

COPS Office FY 2026 FY26 Collaborative Reform Initiative (CRI) Program

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-COPS-2026-172548

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

- 1: Complete SF-424 and Submit in Grants.gov: **August 24, 2026, by 4:59 p.m. ET**
 - 2: Submit full application in JustGrants: **August 31, 2026, by 4:59 p.m. ET**
-



COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

Contents

1. Basic Information	3
2. Eligibility	8
3. Program Description.....	10
4. Application Contents and Format	13
5. Submission Requirements and Deadlines	15
6. Application Review information	16
7. Award Notices	16
8. Post-Award Requirements and Administration.....	16
9. Questions?	16

1. BASIC INFORMATION

Purpose of the Funding

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing and the Administration's priority of Making America Safe Again by supporting the nation's state, local, territorial and Tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

The FY26 Collaborative Reform Initiative (CRI) program funding seeks to provide best practices of law enforcement agencies and the many ways they are protecting Americans, enhance officer safety and wellness, build agencies' capacity for self-improvement and effectiveness, and promote community policing practices nationwide.

This funding opportunity has two program categories of which applicants may apply for funding:

- **Category 1: Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC).**
- **Category 2: Collaborative Reform Initiative Critical Response.**

For more information about these programs, visit

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/collaborativereform>.

See the [Eligible Applicants](#) section for eligibility details.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Category 1: Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC)

The Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC) program provides critical and tailored technical assistance resources to state, local, campus, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies on a wide variety of topics. It uses a “by the field, for the field” approach to deliver individualized technical assistance from leading experts in a range of topics.

Requirements

The COPS Office seeks proposals from applicants to provide guidance, support, and logistics to deliver technical assistance directly to law enforcement agencies over the course of the award. Each technical assistance engagement will be unique, varied in scope, and tailored to meet the needs of the requesting agency.

Applicants should deliver assistance as quickly and efficiently as possible, providing technical assistance to assist law enforcement agencies with the topics agencies identify as most critical to improve their ability to conduct their crime-fighting and public safety mission.

The applicant must have the capacity to develop and manage a cadre of seasoned and nationally respected law enforcement and public safety subject matter experts and trainers, have experience working with law enforcement agencies as expert consultants, and have the ability to deliver direct technical assistance. In addition, the applicant must exhibit the flexibility to provide technical assistance to sites on a wide variety of issues and have a thorough understanding of community policing and the other specialized crime and law enforcement topics that will be offered through this program. The applicant must also demonstrate experience and capacity to manage ongoing and concurrent technical assistance efforts across the country.

The applicant may be asked to develop and produce documents summarizing best and emerging practice guidance and considerations around the requested technical assistance topic(s). These user-friendly documents would contain actionable and practical guidance tailored for law enforcement executives and practitioners, with a focus on the production of information of immediate value to the law enforcement agency.

Applicants must demonstrate their capacity to develop and manage an intake, selection, site management, and technical assistance delivery process for agencies requesting technical assistance.

Applicants must describe how they will assess the effectiveness of the technical assistance delivered in addressing law enforcement recipients' identified needs and challenges.

Consideration will be given to budget proposals that maximize the direct funding that supports technical assistance to state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement agencies.

Applicants must demonstrate their capacity to assist agencies by bringing to bear best practices, subject-matter expertise, training, and other resources that have a clear and articulable nexus to effective law enforcement operations, public safety needs, and crime reduction goals. Applicants must also identify the proposed technical assistance methods they will use in providing support on the identified community policing, public safety, and crime-reduction topics.

Applicants should demonstrate their ability to provide state, local, campus, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies with targeted, customized technical assistance

The provider should have the capacity and expertise to deliver technical assistance in the CRI-TAC general, sheriff-specific, and tribal-specific topics. To see the lists of topics, please see the "Areas of Assistance" section at www.cops.usdoj.gov/CRI-TAC.

Projects Out of Scope

The following will not be considered:

- Applicants that are state, local, tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies.
- Proposals that are not national in scope.
- Applicants unable to demonstrate the capacity to manage substantial and concurrent technical assistance to law enforcement agencies on a range of law enforcement, public safety, and crime reduction topics.
- Applicants that have predetermined law enforcement agencies to provide reform and TA services.

