



SELF-ASSESSING YOUR COMMUNITY POLICING: AN IMPORTANT COPS OFFICE RESOURCE

Capturing and measuring community policing implementation has long been a challenge, in spite of the benefits in supporting strategic planning, training, and other initiatives. To date, there has been no easy way of assessing the extent to which law enforcement agencies are successfully practicing community policing. However, the COPS Office has worked with practitioners and others to develop the Community Policing Self-Assessment Tool (CP-SAT), which will help agencies perform a self-assessment of their implementation of community policing.

This assessment tool is in the form of an online survey that is completed by staff at all levels of an organization, which allows for a comprehensive and objective picture of partnership, problem solving, and organizational change successes, as well as areas that agencies may consider improving upon.

The CP-SAT is organized into three short modules that correspond to the three primary community policing elements:

- **Community Partnerships.** The community partnerships module assesses the extent to which agency staff support and develop collaborative relationships among individuals and organizations in the community.
- **Problem Solving.** The problem-solving module measures the degree to which there is agency-wide commitment to go beyond traditional police responses to crime to proactively address a multitude of problems that adversely affect quality of life.
- **Organizational Transformation.** The organizational transformation module measures the extent to which the agency environment, personnel, practices and policies are supportive of community policing philosophy and activities.

Beginning with FY 2011, the COPS Office will work with all COPS Hiring Program (CHP) grantees to administer the survey at the beginning of their grant period, and again at the end of their grant period. *The results will not be used to influence or impact future funding decisions*, but rather the CP-SAT is being provided as a resource to benefit our grantees, and allow us to better tailor our training and technical assistance opportunities, publications, and other resources.

To learn more about the Community Policing Self Assessment Tool (CP-SAT), contact the COPS Office Response Center at 1.800.421.6770 or email askCopsRC@usdoj.gov.