COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP)— How Decisions were Made to Allocate $15.4 Million When More than $25 Million was Requested

The CAMP solicitation for FY 2024 opened on April 23, 2024, and applications were accepted through June 26, 2024. The COPS Office received applications from 16 eligible state law enforcement agencies requesting $25,425,530 in federal funding for the FY 2024 COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP).

The COPS Office developed an application to meet the requirements of the law

As in the previous fiscal years, CAMP focuses on advancing public safety by providing funds to investigate illicit activities related to the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. Only state law enforcement agencies authorized by law or by a state agency to engage in or supervise anti-methamphetamine investigative activities were eligible to apply for funding.

The COPS Office balanced scoring indicators

Applicants were asked to submit information regarding their jurisdiction's methamphetamine problem on such indicators as

- reported seizures of methamphetamine for the previous three years;
- current anti-methamphetamine investigative activities;
- planned or current involvement in an anti-methamphetamine task force.

The community policing philosophy engages in a proactive and systematic examination of identified problems that can be countered with effective responses. Community policing relies heavily on partnerships and relationships between law enforcement and the community it serves. Narrative questions were designed to examine an agency's formation of collaborations with federal, state, local, or tribal partners such as other law enforcement and public agencies, private organizations, or participation in multijurisdictional task forces. Agencies were asked to identify and describe the types of partnerships they intended to initiate or enhance in order to address their identified methamphetamine problem.

The COPS Office verified the data submitted

The application system contains numerous built-in logic checks to help prevent the submission of erroneous data. In addition, specialists in the COPS Office immediately reviewed submitted application data for irregularities. The COPS Office verified information provided in applications using data from the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This data verification process was crucial to ensuring that all applicants were properly evaluated based on accurately and consistently reported seizure data.

The COPS Office developed a uniform system of evaluating the information that applicants submitted

Comprehensive review

The eligible applications underwent an exhaustive and comprehensive review process.

The panel reviewers evaluated the following criteria in the application to determine the quality of each application:

- Problem identification
- Current methamphetamine investigative activities
- Anti-methamphetamine task force participation
- Collaboration and partnerships
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area threat assessment regarding methamphetamine
- Strategy to achieve program goals
- Applicable and allowable budget items requested

The panel reviewers then developed recommendations based on a rating of "Highly Recommended," "Recommended," or "Not Recommended" for each proposal. All of the agencies ranked within the "Recommended" rating.

Additional Consideration

In FY 2024, the COPS Office provided additional consideration to state, local, and Tribal applicants that implement elements identified in the U.S. Department of Justice's Federal Priorities for Policing Inventory.

Data scoring

The focus for funding was on state-level law enforcement agencies in states with high rates of identified methamphetamine problems as indicated through the following sources of statewide data:

- Number of seizures of precursor chemicals
- Numbers of seizures of finished methamphetamine
- Number of seizures of methamphetamine laboratories
- Number of laboratory dump seizures

State methamphetamine seizure data for all applicants were scored and ranked within their respective recommendation rating categories. A methodology for scoring was established to analyze and rank the seizure data provided in each application. Each category is of equal value, and the data were scored based on the rate of change between each year and the most recent year's data. The following is a classification of each item that was scored:

- Seizure data rates for the past three years
- Seizure rates of precursor chemicals for the past three years
- Seizure rates of finished methamphetamine rate the past three years
- Seizure rates of methamphetamine laboratories for the past three years
- Laboratory dump seizure rates for the past three years

A methodology for the methamphetamine seizure rates was established to analyze and rank the seizure data provided in each application. A median, using the data for the states in which applications were received, was determined using the states' multiple methamphetamine seizure numbers identified here. Applications were then ranked using the following criteria:

1. Applicants that received a "highly recommended" rating and had a number for the total methamphetamine seizures at or above the median for all applicants meeting the basic minimum requirements
2. Applicants that received a "recommended" rating and had a number for the total methamphetamine seizures at or above the median for all applicants meeting the basic minimum requirements
3. Applicants that received a "highly recommended" rating and had a number for the total methamphetamine seizures below the median for all applicants meeting the basic minimum requirements
4. Applicants that received a "recommended" rating and had a number for the total methamphetamine seizures below the median for all applicants meeting the basic minimum requirements