



Pre-Award Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for 2026 COPS Office Safer Outcomes: Enhancing Crisis Response Training for Law Enforcement

Q. What is the goal of this funding opportunity?

- A. This program promotes safe outcomes during police encounters through relevant training. Awards will be made to law enforcement agencies seeking to implement training, mental health co-response programs, and related supports.

This funding opportunity includes three categories:

- Support for Law Enforcement Agencies
- Curriculum Integration for Law Enforcement Academies and State-Level Training Commissions
- Continuation of Regional De-Escalation Training Centers

Each category is described in more detail under each category heading; however, all funding requests must address one or more of the following areas of focus.

- De-escalation tactics and alternatives to use of force
- Safely responding to an individual experiencing a mental or behavioral health or suicidal crisis
- Safe encounters with individuals with disabilities
- Successfully participating on a crisis intervention team
- Making referrals to community-based services and supports

Support for Law Enforcement Agencies

Q. What is the purpose of the Support for Law Enforcement Agencies category?

- A. To support training programs and related funding requests under one or more of the above areas of focus.

Q. Who can receive training funded by this opportunity?

- A. Training is supported for law enforcement officers, support personnel employed by law enforcement agencies, and mental health professionals working on crisis intervention teams as employees of a law enforcement agency or under a legal agreement with a law enforcement agency.

Q. What are some examples of costs eligible for funding under this opportunity?

- A. Examples of costs eligible for funding include, but are not limited to the following:
- Hiring training providers that meet with the COPS Office approval process
 - Overtime to support training of sworn and professional personnel
 - Supply costs associated with the development or delivery of training
 - Equipment that enhances the training or evaluation of training. The purchase of equipment or technology without connection to a broader training program that addresses one or more of the areas of focus will not be funded.
 - Equipment, supplies, personnel costs, and contracts for embedded mental health co-responder teams
 - Programs associated with data analysis or after-action reviews of use of force incidents, provided that the agency identify how these processes will support de-escalation and crisis response strategies within the agency
 - Partnerships with research entities intended to evaluate departmental use of force or training programs on covered topics

Q. Are there any post-award requirements for the Safer Outcomes – Supporting Law Enforcement Agencies program?

- A. Award recipients will be required to
- obtain approval from the COPS Office on the specific training provider or curriculum before committing funding to a provider;
 - coordinate with the COPS Office and selected providers to advance the implementation of a national program for certifying de-escalation and crisis response training, as required by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act (LEDTA). (For more information about LEDTA, please visit <https://LEDTAtraining.org>);
 - obtain approval from the COPS Office for any clinicians hired or contracted using COPS Office funds.

Curriculum Integration for Law Enforcement Academies and State-Level Training Commissions

Q. What is the purpose of the Curriculum Integration for Law Enforcement Academies and State-Level Training Commissions category?

- A. This program promotes safe outcomes during police encounters through the integration of de-escalation and crisis response training into the curriculum of law enforcement academies and state-level training commissions. Partnerships with experts in adult learning concepts and curriculum development are highly encouraged. Awards under this category will be made through two funding paths:

Category 1: The Academy path will make awards to law enforcement training academies that deliver a curriculum of basic law enforcement instruction required for certification and employment in sworn officer positions for state, local, tribal, or territorial law enforcement agencies.

Category 2: The Commission path will make awards to state-level regulatory bodies with the authority to establish training standards or mandate training curriculum for law enforcement officers in the state, commonly referred to as Police Officer Standards and Training Commissions or Peace Officer Standards and Training Commissions (POST).

Regardless of the path selected, supported training programs must address one or more of the areas of focus outlined on page 1.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for Law Enforcement Academy Curriculum Integration grants?

- A. Eligibility is limited to law enforcement training academies or state-level regulatory bodies with the authority to establish training standards or mandate training curriculum for law enforcement:
- Government Entities
 - State governments
 - County governments
 - City or township governments
 - Special district governments
 - Native American Tribal governments (federally recognized)
 - Native American Tribal governments (other than federally recognized)
 - Other

Q. Where can I get more information on integrating curricula?

- A. For more information on curriculum integration, applicants are encouraged to visit the COPS Office Resource Center and access the publication *Improving Learning Outcomes in Police Academy Training*, <https://portal.cops.usdoj.gov/resourcecenter?item=cops-r1138>.

Q. Are there any post-award requirements for the Law Enforcement Academy Curriculum Integration Grants program?

A. Award recipients will be required to

- provide evidence of academy curriculum integration or statewide curriculum/standards integration, and the results of any evaluations conducted;
- coordinate with the COPS Office and selected providers to advance the implementation of a national program for certifying de-escalation and crisis response training, as required by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act (LEDTA). (For more information about LEDTA, please visit <https://LEDTAtraining.org>);
- share results and experiences with other law enforcement professionals to share in a culture of mutual learning.

Continuation of Regional De-Escalation Training Centers

Q. What is the purpose of the Continuation of Regional De-Escalation Training Centers category?

A. This program promotes safe outcomes during police encounters through relevant training. Awards will be made to recipients seeking to implement training and related supports. Awards under this category will be made through two funding paths:

Path 1: Continuation of Regional De-escalation Training Centers path will provide continuation funding for the provision of training and programming to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies in a multistate region.

Path 2: Continuation and Coordination of Regional De-escalation Training Centers path will provide continuation funding for the provision of training and programming to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies in a multistate region. Additionally, under this path, funding will be provided to support and coordinate with the other Regional De-escalation Training Centers to foster ongoing communication and consistency across centers as well as develop other training deliverables as outlined in the NOFO.

Regardless of the path selected, supported training programs must address one or more of the areas of focus as outlined on page 1.

Q. Who is eligible to apply for funding as a Regional De-Escalation Training Center?

A. Eligibility is limited to organizations that have received funding from the Safer Outcomes or Regional De-Escalation Training Centers programs in prior fiscal years (FY21–FY25). Any organizations that are not previously funded Regional De-Escalation Training Centers will not be considered for funding.

Q. Who is trained by Regional De-Escalation Training Centers?

A. Training is supported for law enforcement officers, support personnel employed by law enforcement agencies, campus public safety officers, and associated mental health professionals.

Q. Do I need to submit two applications if I plan to apply under Path 2 of the Regional De-Escalation Training Centers category?

- A. No. If you are applying under path 2, you need to submit two project narrative attachments. The first project narrative (up to 10 pages) should meet all the requirements for path 1. The second project narrative (up to 5 pages) should express your interest and capability to be the coordinator.

In addition, you need to submit two budget narrative attachments. The first budget narrative should only cover path 1 (up to \$500,000). The second budget narrative should cover the coordination activities and requirements (up to \$250,000). The budget narrative attachments must include the breakdown and justification for both budgets. The budget submitted in JustGrants should reflect one consolidated budget covering both segments of path 1 and path 2.

Q. Are there any post-award requirements for the Regional De-Escalation Training Centers?

- A. Award recipients will be required to
- obtain approval from the COPS Office on the specific training provider or curriculum before committing funding to a provider;
 - coordinate with the COPS Office and selected providers to advance the implementation of a national program for certifying de-escalation and crisis response training, as required by the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act (LEDTA). (For more information about LEDTA, please visit <https://LEDTAtraining.org>.)

For the FY26 COPS Office Funding Opportunities 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 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 opportunity closing date until 4:59 p.m. ET.