



**COPS**  
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

BUILDING *Relationships*, SOLVING *Problems*

## *Office of Community Oriented Policing Services*

### **2011 Secure Our Schools Program**

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#### **Program Background and Goals**

COPS Secure Our Schools (SOS) grants provide funding to state, local, or tribal governments working in partnership with public schools to improve school safety. Successful programs are based on a comprehensive safety assessment that identifies the individual needs of the schools, and law enforcement agencies receiving funding will collaborate with school administrators, teachers, students, and parents to implement solutions to school safety challenges. By supporting these community policing partnerships, this grant program will help protect children and prevent school violence within their communities.

Funding under this program may be requested for:

- Placement and use of metal detectors, locks, lighting, and other deterrent measures
- Security assessments
- Security training of personnel and students
- Coordination with local law enforcement
- Any other measure that may provide a significant improvement in security.

For FY 2011 SOS applications, applicants must have conducted a school safety assessment for the targeted schools within the last three years, or included a plan to conduct a school safety assessment for the targeted schools during the two-year grant period if awarded. These assessments enabled applicants to request budget items that are specifically linked to the resolution of school safety problems identified.

A total of \$13,070,582 was available under the FY 2011 SOS program. SOS applicants could apply for funding of 50% of the total project cost not to exceed \$500,000. A 50% cash match is required.

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#### **Methodology**

All local, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority within a partner public primary or secondary school were eligible to apply. On April 4, 2011, the COPS Office blast e-mailed a pre-invitation notification to eligible law enforcement and government agencies listed in our database. This pre-invitation notification directed agencies to the COPS website where they could find out more

information about the upcoming application for the Secure Our Schools program. Program information was also posted on the grants.gov website. The program solicitation opened on May 2, 2011 and closed July 10, 2011. A total of 358 agencies successfully submitted an online application before the deadline.

Applicants were required to submit a complete application, to include a Community Policing Narrative, Project Narrative, Budget Narrative, and a School Safety Assessment. In addition, applicants had to propose community policing objectives which were linked to their project proposal and the prevention of school violence. Upon receipt, each application was reviewed to ensure it was eligible and included all required documents. Applications were removed from consideration for either of the following reasons:

- (a) Missing application information, including (but not limited to) the Project Narrative, Budget Narrative, school partner information, and/or school safety assessment/assurance.
- (b) Ineligible agency type – if the applicant
  - was not a law enforcement agency;
  - did not certify that the application was prepared after consultation with individuals not limited to law enforcement officers, to ensure that the improvements to be funded under the grant were consistent with a comprehensive approach to preventing school violence and individualized to the needs of each school at which those improvements are to be made;
  - lacked primary law enforcement authority over the targeted schools;
  - did not target any primary or secondary schools; or
  - did not request items that would solely benefit the primary or secondary schools.

Eligible and complete applications were then thoroughly reviewed by two independent reviewers between July and September 2011. Following the review of applications, COPS was able to fund a total of 93 agencies from 32 states/territories in the amount of \$13,070,580.