



COPS Fact Sheet

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

www.cops.usdoj.gov

Justice Based After-School Program

The Justice Based After-School (JBAS) pilot program demonstrates the commitment of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to advance community policing through collaborative, crime prevention programs. Since the program in 2000 COPS has provided almost \$3 million under the JBAS pilot program to encourage law enforcement agencies to work in partnership with community-based organizations to develop high quality after-school programs. The primary goal of the JBAS pilot program is to develop a preventive approach to juvenile crime and victimization -- especially in high-crime neighborhoods, to improve the overall quality of life in these communities. Additionally, these model programs are training and technical assistance resources for other law enforcement agencies and communities that wish to implement similar programs. In 2001 the sites received additional funding to consolidate the first year achievements and bolster the overall sustainability of their programs.

Contact COPS

For more information on the JBAS program, please contact the Program, Policy Support, & Evaluation Division at 202.514.2301. For general information or grant opportunities, please call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 800.421.6770 or visit our web site at www.cops.usdoj.gov

The Need for After-School Programs

The need for quality after-school programs is growing as more parents work longer hours outside of the home. Without supervision between the hours of 2 and 10 p.m., children are more likely to be victimized and to engage in risk-taking behavior. In many high crime areas, after-school programs cannot remain open during evening hours due to safety concerns. These are the same areas in which children are most at risk for violence and victimization. The presence of law enforcement officers can serve dual purposes. In their official capacity, law enforcement officers can create a safe environment for program participants and staff. Additionally, law enforcement officers can act as role models and caring adults in the lives of youth.

COPS Supports Local Law Enforcement

The COPS Office has funded six (6) law enforcement agencies to serve as pilot training sites. JBAS funds have been used to supplement existing after-school programs in order to establish model programs that have then become a training and technical assistance resource for other agencies wishing to implement such after-school programs in their own communities. The COPS Office also funded the National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues to develop a youth-based community policing curriculum to train police officers in the topics and skills essential for working with children in an educational and recreational after-school program. In tandem with this training curriculum, the COPS Office has funded the production of a promising practices manual to be distributed to agencies interested in establishing or enhancing existing after-school programs. Finally, the COPS Office has funded an evaluation of the JBAS pilot program.

Innovative Promising Practices

Indianapolis Police Department, IN

COPS funds have been used to expand Police Athletic League (PAL) services and to collaborate with community-based youth organizations to deliver after school, summer, mentoring, and life-skills programs. The Indianapolis Police Department (IPD) have partnered with four community agencies including two Boys and Girls Clubs, a church/school, and a multi-service center. Services at the sites include educational programming, life-skills tutoring, recreational activities, mentoring, and college/vocational skill building. Additionally, IPD has selected two city-wide partners - the Indianapolis Children's Museum and the Marion County Commission on Youth - to expand available activities, assist in strengthening partnerships, assist with JBAS training and assist with evaluating program effectiveness.

Lawrence Police Department, MA

COPS funds have expanded existing after-school programs to create a new program called Project Hope, for at-risk youth. It is a partnership between the Lawrence Police Department, the Lawrence Housing Authority and Hoops for Hope, a community-based service organization that provides recreational and educational services for at-risk youth. Project Hope has four key elements: a portable computer resource center to provide tutoring and homework assistance; recreational activities to aid youth in developing their athletic, dramatic and artistic talents; opportunities for the development of positive social interactions between youth and police officers, probation officers, community leaders and peers; and vocational life-skills development to prepare youth for future expectations in the workplace.

Minneapolis Police Department, MN

COPS funds have been used to expand an existing Police Athletic League (PAL) project in north Minneapolis' school and to start new programs in two south Minneapolis schools. The existing school-based PAL center serves as a model to the new sites. JBAS funding has enhanced current program elements, adding a staff position, and expanding the PAL program to the new school locations. Funds have been used to expand athletic programs including boxing, wrestling, and karate. At the new school sites, funds have been used to procure new equipment and implement new academic programs. JBAS funds have also been used to expand the tutorial program. Academic tutorials have been enhanced and have reach out to all JBAS members. Law enforcement officers have been used as tutors and mentors. PAL membership increased by 75% in the first year of the program.

Kansas City, Missouri Police Department

In Kansas City, the first year's JBAS funds have been used to augment two existing after-school centers and establish one new after-school center in three of the city's most deprived neighborhoods. These three centers primarily service youth in high crime, low-income neighborhoods with a high preponderance of single parent families. The new center includes a well-equipped recreation room, arts and crafts center, gymnasium, computer learning center and weight-room. Tutorial and homework assistance programs have been significantly expanded at all three sites. The three centers also incorporate educational content, on issues such as teamwork and cooperation, into a wide range of team-sports opportunities.

Portland Police Bureau, OR

COPS funds have been used to expand Portland Police Bureau's existing Police Activities League (PAL). The plan has expanded the hours at an existing PAL Youth Center, introduced after-school programming to 11 additional sites through a targeted effort called PAL PLUS (Play and Learning Under Supervision), and expanded activities/field trip opportunities for all of the city's PAL centers. The PAL PLUS program engages educators and youth workers to create after-school programs at targeted sites that have been without after-school programs in each precinct (patrol area) of the city. These programs are both educational and recreational. The existing PAL program has a strong community involvement, which includes the Boys and Girls Clubs of Portland, the Youth Gangs Task Force, the Student Attendance Initiative, Touchstone, Headstart, Portland Youth Redirection, and the Oregon Council for Hispanic Advancement.

Stamford Police Department, CT

Stamford Police Department has used COPS funds to partner with the Trailblazers Academy, an alternative middle school, and its parent agency the Domus Foundation, to create an after-school program for at-risk children. COPS funds have been used to expand the existing after-school program at the Trailblazers Academy so that it can stay open year-round and for longer hours, expand its range of activities, serve more children and partner with local law enforcement. Expanded activities have included a computer lab, homework hour, specialized tutoring, sports and athletics team activities, community volunteer projects, nutrition activities, aerobics, arts and crafts, performance art, an Explorer Post, and a lecture series on life skills.

National Assoc. of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues

In the first year of the JBAS program, the COPS Office funded the National Association of Police Athletic / Activities League (NAPAL) for the development of a youth-based community policing curriculum. It's purpose is to train officers in the topics and skills essential for working with children in an educational and recreational after-school program. This training is designed to augment existing programs by providing, for the first time, law enforcement officers with community policing training in how to both interact with youth and work with them in an after-school setting.