



Pre-Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for 2026 COPS Office Community Policing Development Microgrants Program

Q. Are all law enforcement agencies eligible to apply for this funding opportunity?

- A. The funding opportunity is open only to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority for their jurisdiction.

Q. How do I determine if my agency has primary law enforcement authority?

- A. An agency with primary law enforcement authority is defined as the first responder to calls for service for all types of criminal incidents within its jurisdiction. Agencies are not considered to have primary law enforcement authority if they only respond to or investigate specific type(s) of crime(s), respond to or investigate crimes within a correctional institution, serve warrants, provide courthouse security, transport prisoners, have cases referred to them for investigation or investigational support, or some combination of these.

Q. My agency does not have primary law enforcement authority. Can we partner with an agency that is eligible to apply?

- A. Yes, partnerships are highly encouraged. If your agency does not have primary law enforcement authority, it can partner with an agency that is eligible to apply. Please keep in mind that the application must be submitted by the agency with primary law enforcement authority.

Q. Are there any youth-specific requirements?

- A. Yes. Youth-centered projects that involve interactions with minors under the age of 18 years will be subject to a special award condition requiring recipients and subrecipients to make determinations of suitability before certain covered individuals interact with participating minors in the course of activities funded under the award.

Q. My agency knows there's a problem, but isn't sure yet how to address or solve it. Can Microgrants help with that?

- A. Yes! CPD Microgrants can be used to help identify the best way to address a problem. Applicants need to explain the steps they will take to identify the problem/solution, and any efforts they anticipate occurring after.

Q. I have a problem I want to address, but it does not fit cleanly within one of the specific subcategories listed in the NOFO guide, or does not fit any of the subcategories. What should I do?

A. If your proposed project fits multiple subcategories, pick the subcategory that you think is the most applicable. If your project does not fit any subcategory, please note that the COPS Office is only looking to fund projects within these subcategories in this fiscal year. Full descriptions of the subcategories are available on the COPS Office website and in the NOFO.

For the [FY26 COPS Office Notice of Funding Opportunity Frequently Asked Questions](#) visit our [How To Apply](#) page.

Questions? For technical assistance with submitting the **full application** in JustGrants, contact the JustGrants Service Desk at JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov or 833-872-5175. The JustGrants Service Desk operates 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. eastern time (ET) Monday to Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET on Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays.

For programmatic and general assistance with the notice of funding opportunity requirements, contact the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or by email at AskCOPSRC@usdoj.gov. The Response Center's hours of operation are Monday–Friday (except U.S. Federal Government holidays; see <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/federal-holidays/>) from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The Response Center will remain open on the notice of funding opportunity closing date until 4:59 p.m. ET.