



Fact Sheet

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FY 2021 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) 2021 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 CHP training requirement. All SRO officers funded by FY 2021 CHP awards will be required to send each awarded SRO position to a regionally based training sponsored and subsidized by the COPS Office. Additional information about this training requirement will be provided to recipients at the time of award or shortly thereafter.

How to Receive Funding

All agencies funding SROs through a FY 2021 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, families, and social service agencies. 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 <https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp>.

If the COPS Office–funded SRO previously completed a basic SRO 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 determine if the training requirement has been satisfied.

Award Condition

COPS Office–funded SRO(s) are required to complete a basic 40-hour SRO training course from a list of COPS Office–approved provider(s). Training must be completed no later than nine months after the date shown on the award congratulatory letter or six months from the SRO hire date, whichever comes first. If a COPS Office–funded SRO leaves the recipient agency after completing the training, the recipient agrees to pay for the new SRO who is assigned to backfill this position to attend a 40-hour basic training course. The new SRO must complete the training no later than nine months after being placed in the school. If the officer has completed 40-hour basic training within the 12 months prior to the award date, the condition has been fulfilled. Any longer than 12 months will require the officer to retake the course. The agency must coordinate with the training provider if they want funds to cover registration and travel costs.

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>

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.avertedschoolviolence.org/>

An Introduction to SRO Programs

An interactive online course that provides an overview of the benefits, challenges, and best practices of SRO programs in our nation's schools. The National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) developed the course based on more than 20 years of experience in SRO training.

<https://copstrainingportal.org/project/an-introduction-to-sro-programs>

Readiness and Emergency Management (REMS TA) for Schools Center

Technical assistance hub that provides information, resources, training, and services in the field to law enforcement and schools.

<https://rems.ed.gov/>

National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)

NTAC provides guidance, resources, training, and information sharing on threat assessments to law enforcement, public safety, and academic partners. Includes the 2019 Protecting America's Schools publication.

<https://www.secretservice.gov/protection/ntac/>

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/>

About School Resource Officers

An **SRO** is a career law enforcement officer assigned in a community policing capacity to work in collaboration with schools and community-based organizations to

- **address** crime and disorder problems, gangs, and drug activities affecting or occurring in or around an elementary or secondary school;
- **develop or expand** crime prevention efforts for students;
- **educate** likely school-age victims in crime prevention and safety;
- **develop or expand** community justice initiatives for students;
- **train** students in conflict resolution, restorative justice, and crime awareness;
- **assist** in the identification of physical changes in the environment that may reduce crime in or around the school;
- **assist** in developing school policy that addresses crime and to recommend procedural changes.

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 <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.