Category 2: Collaborative Reform Initiative Critical Response

The Critical Response program is designed to provide targeted TA to law enforcement agencies experiencing high-profile events, major incidents, or sensitive issues of varying need. Critical Response will be highly customizable by providing flexible assistance to law enforcement agencies that have recently experienced a critical incident or identified an issue of significant concern in their department's operations.

Requirements

A Critical Response program provider should be able to provide a wide range of state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies with targeted, customized TA that generally falls into three categories: (1) immediate delivery of technical assistance to address a pressing and acute need, (2) data analysis, and (3) assessments, to include after-action reviews to understand and learn from law enforcement and public safety responses to critical incidents or issues. Critical Response is available to agencies upon voluntary request by the law enforcement executive or their representative and is available at no cost to the agency.

Immediate Delivery of Technical Assistance

Through the immediate delivery of technical assistance, the applicant will provide assistance by connecting law enforcement leaders with subject matter experts and counterparts who have experience with addressing similar issues as part of a peer-to-peer discussion and information exchange process. These meetings will offer law enforcement leaders a mechanism to discreetly discuss and share ideas and advice on issues like incident management, tactical operations, communicating to the public and media, and promoting officer wellness following an incident.

Critical Response will also support extending the delivery of technical expertise and ideas by connecting law enforcement with other experts across a range of topics, including by facilitating on-site meetings and briefings inside the agency or sponsoring travel to other agencies to allow for firsthand observations and discussions to see how

others are addressing certain issues. In addition, TA may entail helping the agency executive with community outreach and engagement. Finally, this form of TA will also be able to facilitate the delivery of training related to topics of need.

Data Analysis

Critical Response will support data analysis as requested by agencies in areas such as traffic stops, recruitment efforts, and arrests. This TA will involve collecting, cleaning, and analyzing necessary data as well as presenting the analysis in a manner that is understood by all stakeholders. This TA will also involve drafting an agency deliverable summarizing the analysis, findings, and any recommendations. In addition, TA may entail assisting the agency in analyzing their own data.

Assessments/After-Action Reviews

Critical Response will also support after-action reviews of the law enforcement response to critical incidents when a law enforcement agency demonstrates that this objective review would be beneficial. Through these after-action reviews, a provider will work closely with the local law enforcement agency and other stakeholders to document their approaches, provide feedback on strategies and tactics that were found to work, and identify areas where best and promising practices could be employed in the future.

After-action reviews will be conducted within the general framework described in the COPS Office publication [How to Conduct an After Action Review](#).

Projects Out of Scope

The following will not be considered:

- Applicants that are state, local, tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies.
- Proposals that are not national in scope.
- Applicants unable to demonstrate the capacity to manage substantial and concurrent technical assistance to law enforcement agencies on a range of law enforcement, public safety, and crime reduction topics.
- Applicants unable to demonstrate experience conducting law enforcement technical assistance, analysis, and after-actions.
- Applicants that have predetermined law enforcement agencies to provide reform and technical assistance services.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	Initial
Assistance Listing Number	16.710
Statutory Authority	Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and the Violent Crime Control and Law

	Enforcement Act of 1994, Title I, Part Q, Public Law 103-322, 34 U.S.C. § 10381 et seq.
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-COPS-2026-172548
Expected Total Amount of Funding	\$4,200,000
Anticipated Number of Awards Anticipated Award Amount	Category 1: FY26 Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center • Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 1 • Anticipated Award Amount: Up to \$3,450,000 • Award Type: Cooperative Agreement Category 2: FY26 Collaborative Reform Initiative Critical Response • Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 1 • Anticipated Award Amount: Up to \$750,000 • Award Type: Cooperative Agreement
Award Type(s)	Cooperative Agreement
Expected Award Period(s)	12 months starting on October 1, 2026

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	12:00 p.m. ET on July 14, 2026
Pre-application Webinar	April 14, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	04:59 p.m. ET on August 24, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	04:59 p.m. ET on August 31, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	On or after October 1, 2026

See [Questions?](#) at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Category 1: Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC)

Eligibility for the FY26 Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRITAC) program is limited to law enforcement stakeholder associations (membership organizations).

- Nonprofit Organizations
 - Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
 - Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- For-Profit Organizations
- Organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses
- Other

“Other” Entities Definition(s)

Small Businesses: Small business grants may be awarded to companies meeting the [size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) for most industries in the economy.

