



# Fact Sheet

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

## 2015 COPS Anti-Gang Initiative

The FY 2015 COPS Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI) is designed to advance public safety by providing funds to address gang activity. CAGI provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies with a multijurisdictional partnership composed of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to address gang activity. Primary consideration was given to agencies that target gangs of national significance. For FY 2015, the COPS Office awarded nearly \$6 million in CAGI grant funds to nine lead law enforcement agencies on multijurisdictional task forces. Each grant is two years (24 months) in duration with no local match. In addition, each grant award was limited to no more than \$750,000.

### Background

Gangs have been a persistent problem for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies for decades. While gangs and gang activity have long been associated with urban areas, particularly blighted inner-city areas, law enforcement experience and scholarly research reveal that gang activity also plagues suburban and rural areas. As indicated in the 2012 National Youth Gang Survey, 30 percent of law enforcement agencies responding to the survey reported gang activity in 2012. The size, level of organization, sophistication, and territorial reach of gangs varies widely. Gangs range from small cliques whose territory may be restricted areas as small as a street block or corner and who engage in troublesome behavior such as graffiti or vandalism to national or transnational gangs believed to be responsible widespread drug marketing and human trafficking. Larger and more organized gangs present challenges to local law enforcement jurisdictions

because criminally active members operate across jurisdictions engaging in criminal activities that have a regional impact, including drug distribution, prostitution, human trafficking, and alien smuggling. Regional anti-gang task forces composed of local, state, and federal law enforcement members are needed to leverage the tactical coordination, data sharing, and intelligence sharing necessary to support multijurisdictional prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies.<sup>1</sup>

### Funding Provisions

For FY 2015, the COPS Office awarded nearly \$6 million in CAGI grant funds to nine (9) lead law enforcement agencies on multijurisdictional task forces to address gang activity.

Provisions include the following:

- Funds awarded in this program must be used to support regional anti-gang task forces focusing on enforcement, prevention/education, and intervention of gang activity.
- CAGI funds lead law enforcement agencies that participate in multijurisdictional task forces made up of federal, state, and local law enforcement partnerships.
- CAGI funding is **not** intended for the prosecution of gang-related activities.

### Contact the COPS Office

For more information about the COPS Anti-Gang Initiative, please call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or visit the COPS Office online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).

1. National Gang Center. *National Youth Gang Survey Analysis*, accessed April 13, 2015, <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/Survey-Analysis>.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The following resources discuss various efforts to address the problem of gangs:

**Strategies to Address Gang Crime: A Guidebook for Local Law Enforcement**

Author Scott H. Decker, PhD, provides information about developing and enhancing local law enforcement responses to gangs in their jurisdictions. The focus of the guidebook is on the use of problem-solving strategies to help agencies select the interventions most appropriate for their jurisdictions. In particular, the guidebook describes the SARA model (scanning, analysis, response, and assessment), a strategic problem-solving process with which local law enforcement is familiar and which it can apply to its local gang problem.

<http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P142>

**Solutions to Address Gang Crime CD-ROM**

The Solutions to Address Gang Crime CD-ROM includes resources related to law enforcement responses for addressing gang activity, gang activity in specific populations, criminal behavior of gangs, and statistics and research on gangs.

<http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-CD008>

**The Stop Snitching Phenomenon: Breaking the Code of Silence**

The threatening nature of the stop snitching message intimidates witnesses and erodes trust between communities and police by undermining police efforts to involve communities in preventing and combating crime. This also threatens police agencies' own ability to prevent and solve crime because it impedes investigations, arrests, and convictions, and could severely erode the criminal justice system. This report addresses the problem and includes case studies documenting successful law enforcement and community approaches that have been implemented.

<http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P158>

**Stop and Frisk: Balancing Crime Control with Community Relations**

This publication discusses the constitutionality and legal precedents of stop and frisk and the theory and practice behind these street stops. This background is followed by a discussion of stop and frisk's unintended consequences and a series of practical recommendations for the lawful and respectful use of pedestrian stops in the context of community policing.

<http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P306>

**Street Gangs and Interventions**

This publication briefly reviews the range of prevention, intervention, suppression, and comprehensive strategies, providing examples of each type. It then offers a case study of problem analysis in Newark, New Jersey. It also discusses the unique utility of network analysis in the resultant problem analysis and underscores the important role of an academic research partner. Finally, the paper considers the importance of sustainability with regard to problem analysis.

<http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-W0722>

**Parents Quick Reference Card to Gangs**

This quick and easy reference guide provides common warning signs of gang involvement. Parents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with local gangs' symbols, seek help early, and consider contacting school officials, local law enforcement, faith leaders, and community organizations for additional assistance. The Gang Reference Card for Parents is available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Vietnamese.

English – <http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P063>

Spanish – <http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P084>

Hmong – <http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P088>

Vietnamese – <http://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P087>