



# Fact Sheet

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## 2025 COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force Program

Since its launch in 2015, the COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program has invested more than \$267 million to combat the opioid epidemic in the United States. AHTF provides funding directly to state law enforcement agencies in states with high per capita rates of primary treatment admissions to support statewide collaborative efforts to locate and investigate illicit activities involving the distribution of heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil and the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids. For FY 2025, the COPS Office received 30 eligible applications requesting more than \$72.1 million and ultimately awarded \$37,578,501 in AHTF funds to 15 state law enforcement agencies.

Each award is three years (36 months) in duration with no local match. In addition, each award was limited to no more than \$4 million.

### Background

The COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program advances public safety by providing competitive grants to state law enforcement agencies in states with high rates of heroin and other illicit opioid trafficking, supporting multi-jurisdictional investigations, interdiction, and intelligence-led enforcement efforts. Although heroin seizures in the United States have been declining since 2020, the 2025 National Drug Threat Assessment (<https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2025-07/2025NationalDrugThreatAssessment.pdf>) shows that the presence of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids has steadily increased over the same period, reinforcing the need for targeted AHTF enforcement activities.

According to the DEA, in 2023, illicit opioids, primarily fentanyl, cost Americans an estimated **\$2.7 trillion**, nearly 10 percent of U.S. GDP (The White House, "The Staggering Cost of the Illicit Opioid Epidemic in the United States," <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/the-staggering-cost-of-the-illicit-opioid-epidemic-in-the-united-states>), and illicit opioids remain the leading cause of drug overdose deaths, with synthetic opioids responsible for about 60 percent of all overdose deaths in 2024, underscoring the critical role of AHTF-funded enforcement efforts (U.S. GAO, "Fentanyl Continues to be the Leading Cause of

Overdose Deaths," <https://www.gao.gov/blog/fentanyl-continues-be-leading-cause-overdose-deaths.-whats-being-done-combat-trafficking-united-states>).

Opioids are a class of natural, semi-synthetic, and synthetic drugs that includes both prescription medications and illegal drugs like heroin; however, like illegal opioids, prescription opioids can be addictive, particularly if they are misused.<sup>1</sup>

### Funding Provisions

Provisions include the following:

- AHTF competitively provides funds directly to state law enforcement agencies in states with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, or other opioids.
- AHTF funding must be used for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin, fentanyl, carfentanil, or other opioids; the unlawful distribution of prescription opioids; or unlawful diversion and distribution of prescription opioids.

1. National Institute on Drug Abuse, "What are Opioids?" accessed September 30, 2025, <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/opioids#opioids>.

- AHTF provides funds to state law enforcement agencies with multijurisdictional reach and interdisciplinary team (e.g., task force) structures. These state law enforcement agencies must have primary law enforcement authority over heroin and other opioid seizures and investigations.
- AHTF funding cannot be used for treatment programs or prosecution of heroin and other opioid-related activities.

State and local government entities must comply with 8 U.S.C. § 1373, which provides that state and local government entities may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, receiving from, maintaining, or exchanging information regarding citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual with components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any other federal, state or local government entity. This includes any prohibitions or restrictions imposed or established by a state or local government entity or official.

Additional consideration was provided to applicants that cooperate with federal law enforcement to address illegal immigration.

See the Application Review Information on page 16 of the original NOFO (<https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2025ProgramDocs/AHTF/nofo.pdf>) for detailed information on the application review and award selection process.

## Contact the COPS Office

For more information about COPS Office programs, please contact the COPS Office Response Center at [AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov](mailto: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 heroin and other opioids:

### Policing on the Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis

Law enforcement officers play three important roles on the front lines of the opioid epidemic: They are responsible for emergency response and preserving public safety as well as law enforcement. This report discusses the challenge of reconciling the conflicts that can arise among these roles and presents recommendations for alleviating these difficulties and improving law enforcement response to the opioid crisis.

<https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=cops-p451>

### Rank and File: Reflections on Emerging Issues in Law Enforcement

40 rank-and-file officers from departments across the country met for a roundtable discussion exploring a range of issues from the viewpoint of those who work on the ground. This document captures the group discussion about ways in which officers, law enforcement leaders, and communities can work together to reduce crime—in particular illegal immigration, drug trafficking, and violent crime.

<https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=cops-w0868>

### Building Successful Partnerships Between Law Enforcement and Public Health Agencies to Address Opioid Use

The COPS Office hosted the Law Enforcement and Public Health: Successful Partnerships in Addressing Opioid Use Forum in partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Police Executive Research Forum. Participants—who included representatives from public health agencies, law enforcement executives, and other stakeholders—discussed the establishment of treatment and prevention partnerships, the use of naloxone deployment programs, and best practices to mitigate drug use. They also discussed methods for sharing access to data and intelligence. This report not only documents the discussions but also describes innovative programs based on collaboration between the public health and public safety sectors.

<https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=cops-p356>