



Fact Sheet

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FY2017 COPS Hiring Program School Resource Officer Mandatory Training

Overview

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is committed to ensuring student success in supportive, safe environments by providing a variety of resources, including award funding, to deploy School Resource Officers (SRO). The fiscal year (FY) 2017 COPS Hiring Program (CHP) includes awards for agencies to deploy SROs to school districts across the country.

To ensure COPS Office–funded SROs have the resources and knowledge necessary for their position, the COPS Office enacted a new FY 2017 CHP training requirement. All SRO officers funded by FY 2017 CHP awards are required to attend the Basic School Resource Officer Course conducted by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) as part of their training. To support this requirement, the COPS Office will pay the training fee directly to NASRO and NASRO will reimburse allowable travel costs up to \$1,000 per CHP-funded SRO to the law enforcement agency.

Award Condition

All COPS-funded SRO(s) are required to complete a National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) basic training course no later than nine months after the date shown on the award congratulatory letter. If a COPS-funded SRO leaves the recipient agency after completing the NASRO training, the recipient agrees to pay for the new SRO, who is assigned to backfill this position, to attend a NASRO basic training course. This new SRO must complete the training no later than nine months after being placed in the schools.

How to Receive Funding

All agencies funding SROs through a FY 2017 CHP award will receive information about the SRO training requirement in their award terms and conditions, as well as in the CHP Award Owner's Manual (AOM). The COPS Office requires that law enforcement agencies and schools first develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to clearly document the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the individuals and partners involved, including SROs, school officials, law enforcement, education departments, students, and parents. The MOU must be submitted within 90 days of the date shown on the award congratulatory letter. The CHP MOU Fact Sheet describing the contents of this MOU can be found on the COPS Office website at http://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2017AwardDocs/chp/2017_CHP_MOU_FactSheet_v4.pdf.

After an SRO is selected for the COPS Office–funded position, the agency should register for training on the NASRO website (<https://nasro.org/training/>) and note in the comments section that the position is funded by an FY 2017 CHP award. The agency should use GSA per diem rates to determine travel expenses and reimbursement standards. Information can be found at the GSA website (<https://www.gsa.gov/perdiem>). All costs must be reasonable and fiscally responsible. NASRO staff can provide assistance in determining travel expenses, including transportation, hotel, and M&IE for each officer. After the course is successfully completed, the agency must submit itemized expenses to NASRO for reimbursement within 30 days and retain the documentation for three years. The SRO or agency representative should email a copy of the NASRO Basic School Resource Officer Course certificate to COPS-SRO@usdoj.gov.

If the COPS Office–funded SRO previously completed the NASRO Basic School Resource Officer Course within the last 12 months, the recipient should contact the COPS Office Response Center by phone at 800-421-6770 or by email at AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov and provide the location and date of the training, so that the COPS Office can confirm with NASRO and determine if the training requirement has been satisfied.

About NASRO

NASRO is an organization for school-based law enforcement officers, school administrators, and school security and safety professionals working as partners to protect students, school faculty and staff, and the schools they attend. NASRO is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1991 that assists communities and school districts to develop effective programs that further high-functioning community partnerships and ultimately result in safer schools. NASRO’s training focuses on the special nature of school campuses, student needs and characteristics, and the educational and custodial interests of school personnel.

Basic School Resource Officer Course

This is a 40-hour block of instruction designed for school administrators and any law enforcement officer with two years or less experience working in an educational environment. The course emphasizes three main areas of instruction:

1. Functioning as a police officer in the school setting
2. Working as a resource and problem solver
3. Developing teaching skills

Contact the COPS Office

For more information about CHP, please call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770, or visit the COPS Office website at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Supporting safe schools

The COPS Office is committed to supporting safe schools—places where students can learn and teachers can educate—by providing a variety of resources, including award funds, to help deploy SROs. <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/supportingsafeschools>

National Association of School Resource Officers

The National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) is dedicated to making schools and children safer by providing the highest quality training to school-based law enforcement officers. <https://nasro.org/>

School Discipline Consensus Report

The School Discipline Consensus Report is a comprehensive set of consensus-based and field-driven recommendations for improving learning conditions for all students and educators, better supporting students with behavioral needs, improving police-schools partnerships, and keeping students out of the juvenile justice system for minor offenses. <https://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/school-discipline-consensus-report/>

Youth.gov

Youth.gov provides information to create, maintain, and strengthen effective youth programs. Developed by representatives from 19 federal agencies, these programs and services focus on youth by promoting positive, healthy outcomes for children, teens, and young adults. <http://youth.gov/>

Averted School Violence

The Averted School Violence Near Miss reporting system allows law enforcement officers, school personnel, and mental health professionals to share averted school violence stories in order to improve safety and prevent future injuries and fatalities in educational institutions from elementary school through higher education. <https://www.asvnearmiss.org/>