

COPS Office 30th Anniversary Timeline Video Transcript

Katherine McQuay – Senior Advisor, Communications

(00:04):

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 introduced an innovative, unique office to the country specifically to advance community policing and reduce crime in state, local, tribal, and territorial communities. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, better known as the COPS Office, became the first component of the U.S. Department of Justice dedicated solely to serving the needs of law enforcement to reduce crime and maintain public safety.

Toni Morgan-Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(00:35):

The COPS Office's initial goal was simple: to put 100,000 more officers on the streets and in so doing to reduce crime. In addition, the office promised to offer training, technical assistance, and other resources to help support law enforcement agencies across the country and engage the community to promote accountability and co-responsibility for public safety.

Jeremy Kommel-Bernstein – Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(00:59):

In 1994, the COPS Office was created, and four hiring programs were launched. Between them, more than \$894 million was awarded, resulting in agencies hiring more than 12,900 community policing officers.

Valerie Ikechukwu – Assistant Director, Management Services Division

(01:13):

In 1995, the COPS Office launched the Universal Hiring Program and awarded \$10 million in the grants through the Youth Firearms Violence Initiative.

Camisha Amaker – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(01:23):

In 1996, the COPS Office launched the Anti-Gang Initiative and the Community Policing to Combat Domestic Violence program.

Deborah Spence – Assistant Director, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(01:32):

In 1997, the COPS Office launched a nationwide network of Regional Community Policing Institutes.

Jessica Scullin – Supervisory Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(01:37):

In 1998, the COPS Office funded 75,000 new community policing professionals nationwide.

In 1999, the COPS Office launched the Tribal Resources Grant Program.

Deborah Spence – Assistant Director, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(01:49):

Within five years, the COPS Office fulfilled its initial pledge by awarding federal funds to support the hiring of 100,000 new officers, deputies, and troopers. To date, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than 20 billion dollars to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of approximately 138,000 officers.

Camisha Amaker – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(02:14):

Not only does the COPS Office fund the hiring and rehiring of law enforcement professionals through direct hiring programs like the COPS Hiring Program, but it also funds a number of other initiatives, including training, technical assistance, publications, and other resources to advance the practice of community policing and strengthen our communities' public safety.

Nazmia Comrie, Sociologist (Policing Assistance and Reform)

(02:39):

In 2000, COPS Office announces its Justice-Based After School and Value-Based Initiatives programs.

Katherine McQuay – Senior Advisor. Communications

(02:25):

In 2001, COPS supports the NYPD and Arlington County Police Department as they respond to the September 11 attacks.

Valerie Ikechukwu – Assistant Director, Management Services Division

(02:55):

In 2002, \$154 million was awarded through the COPS Technology Program.

Toni Morgan-Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(03:02):

In 2003, COPS launches the Homeland Security Overtime Program and awards \$59.6 million to 294 law enforcement agencies.

Jeremy Kommel-Bernstein – Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(03:12):

In 2004, more than \$82 million in grants is awarded to 23 communities in 17 states to develop interoperable communication networks.

Jessica Scullin – Supervisory Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(03:22):

In 2005, the COPS Office provides \$193 million to support tribal law enforcement agencies and community court initiatives.

Camisha Amaker – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(03:30):

In 2006, the COPS Office awarded \$14.8 million in grants to 174 law enforcement agencies to enhance school safety.

Ebonyque Taylor – Social Science Analyst, Research and Training Assistance Division

(03:39):

In 2007, the COPS Office distributes its millionth technical assistance publication to the law enforcement field.

Valerie Ikechukwu – Assistant Director, Management Services Division

(03:46):

Through the years, the COPS Office has become the go-to resource for law enforcement agencies across the country and continues to listen to the field and provide the resources needed to reduce crime and build trust between law enforcement and the communities served. It is the only component in the DOJ that has “policing” in its name, which reinforces its stature in the department as the vital component responsible for the law enforcement portfolio.

Toni Morgan-Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(04:15):

In 2008, the COPS Office launched the Child Sexual Predator Program to locate, arrest, and prosecute these offenders.

Jessica Scullin – Supervisory Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(04:23):

In 2009, the COPS Office awarded \$1 billion in Recovery Act funding to hire, rehire, or retain 5,000 law enforcement positions in a matter of months.

Katherine McQuay – Senior Advisor, Communications

(04:34):

In 2010, the COPS Office moved to the new 2CON building on its 16th anniversary, and the DOJ launched the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation.

Deborah Spence – Assistant Director, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(04:44):

In 2011, the COPS Office and the Bureau of Justice Assistance formed the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group, and the COPS Office introduced the Community Policing Self-Assessment Tool.

