

COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Program – FY 2017 Overview

The COPS Office is pleased to announce the awarding of a total of \$7.19 million in FY 2017 funding through the Anti-Heroin Task Force Program (AHTF) to the states of Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont.

The COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program is a competitive grant program designed to advance public safety by providing grants to state law enforcement agency task forces to locate or investigate illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin or the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids. AHTF provides two years of grant funding directly to state law enforcement agencies in states with high per capita levels of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids. Since the AHTF Program began in 2015, the COPS Office has awarded nearly \$19 million nationwide to combat the opioid crisis.

Eligible AHTF applications underwent a comprehensive review process by external heroin and other opioid subject matter expert (SME) peer reviewers. Reviewers evaluated key factors such as the agencies' current and proposed heroin investigative activities, their participation in related task forces, the strength of their collaboration with other agencies, and their HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area) Threat Assessment. In addition, the COPS Office evaluated primary treatment admission rates for heroin and other opioids in making the final funding decisions.

To acknowledge the sense of urgency regarding the opioid crisis, President Trump declared a Public Health Emergency on October 26, 2017. The abuse of opioids has a devastating impact on public health and safety in this country. More than three out of five drug overdose deaths involve an opioid. Overdose deaths from opioids, including prescription opioids and heroin, have more than quadrupled since 1999.

The COPS Office looks forward to working with the FY 2017 AHTF Program grantees to support their efforts in fighting this ongoing opioid crisis within their states.