Category 2: Collaborative Reform Initiative Critical Response

Eligibility for the FY26 Collaborative Reform Initiative (CRI): Critical Response program is limited to for-profit (commercial) organizations, nonprofit organizations, and institutions of higher education. For-profit organizations (as well as other recipients) must forgo any profit or management fee.

Educational Organizations

- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
- Private institutions of higher education

Nonprofit Organizations

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education

For-Profit Organizations

- Organizations other than small businesses
- Small businesses

Other

“Other” Entities Definition(s)

Small Businesses: Small business grants may be awarded to companies meeting the [size standards established by the U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) for most industries in the economy.

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement: This NOFO does **not** require cost sharing (match).

Additional Eligibility Factors

- State and local governmental 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.

See [Additional Application Components](#) for how to submit.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Title I, Part Q, Public Law 103-322, 34 U.S.C. § 10381 et seq.

Agency Funding Priorities

Consistent with Administration priorities, additional consideration will be provided to the following:

- Organizations that cooperate with federal law enforcement to address illegal immigration. This includes agencies that have a Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) delegating limited immigration officer authority and allowing access and notice to DHS personnel for agencies that operate detention and correctional facilities.
- Agencies that coordinate and participate with the Homeland Security Task Force (HSTF) or, if awarded, plan to coordinate and participate with the HSTF.

Note: Addressing these priorities is one of many factors that the COPS Office considers in making funding decisions. Receiving priority consideration does not guarantee funding.

Unallowable Activities: The COPS Office has identified activities that are unallowable and will not be funded: read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for details. In addition, refer to the [Budget](#) section in this NOFO for information on allowable and unallowable costs to help you develop your application.

Goals and Objectives of this Funding Opportunity

Goal 1: To provide technical assistance to law enforcement agencies seeking to identify and implement organizational improvements.

- Objective 1: To develop and implement training and peer-based learning opportunities that increase officer expertise and enhance agency operations.
- Objective 2: To provide expert consultation, analysis, and assessment of law enforcement agency policy and operations.

Expected Outcomes

The COPS Office expects recipients to submit deliverables and performance reports, as described below. Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for more information. The COPS Office will measure success by reviewing a recipient's submission of performance reports and data and the extent to which project implementation reflects progress toward the goals and objectives of this NOFO.

Deliverables

Category 1: Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC)

Under the CRI-TAC program, the provider should be able to deliver targeted, customized technical assistance (TA) to state, local, campus, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. TA will generally fall into the following categories:

- **Conference support.** Support participation in training conferences and other educational meetings.
- **Consultation (virtual/on-site).** Collaborate with agency leadership and other law enforcement personnel to provide guidance on promising and emerging practices and deliver tailored solutions.
- **In-person training.** Deliver live direct training or train-the-trainer courses, customized for the needs of the agency.
- **Meeting facilitation.** Support meetings among agency personnel and other public and private sector stakeholders.
- **Mentoring.** Provide requesting agency with one-on-one mentoring for law enforcement leadership.
- **Peer exchanges.** Coordinate law enforcement personnel to interact with and learn from peers involved in the same line of work or area of responsibility.
- **Policy assistance.** Assist in reviewing current policies or developing ones.
- **Resource referral.** Provide requestor with guides, documentation, toolkits, reports, and other relevant publications that fall within the identified topic(s).
- **Web-based training.** Provide pre-recorded webinars, live online training, and virtual information briefings.

The provider should have the capacity and expertise to deliver technical assistance in the CRI-TAC general, sheriff-specific, and tribal-specific topics. To see the lists, please see the “Areas of Assistance” section at www.cops.usdoj.gov/CRI-TAC.

The project should focus on the following deliverables:

- Program management processes such as tracking dashboards; written standard operating procedures (SOP); and assessment and methodological templates, tools, and protocols for consistent technical assistance
- Subject matter expert database
- Delivery of immediate technical assistance, data analysis, and after-action reviews to requesting law enforcement agencies
- Site-specific work plans including timelines, staffing, and budgets
- Site-specific deliverables such as onsite agendas, after-action review reports, data analytical reports, and other agency deliverables
- Closeout reports

Category 2: Collaborative Reform Initiative Critical Response

The Critical Response program is designed to provide targeted TA to law enforcement agencies experiencing high-profile events, or major incidents. Critical Response will be highly customizable by providing flexible assistance to law enforcement agencies that have recently experienced a critical incident or identified an issue of significant concern in their department's operations.

