



# Fact Sheet

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## FY 2010 Tribal Methamphetamine Initiative (Tribal Meth)

Combating methamphetamine in tribal jurisdictions across the nation

The Tribal Methamphetamine Initiative will advance the practice of community policing through prevention, partnerships, and problem solving to combat methamphetamine production, use and trafficking in tribal communities.

### Background

The use of methamphetamine, a central nervous system stimulant often referred to by its street names such as crank, speed, ice, or crystal, has been a persistent problem for law enforcement agencies across the United States in recent years. Methamphetamine is cheap and addictive, and was traditionally developed in clandestine laboratories which were often located in remote areas. Methamphetamine spread quickly, most noticeably in rural areas, largely due to the simple preparation methods used as well as manufacturers having easy access to the necessary precursor chemicals.

In more recent years, changing trends in methamphetamine production and distribution have created new obstacles for law enforcement and public health agencies. Data collected from the 2005 National Survey on Drug Use and Health indicates that the percent of methamphetamine use among American Indians or Alaska Natives is over double that of whites. Furthermore, a survey conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Office of Law Enforcement Services, indicated that 74 percent of Indian Country law enforcement agencies identified methamphetamine as their greatest drug threat and that 90 percent of tribal police needed additional drug investigation training.

Since 1998, the COPS Office has invested grant funding to combat the spread of methamphetamine nationwide. In fiscal year (FY) 2010, the Tribal Methamphetamine Initiative (Tribal Meth) was developed by the COPS Office to assist tribal communities in addressing the important health and safety issues resulting from the methamphetamine problem.

### Grant Program Funding Provisions

COPS Tribal Meth funding supports enforcement, training, and prevention in Indian Country, concentrating in areas having the greatest need for assistance in combating methamphetamine production, distribution, and use. In FY 2010, the COPS Office awarded funding totaling approximately \$3.9 million to 25 federally recognized tribes<sup>1</sup> for anti-methamphetamine related activities in Indian Country.

This grant initiative advances the practice of community policing through prevention, partnerships, and problem solving to develop comprehensive strategies to combat methamphetamine production, use and trafficking in tribal communities. Through a combination of direct grants to tribes and cooperative agreements with a technical assistance provider, the COPS Office is able to support a larger number of tribes than would be possible through traditional meth enforcement grants, and provide training and technical assistance to all Tribal Meth grantees.

<sup>1</sup> Restriction for Certain Tribes: Pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004 Pub. L. No. 108-199, Div. B, Title I, Sec. 112, a tribe or village in which fewer than 25 Native members live in the village year-round or that is located within the boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Matanuska Susitna Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, the City and Borough of Juneau, the Sitka Borough, and the Ketchikan Borough may not use any funds awarded through this program for courts or law enforcement officers.

The COPS Office offers a variety of publications and products to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS Office publications and products offer insights into the experiences of others in the field in addressing specific problems, including the following related to methamphetamine and tribal policing:

*Drugs and Crime CD-ROM*

[www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=387](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=387)

*Proceedings of the New England Methamphetamine Summit and Listening Post*

[www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=552](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=552)

*2008 National Chemical Control Symposium: A Focus on Tracking Precursor Chemicals (DVD)*

[www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=540](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=540)

*Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs, 2nd edition*

[www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=29](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=29)

*The High Point Drug Market Intervention Strategy*

[www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=533](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=533)

*Tribal Law Enforcement Resources CD-ROM*

[www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=395](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=395)

The COPS Tribal Meth Initiative is a two-year grant program, and agencies were funded up to \$200,000 in FY 2010 with no local match required. Allowable funding requests included personnel, equipment, technology, training and travel directly related to the project, depending on the needs of the department. Grant requests could only be made for items not already budgeted with state, local, tribal, or BIA funding.

Through direct grants and comprehensive technical assistance, this initiative aims to increase the capacity of tribal law enforcement to:

- Interdict illegal drugs and drug manufacturing/drug distribution networks in collaboration with local, other tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies
- Leverage other meth enforcement efforts in jurisdictions with limited resources
- Develop and implement meth trafficking reduction strategies
- Encourage partnerships to engage key stakeholders beyond the enforcement community to assist in the successful implementation of enforcement strategies.

The COPS Office will provide training and technical assistance to FY 2010 Tribal Meth grantees to help address the unique challenges of tribal jurisdictions to combat methamphetamine use and abuse. As part of their participation in this initiative, tribal agencies selected for funding under this program must work with the technical assistance provider to be selected by the COPS Office. Through the established provider, the COPS Office provides funding for Tribal Meth grantees to participate in both required and optional technical assistance activities, such as national or regional planning summits.

### **Contact the COPS Office**

For more information, call the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).