



Fact Sheet

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2023 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program

The FY 2023 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP) is designed to advance public safety by providing funds directly to state law enforcement agencies to investigate illicit activities related to the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. For FY 2023 the COPS Office awarded more than \$14.9 million in CAMP award funds to nine state law enforcement agencies. Each award must be at least \$1 million; in addition, each award is three years (36 months) in duration with no local match.

Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names such as crank, speed, ice, or crystal, has been a persistent problem for law enforcement agencies across the United States in recent years. Methamphetamine is cheap and addictive and was traditionally developed in clandestine laboratories that were often located in remote areas. Methamphetamine use spreads quickly, most noticeably in rural areas, largely because of the simple preparation methods used and manufacturers' easy access to the necessary precursor chemicals.

In more recent years, changing trends in methamphetamine production and distribution have created new obstacles for law enforcement and public health agencies. While law enforcement efforts and precursor chemical sale restrictions have been successful in decreasing the domestic production of methamphetamine, foreign drug traffickers have capitalized on this decreased availability by quickly expanding their avenues of methamphetamine distribution as users have sought out new, reliable supplies.¹

As the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration notes, "Methamphetamine price and purity data, as well as law enforcement reporting, all indicate methamphetamine continues to be readily available throughout the United States. Seizures along with drug poisoning deaths involving methamphetamine continue to rise—purity and potency remain high while prices remain relatively low."²

COPS Methamphetamine Awards

Since 1998, the COPS Office has invested more than \$500 million nationwide to combat the spread of methamphetamine. The COPS Office encourages agencies to focus on community policing approaches to methamphetamine reduction. The COPS Office also works directly with state and local law enforcement agencies to craft innovative strategies, track and evaluate their implementation, and disseminate results to other jurisdictions confronting similar challenges. To combat methamphetamine in communities, the COPS Office encourages sites to develop partnerships with other agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, fire departments, local businesses, mental health organizations, child protection services, and other local law enforcement entities. The COPS Office also encourages data collection and information-sharing efforts aimed at better identifying and responding to the needs of drug endangered children.

For example, in previous years the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) used COPS Office funds to provide training to state and local law enforcement professionals on clandestine lab enforcement operations, including basic certification, officer safety, and tactical training. The DEA also used COPS Office funding to improve the clandestine lab information-gathering capabilities of the El Paso Intel-

1. *National Drug Threat Assessment 2011* (Johnstown, PA: National Drug Intelligence Center, 2011), <http://www.justice.gov/archive/ndic/pubs44/44849/44849p.pdf>.

2. *National Drug Threat Assessment 2020* (Washington, DC: Drug Enforcement Administration, 2021), 4, https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-02/DIR-008-21%202020%20National%20Drug%20Threat%20Assessment_WEB.pdf.

ligence Center to carry out regional information-sharing conferences and to assist state and local law enforcement in cleaning up methamphetamine lab sites.

Funding Provisions

In FY 2023, the COPS Office funded more than \$14.9 million in CAMP awards to nine state law enforcement agencies to investigate illicit activities related to methamphetamine manufacture and distribution.

Provisions include the following:

- CAMP competitively provides funds directly to state law enforcement agencies in states with numerous seizures of precursor chemicals, finished methamphetamine, laboratories, and laboratory dump seizures.
- CAMP funding must be used to locate or investigate illicit activities, including precursor diversion, laboratories, or methamphetamine traffickers.
- CAMP funding is not intended for cleanup, treatment programs, or prosecution of methamphetamine-related activities.

Contact the COPS Office

For more information about COPS Office programs, please contact the COPS Office Response Center at AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov or 800-421-6770 or visit the COPS Office website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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

The Methamphetamine Summit: A Process in Collaboration and Decision Making

With an emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration and participatory research, the summit approach is a case study for improved solutions to complex drug problems and holds promise for addressing a wider range of drugs in communities across the country.

<https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=COPS-P207>

Proceedings of the New England Methamphetamine Summit and Listening Post

A crucial component of effective community policing involves collaborating with stakeholders of specific crime problems to bring about the most effective responses. It was in this spirit that the COPS Office sponsored a one-day summit and listening post about methamphetamine in New England states, bringing together multidisciplinary teams from seven states. This document captures both the formal presentations and group discussion that took place at this summit.

<https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=COPS-W0552>

Strategic Efforts to Address Methamphetamine in Indian Country

Methamphetamine use in Indian country is an increasing problem and is involved in about 40 percent of the violent crime on reservations. Strategic Applications International (SAI) brought the Tribal Meth grantees together for a four-day summit in Arizona called "Breaking the Meth Cycle." Attendees focused on prevention, law enforcement, and treatment for meth use. This BOLO discusses the dilemma of limited criminal jurisdiction, as well as the persistent problem of methamphetamine use in Indian country, which has led to a critical increase in violence and crime.

<https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=COPS-W0723>