



Fact Sheet

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COPS Office–Funded 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, technical assistance, and training. The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) and the Tribal Resources Grant Program—Hire (TRGP–Hire) include awards for agencies to deploy school resource officers (SRO) to school districts across the country.

To ensure COPS Office–funded SROs have the resources and knowledge necessary for their position, the COPS Office mandates that all officers funded by CHP and TRGP awards complete the SRO basic training course conducted by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). 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/TRGP-funded SRO to the law enforcement agency. For additional information about NASRO training, visit their website at <https://www.nasro.org>.

How to Receive Funding

All agencies funding SROs through a CHP or TRGP award will receive information about the SRO training requirement in their award terms and conditions, as well as in the CHP or TRGP Award Owner’s Manual (AOM). NASRO staff will conduct email and telephone outreach to all funded agencies with information about the NASRO Basic Training Schedule. 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 SRO MOU Fact Sheet describing the contents of this MOU can be found on the COPS Office website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/>.

Award Condition

COPS Office-funded SRO(s) are required to complete an SRO 40-hour basic 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 last 12 months prior to the award date, the condition has been fulfilled. Any longer than 12 months will require the officers to retake the course. The agency must coordinate with the training provider if they want funds to cover registration and travel costs.

If your agency fails to comply with the SRO basic training within the specified timeframe, the COPS Office may temporarily suspend grant funds or take other remedial actions in accordance with 2 C.F.R. §200.339 until your agency complies with this requirement.

After an SRO is selected for the COPS Office–funded position, the agency should contact the NASRO office (888-31-NASRO) and request to speak with the COPS Office grant coordinator about scheduling officer training. The agency will 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 the agency CHP or TRGP Program Manager and AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov.

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.

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 improve school safety and support a positive learning environment for K–12 students. The primary responsibilities of an SRO are as follows:

- **Law enforcement.** Promote safety in and around the school campus by addressing crime and crime prevention. Act as liaison to community support services.
- **Mentorship.** Be a trusted adult on campus who works to reinforce positive behaviors and build relationships.
- **Education.** Provide instruction on topics related to law enforcement and safety in the community.
- **Emergency management.** Develop and implement comprehensive safety plans in collaboration with local first responders and school administrators.

Additional Information

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 (REMSTA) 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/>

Contact the COPS Office

For more information about CHP or TRGP, 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>.