Under the Critical Response program, the provider should be able to deliver targeted, customized TA to a wide range of state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. TA will generally fall into three categories:

- Immediate delivery of technical assistance to address a pressing and acute need
- Data analysis
- After-action reviews to understand and learn from law enforcement and public safety responses to critical incidents or issues. Critical Response is available to agencies upon voluntary request by the law enforcement executive or their representative and is available at no cost to the agency.

The project should focus on the following deliverables:

- Program management processes such as tracking dashboards; written standard operating procedures (SOP); and assessment and methodological templates, tools, and protocols for consistent technical assistance
- Subject matter expert database
- Delivery of immediate technical assistance, data analysis, and after-action reviews to requesting law enforcement agencies

- Site-specific work plans including timelines, staffing, and budgets
- Site-specific deliverables such as onsite agendas, after-action review reports, data analytical reports, and other agency deliverables
- Closeout reports

Project deliverable(s) should be clearly identified and described in the application proposal narrative.

Substantial Involvement of Federal Agency: The COPS Office expects to make the awards under this NOFO as a cooperative agreement, which allows the COPS Office to have substantial involvement in carrying out the project. Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for a discussion of this involvement and related award conditions.

4. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Application Contents List

The COPS Office will only consider applications that contain all required parts, which are marked ***REQUIRED*** below. Refer to the [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) for application instructions. All supporting documents and resources for this program are on the COPS Office website: <https://cops.usdoj.gov/CRIprogram>.

Please **do not** include any content, including attachments or language within your application, commenting on, modifying, challenging, and/or editing the grant requirements, including the terms and conditions. Such content, if included, will not be **reviewed or considered** when evaluating your application, nor will any attachment from an applicant unilaterally change the terms of a grant if awarded.

Application Item	Submission Type
Step 1: Grants.gov	
Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 *REQUIRED*	Online Form
Step 2: JustGrants	
Standard Applicant Information *REQUIRED*	Online Form
Proposal Abstract *REQUIRED*	Text Box
Data Requested with Application *REQUIRED* - FY26 CR-CRITAC Eligibility - FY26 CPA Information - CPA General Solicitation Questions	Online Form
Proposal Narrative *REQUIRED*	Attachment
Budget *REQUIRED*	Online Form
Other Budget/Financial Attachments - Budget Narrative *REQUIRED* - Non-Competitive Justification (if applicable) - Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) - Consultant Rate (if applicable)	Attachment
Memorandum of Understanding (if applicable)	Attachment
Additional Application Components - Curricula Vitae or Résumés: for all key personnel, subject matter experts or evaluators/academics outside of the organization *REQUIRED* - Project Timeline (timeline of activities mapped to the goals and objectives of the proposed project) *REQUIRED* - Letters of Support: (recommended for multi-jurisdictional/multi-agency projects) Optional	Attachment

Standard Applicant Information *REQUIRED*

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Proposal Abstract *REQUIRED*

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Data Requested with Application *REQUIRED*

A copy of the survey questions required for this NOFO can be found at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/CRIprogram>.

Proposal Narrative *REQUIRED*

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Budget and Associated Documentation *REQUIRED*

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Budget/Financial Attachments

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Supporting Documents

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Additional Application Components

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

Disclosures and Assurances

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for full details on this section.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The [DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist](#) provides instructions for how to submit by the deadlines. [Executive Order \(E.O.\) 12372](#) (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) applies to this funding opportunity.

Read COPS Office policy for applicants to request late submission due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disasters in the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#).

6. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) explains the responsiveness review, review criteria, and review and selection process, including risk review and deciding official.

7. AWARD NOTICES

Read about the award notification process in the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#).

8. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Read the [FY 26 Collaborative Reform Initiative \(CRI\) Program Resource Guide](#) for more information about standard award terms and conditions, administrative and national policy requirements, and post-award reporting requirements.

9. QUESTIONS?

NOFO Contact	COPS Office Response Center Phone: 800-421-6770 Email: AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday – Friday (closed federal holidays)
SAM.gov Help Desk	Website: https://sam.gov/content/help Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday – Friday
Grants.gov Help Desk	Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov Website: https://www.grants.gov/support Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)
JustGrants Help Desk	Phone: 833-872-5175 Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday – Friday (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays)