OMB No. 1103-0098
Approval Expires: 05/31/2028

FY 2026 COPS

COMMUNITY POLICING DEVELOPMENT – ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

OMB No. 1103-0098
Approval Expires: 05/31/2028

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number: O-COPS-2026-172562

Application Deadlines in Eastern Time (ET):

1: Complete SF-424 and Submit in Grants.gov: **August 27, 2026, by 4:59 p.m. ET**

2: Submit full application in JustGrants: **September 3, 2026, by 4:59 p.m. ET**

COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

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1. BASIC INFORMATION

Purpose of the Funding

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is the component of the U.S. Department of Justice responsible for advancing the practice of community policing and the Administration's priority of Making America Safe Again by supporting the nation's state, local, territorial and Tribal law enforcement agencies through information and grant resources.

The COPS Office seeks to expand law enforcement accreditation through this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Community Policing Development – Accreditation

Under this funding opportunity, the COPS Office is seeking to establish new and support existing accreditation bodies in states or territories. Funding will focus on such activities as providing technical assistance to agencies, defraying or underwriting accreditation costs, improving customer service and marketing, and developing user-friendly policy templates.

Requirements

- Clearly explain the need for financial support to sustain the accreditation body
- Provide a detailed project plan that that will support accreditation of law enforcement agencies.
- Create an outreach plan to ensure law enforcement agencies are aware of the accreditation process, with a special emphasis on small and rural agencies.
- Provide a timeline and estimated budget to explain how the accreditation body will be sustained after the award end date.

Projects Out of Scope

- Applicants seeking only to continue standard operations without plans to enhance procedures or increase the number of agencies accredited or seeking accreditation will not be considered.
- Applicants seeking to enhance corrections, communications, training academy, or other non–law enforcement accreditation will not be considered.
- Applicants that are law enforcement agencies seeking to obtain accreditation will not be considered.
- Applicants that are national-level accreditation bodies will not be considered.

See the Eligible Applicants section for eligibility details.

All awards are subject to the availability of appropriated funds and any modifications or additional requirements that may be imposed by law.

Funding Details

Announcement Type	[Initial]
Assistance Listing Number	16.710
Statutory Authority	Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Title I, Part Q, Public Law 103-322, 34 U.S.C. § 10381 et seq.
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	O-COPS-2026-172562
Expected Total Amount of Funding for Funding Opportunity	$2,500,000
Anticipated Number of Awards Anticipated Award Amount Award Type	• Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 8 • Anticipated Award Amount: Up to $350,000 • Award Type: Grant or Cooperative Agreement
Expected Award Period(s)	24 months, starting on October 1, 2026

Key Dates and Times

NOFO Release Date	July 21, 2026
Pre-application Webinar	April 14, 2026
Step 1: Grants.gov Deadline	04:59 p.m. ET on August 27, 2026
Step 2: JustGrants Deadline	04:59 p.m. ET on September 3, 2026
Anticipated Notification Date	On or after October 1, 2026

See Questions? at the end of this NOFO for agency contact information.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation program is limited to for-profit and nonprofit organizations, public governmental agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, institutions of higher education, faith-based organizations, and community groups.

Organizations who were awarded funding for accreditation in FY2024 or FY2025 will not be considered for funding in FY2026.

Eligible applicants include the following:

- 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)
- Educational Organizations
    - Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education
    - Private institutions of higher education
- Nonprofit Organizations
    - Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher education
    - Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education
- For-Profit Organizations
    - Organizations other than small businesses
    - Small businesses
- Other

"Other" Entities Definition(s)

State Government Entities: For the purposes of this NOFO, "state" means any state of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Other Units of Local Government: For the purposes of this notice of funding opportunity, other units of local government include towns, boroughs, parishes, villages, or other general purpose political subdivisions of a state

Cost Sharing (Match) Requirement: This NOFO does **not** require cost sharing (match).

Additional Eligibility Factors

State and local governmental entities must comply with 8 U.S.C. §1373, which provides that State and local government entities may not prohibit, or in any way restrict, any government entity or official from sending to, receiving from, maintaining, or exchanging information regarding citizenship or immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual with components of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or any other federal, state or local government entity. This includes any prohibitions or restrictions imposed or established by a State or local government entity or official.

See Additional Application Components for how to submit.

3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Statutory Authority

Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended, and the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, Title I, Part Q, Public Law 103-322, 34 U.S.C. § 10381 et seq.

Unallowable Activities: The COPS Office has identified activities that are unallowable and will not be funded: read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for details. In addition, refer to the Budget section in this NOFO for information on allowable and unallowable costs to help you develop your application.