Nazmia Comrie, Sociologist (Policing Assistance and Reform)

(04:54):

In 2012, the COPS Office released a Collaborative Reform review of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, listing 75 findings and recommendations regarding officer-involved shootings and use of force issues and quickly becoming a key resource.

Jeremy Kommel-Bernstein – Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(05:11):

By 2013, the COPS Office had disseminated more than two million training and technical assistance publications to the law enforcement field.

Nazmia Comrie, Sociologist (Policing Assistance and Reform)

(05:18):

In 2014, in the wake of mass protests, the COPS Office delivered technical assistance to Ferguson Police Department and the surrounding agencies through the Collaborative Reform Program.

Deborah Spence – Assistant Director, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(05:31):

In 2015, the COPS Office led the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing with COPS Director Davis appointed as the Task Force Executive Director.

Valerie Ikechukwu – Assistant Director, Management Services Division

(05:40):

In 2016, the COPS Office was assigned the honor of overseeing the DOJ’s implementation of the National Blue Alert Act of 2015.

Camisha Amaker – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(05:50):

Starting in 2016, the COPS Office began to administer the Attorney General’s Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing, which recognizes individual state, local, or tribal rank-and-file officers, deputies, and troopers for exceptional efforts in policing that keep our communities safe.

Toni Morgan-Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(06:12):

In 2017, the COPS Office launched the Preparing for Active Shooter Situations program.

Jeremy Kommel-Bernstein – Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(06:17):

Launched in 2017 with just five trainings and resources on community policing, the COPS Training Portal now boasts more than 45 trainings and resources directly supporting the law enforcement field. The Portal now serves as a cornerstone of the COPS Office’s training and technical assistance portfolio and reached a major milestone with 100,000 enrollments in April of 2024.

Toni Morgan-Wheeler – Policy Analyst, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(06:38):

In 2018, Congress passed the STOP School Violence Act.

Ebonyque Taylor – Social Science Analyst, Research and Training Assistance Division

(06:44):

In 2019, the COPS Office launched the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act program. Additionally, the President’s Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice was established, and COPS Director Keith was appointed as its co-chair.

Jessica Scullin – Supervisory Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(06:58):

In 2020, the COPS Hiring Program awarded \$400 million to 605 law enforcement agencies to hire 2,761 additional full-time law enforcement positions.

Deborah Spence – Assistant Director, Training and Partner Engagement Division

(07:09):

In 2021, the Community Policing Development program funds increased to \$35 million to focus on microgrants; crisis intervention teams; de-escalation training; accreditation; and tolerance, diversity, and anti-bias training.

Nazmia Comrie, Sociologist (Policing Assistance and Reform)

(07:22):

In 2022, the COPS Office Collaborative Reform Initiative is revamped and expanded to include a continuum of three distinct levels of technical assistance services—the continuation of the Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center, or CRI-TAC; an updated Critical Response program; and an updated Organizational Assessment program.

Jessica Scullin – Supervisory Policy Analyst, Training and Technical Assistance Division

(07:18):

In 2023, the COPS Office held a convening to review the current state of law enforcement recruitment and retention, to explore ways they can be modernized to meet the needs of today’s agencies,

communities, and workforce. They also held a series of convenings to discuss specialized units in state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to create guidance for those agencies' leadership to consider when forming, managing, and disbanding such units.

Nazmia Comrie, Sociologist (Policing Assistance and Reform)

(08:15):

In 2024, the COPS Office completed the U.S. Department of Justice review report, the *Critical Incident Review: Active Shooter at Robb Elementary School*.

Ebonyque Taylor – Social Science Analyst, Research and Training Assistance Division

(08:25):

Community policing has never been more important than it is today, as it supports public safety by encouraging all stakeholders to work together; it is those efforts that strengthen our nation's ability to maintain safe and thriving communities. The COPS Office places a particular priority on listening to the challenges of our nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies to address their common needs through providing additional resources, training, technical assistance, and research to improve current practices.

Hugh T. Clements, Jr. – COPS Office Director

(08:54):

While we have accomplished a tremendous amount, there is much work that remains, and the COPS Office is excited to continue to play a critical role for law enforcement. With the tremendous support of our law enforcement stakeholders, as well as our Congressional support, the COPS Office continues to serve the needs of law enforcement across the country. Supporting law enforcement is our mission; we are proud of the ways we have done that and excited about what we will accomplish in the years to come.

COPS Office Staff and Former Directors

(09:25):

Congratulations.

TRT: 09:44