



Pre-Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for 2026 COPS Office Collaborative Reform Initiative Program

Q. Will the COPS Office accept any applications that propose the management of all programs under the Collaborative Reform Initiative (CRI-TAC, Critical Response, and Enhanced Training) under one organization?

A. No. An application should only address one CRI program, but applicants are not prohibited from submitting applications under multiple notices of funding opportunity. While the programs are designed to be complementary technical assistance services offered by the COPS Office, they are nonetheless intended to be distinct from each other. At present, the COPS Office is only accepting competitive applications for the Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC) and Critical Response programs.

Q. What are the differences between CRI-TAC, Critical Response, and Enhanced Training?

A. The key differences in the programs center around the qualifications of the technical assistance providers supporting them and the scope of technical assistance each offers.

CRI-TAC is a “by the field, for the field” program that is supported specifically and intentionally by law enforcement stakeholder associations. The types of technical assistance offered under this program includes training, peer exchanges, limited-scope policy reviews, and assistance on a variety of strategic and operational issues. Technical assistance engagements are largely internal to the requesting agency and are targeted to be completed within six months.

Critical Response is a technical assistance program intended to assist agencies that are encountering challenging circumstances, such as the aftermath of a critical incident, and are in need of an independent examination of the incident—for example, through an after-action review or assistance with a specific aspect of agency operations.

The **Enhanced Training** program offers a suite of innovative new online enhanced training experiences for law enforcement professionals nationwide that focus on implementing organizational and operational improvements and measuring outcomes in short amounts of time (between three and six months). They are conducted through a series of regularly scheduled virtual trainings which include specific projects developed by the participants. The key features of this new online enhanced training experience include training in cohorts, flexible scheduling, blended learning, and access to trainers and other experts throughout the training experience. Enhanced training courses are designed to maximize outcomes, implementation of new concepts, meaningful participation, and sustainability.

Q. What does the COPS Office mean by “Ability to ensure independence and objectivity throughout the project; the provider must take steps to demonstrate and ensure that they will operate as an independent third party in the review of the law enforcement agency and not be subject to undue influence by stakeholders who may have an interest in the outcome of the reviews”?

A. Successful applicants will have a track record of and reputation for being independent and objective arbiters of facts through the implementation of rigorous organizational assessments. The public should have confidence that the findings and recommendations being provided are not unduly influenced by the law enforcement agency under review or other stakeholders. However, successful applicants should also have a track record of building successful and sustainable partnerships with law enforcement agencies to implement organizational reforms.

Q. Will award recipients be required to establish and maintain a website that documents program activity?

A. No. The website will be administered by the COPS Office. The award recipients will be required to provide timely updates to the COPS Office for inclusion on the website.

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 solicitation 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. ET. The Response Center will remain open on the solicitation closing date until 4:59 p.m. ET.