decision, and (5) maintaining compliance and reaccreditation. All of the 15 law enforcement agency accreditation awards that have ended saw significant progress toward achieving accreditation, with five achieving accreditation during the grant period.

**Figure 2. Agency accreditation progress for law enforcement agency awards that have ended (n=15)**



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# Future Accreditation Support

In FY 2023 the COPS Office funded a new project under the *Accreditation Resources and Implementation Support* solicitation. This solicitation was intended to aid in the development of a national marketing program and provision of technical assistance in support of law enforcement accreditation, especially for agencies that have been funded under the COPS Office Law Enforcement Agencies Seeking Accreditation program. The National Policing Institute (NPI) was selected as the recipient under this solicitation.

NPI will (1) develop a national outreach and marketing campaign, working collaboratively with state- and national-level accreditation bodies to (a) reach nonaccredited agencies, with a particular emphasis on smaller agencies, and (b) promote the sustainment of accreditation among agencies that have already achieved accreditation and (2) establish a peer-to-peer virtual community of practice for COPS Office Supporting LEAs Seeking Accreditation grantees using NPI's existing expertise and capabilities through the Higher Logic online community platform.

# Appendix. FY23 CPD Accreditation Recipients

State	Agency Name	Award Amount
<i>Addressing Gaps in State Accreditation</i>		
AK	ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE	\$407,003
IA	IOWA POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION	\$499,604
MN	MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION, INC.	\$358,588
<i>Enhancing Existing Law Enforcement Accreditation Entities</i>		
AZ	ARIZONA CHIEFS OF POLICE	\$295,856
GA	GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE FOUNDATION, INC.	\$300,000
IN	INDIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION COMMISSION, INC.	\$294,423
NH	NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL	\$300,000
NM	THE NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES	\$58,611
RI	RHODE ISLAND POLICE ACCREDITATION COMMISSION	\$132,518
VA	DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES VIRGINIA	\$292,576
WA	WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS AND POLICE CHIEFS	\$214,427
<i>Accreditation Resources and Implementation Support</i>		
VA	NATIONAL POLICING INSTITUTE	\$250,000
<i>Support Law Enforcement Agencies Seeking Accreditation</i>		
CT	COLCHESTER, TOWN OF	\$153,806
CT	TOWN OF DEEP RIVER	\$160,000
FL	CITY OF HIALEAH	\$246,486
GA	CITY OF STOCKBRIDGE	\$160,000
IL	CITY OF COLLINSVILLE CITY HALL	\$35,146
KS	CITY OF PARSONS	\$139,255



MA	CITY OF BOSTON	\$250,000
MA	CITY OF FITCHBURG	\$114,816
MA	LEICESTER, TOWN OF	\$67,921
MA	NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$54,541
MA	STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$139,278
MA	TOWN OF HOPEDALE	\$114,368
MA	TOWN OF SHERBORN POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$58,845
MA	TOWN OF TOWNSEND	\$106,515
MI	TOWNSHIP OF GROSSE ILE	\$132,789
NC	BUNCOMBE, COUNTY OF	\$249,835
NC	ONSLow, COUNTY OF	\$215,440
NC	TOWN OF FUQUAY VARINA	\$138,477
NJ	COUNTY OF BURLINGTON	\$250,000
NY	TOWN OF CARMEL TOWN HALL	\$113,175
OK	TULSA COMMUNITY COLLEGE	\$160,000
PA	BOROUGH OF CATASAUQUA	\$102,129
PA	BOROUGH OF SWISSVALE	\$41,425
PA	BOROUGH OF WILSON	\$112,750
PA	LEWISTOWN BOROUGH OF	\$91,695
PA	UPPER CHICHESTER TOWNSHIP	\$127,386
PA	WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON COLLEGE	\$47,240
SC	CITY OF LANCASTER	\$109,455
SC	NATURAL RESOURCES SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT	\$160,000
TN	TOWN OF WESTMORELAND	\$108,332
VA	COUNTY OF SHENANDOAH	\$160,000
VA	DICKENSON, COUNTY OF	\$150,432
WA	WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY	\$133,178
WI	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM	\$81,254
WV	WV DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES	\$249,993



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