

*Crime -  
COPS  
FAST*



# U.S. Department of Justice Fact Sheet

## Community Oriented Policing Services

## Funding Accelerated for Smaller Towns (COPS FAST) for Populations under 50,000

### Program Information

The COPS FAST Application is one of several approaches developed by the Department of Justice under the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to speed the deployment of new officers devoted to community policing on the streets and rural routes in this nation. As directed by Congress, the FAST Application dramatically simplifies the task of applying for a federal grant. The FAST Application may be used by jurisdictions with populations under 50,000, while the COPS AHEAD approach will expedite the hiring by agencies serving larger populations.

### Funding Provisions

The FAST Application -- a fill-in-the-blank, one page form -- will be available by November 1, 1994. The application will request basic identifying information about the agency, the number of police officers currently on the force and the number of new officers requested, basic financial information, and an agreement to abide by standard legal requirements.

Completed applications will be due to the COPS Office by December 31, 1994. The COPS Office will inform the agency of an authorized hiring level by February 1, 1995. Before funding may begin, jurisdictions designated for funding will be required to submit necessary budget information and a brief, satisfactory description of community policing plans. Technical assistance with the development of policing plans will be provided to jurisdictions in need of such assistance.

Up to \$165 million in grants will be made under COPS FAST to state, local and other public law enforcement agencies which serve populations under 50,000. If requests exceed the funds available, the amount or starting date of grants may be adjusted to accommodate demand.

Funding will begin once the FAST Application has been approved and the new officers have been sworn. Grants will be made for up to 75 percent of the total salary and benefits of each officer over three years, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer.

COPS grant funds must not be used to replace funds that eligible agencies otherwise would have devoted to future officer hiring. In other words, any hiring under the COPS program must be in addition to, and not in lieu of, previous hiring plans.

In hiring new officers, agencies may not reduce the scope of their customary screening and training procedures, and must include community policing principles in their training curricula. In addition, to the extent practicable, COPS grant funds should be used to increase the representation of women and racial and ethnic minorities within the ranks of sworn officers.

An award under COPS FAST will not affect the consideration of an agency's application for a grant under any other COPS program. An agency that received funding under COPS Phase I is eligible to receive additional funding under COPS FAST.