Goals and Objectives of this Funding Opportunity

Goal 1: Accreditation funding will increase the number of state, local, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies accredited by an independent accreditation body.

- **Objective 1:** Funding will initiate the development of independent credentialing bodies in states and regions where none currently exist.

- **Objective 2:** Funding will expand the capacity of existing independent credentialing bodies.
- **Objective 3:** Funding will allow law enforcement agencies to overcome financial barriers to accreditation.

Expected Outcomes

The COPS Office expects recipients to submit deliverables and performance reports, as described below. Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide. The COPS Office will measure success by reviewing a recipient's submission of performance reports and data and the extent to which project implementation reflects progress toward the goals and objectives of this NOFO.

Deliverables

Recipients will be expected to submit the following:

- Create marketing and outreach plan to engage law enforcement agencies.
- Implement measurable strategic enhancements to law enforcement accreditation, including an increase in the number of accredited agencies and/or agencies seeking accreditation.
- Submit a summary report that outlines the project activities and status of operations, including the number of agencies achieving accreditation.

Substantial Involvement of Federal Agency: The COPS Office expects to make some awards under this NOFO as cooperative agreements, which allows the COPS Office to have substantial involvement in carrying out the project. Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for a discussion of this involvement and related award conditions.

4. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

Application Contents List

The COPS Office will only consider applications that contain all required parts, which are marked ***REQUIRED*** below. Refer to the DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist for application instructions. All supporting documents and resources for this program are on the COPS Office website at https://cops.usdoj.gov/accreditation.

Please **do not** include any content, including attachments or language within your application, commenting on, modifying, challenging, and/or editing the grant requirements, including the terms and conditions. Such content, if included, will not be **reviewed or considered** when evaluating your application, nor will any attachment from an applicant unilaterally change the terms of a grant if awarded.

Application Item	Submission Type
Step 1: Grants.gov	
Application for Federal Assistance: SF-424 ***REQUIRED***	Online Form
Step 2: JustGrants	
Standard Applicant Information ***REQUIRED***	Online Form
Proposal Abstract ***REQUIRED***	Text Box
Data Requested with Application ***REQUIRED*** • FY26 CPD Accred App Questions • FY26 CPA Info – Accreditation • CPA General Solicitation Questions	Online Form
Budget ***REQUIRED***	Online Form
Other Budget/Financial Attachments • Budget Narrative ***REQUIRED*** • Non-Competitive Justification (if applicable) • Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (if applicable) • Consultant Rate (if applicable)	Attachment
Memorandum of Understanding (if applicable)	Attachment
Additional Application Components • Curricula Vitae or Résumés: for all key personnel, subject matter experts or evaluators/academics outside of the law enforcement agency) • Project Timeline (timeline of activities mapped to the goals and objectives of the proposed project) ***REQUIRED*** • Letters of Support: (recommended for multi-jurisdictional/multi-agency projects) **Optional**	Attachment

Standard Applicant Information *REQUIRED*

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

Proposal Abstract *REQUIRED*

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

Data Requested with Application *REQUIRED*

A copy of the survey questions required for this NOFO can be found at https://cops.usdoj.gov/accreditation.

Budget and Associated Documentation *REQUIRED*

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

Budget/Financial Attachments

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Supporting Documents

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

Additional Application Components

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

Disclosures and Assurances

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for full details on this section.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

The DOJ Grant Application Submission Checklist provides instructions for how to submit by the deadlines. Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs) applies to this funding opportunity.

Read COPS Office policy for applicants to request late submission due to technical difficulties, severe weather, or natural or manmade disasters in the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide.

6. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide explains the responsiveness review, review criteria, and review and selection process, including risk review and deciding official.

7. AWARD NOTICES

Read about the award notification process in the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide.

8. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Read the FY26 Community Policing Development Accreditation Application Resource Guide for more information about standard award terms and conditions, administrative and national policy requirements, and post-award reporting requirements.

9. QUESTIONS?

NOFO Contact	COPS Office Response Center Phone: 800-421-6770 Email: AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday – Friday (closed federal holidays)
SAM.gov Help Desk	Website: https://sam.gov/content/help Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET Monday – Friday
Grants.gov Help Desk	Phone: 800-518-4726 Email: support@grants.gov Website: https://www.grants.gov/support Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (closed federal holidays)
JustGrants Help Desk	Phone: 833-872-5175 Email: JustGrants.Support@usdoj.gov Hours: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET Monday - Friday (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Saturday, Sunday, and federal holidays)