

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

COPS Application Package

Part A. Justification:

1. Necessity of Information Collection

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) was established under the authority of the Attorney General to implement Title I of the “crime bill,” the Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Act of 1994 (the Act). The Act authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to States, units of local government, Indian tribal governments, other public and private entities, and multi-jurisdictional or regional consortia thereof to increase police presence, to expand and improve cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies and members of the community, to address crime and disorder problems, and otherwise to enhance public safety.

The Attorney General has authorized the COPS Office to establish grant and cooperative agreement programs to advance community policing, as well as the criteria used to determine eligibility for these programs. The COPS Office funds grant and cooperative agreement programs that advance community policing as an effective crime prevention strategy. COPS Office program funding is obligated to many different areas in an effort to enhance community policing. These funding categories may include: salary and benefits of new, additional sworn officer positions, civilian personnel, basic issue equipment, advanced department-wide equipment and technology, specialized problem-oriented policing projects, as well as training and technical assistance. COPS Office grants range from one-year period of performance grants to three-year period of performance grants depending upon the type of program. The COPS Application Package includes all of the necessary forms and instructions that an applicant needs to review and complete to apply for COPS grant funding.

For FY2015, the COPS Office Application Package will be utilized for the COPS Hiring Program (CHP), the Community Policing Development (CPD) program, the COPS Anti-Methamphetamine Program (CAMP), the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (CRI-TA) solicitation, the COPS Anti-Heroin Task Force Program (AHTF), and the COPS Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI).

2. Needs and Uses

The COPS Application Package is used as a standard template for all COPS programs and includes all of the necessary forms and instructions that an applicant needs to review and complete to apply for COPS grant funding. The Application Guide includes instructions and program information which describe the administrative and legal requirements governing COPS Office funding. The COPS Application Package also includes performance measures that would be used to assess grantees’ effectiveness in using the grant funds. The application forms and

budget detail worksheets outline the applicants' funding request, collect all the necessary data to make funding decisions, and details the applicant's commitment to community policing.

Included in the COPS Application Package are the following sections and fields:

- Section 14: Budget Detail Worksheets
- Section 15A: Assurances
- Section 15B: Certifications
- Section 16: Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
- Section 17: Reviews and Certification

The COPS Office is also required to use the Application for Federal Assistance, SF-424. The SF-424 does not include all of the necessary and statutorily required data elements for applicant review. Thus, the additional COPS application forms collect critical data elements that are necessary for COPS to properly review applications for funding.

3. Efforts to Minimize Burden

The COPS Application Package is the result of a COPS Office business process and reengineering effort aimed at streamlining, as required under the grant streamlining requirements of P.L. 106-107, the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, as well as the President's Management Agenda E-grants Initiative. The COPS Application Package user-friendly forms are standardized across all COPS Office programs and should reduce the burden on applicants due to the applicant's ability to use the same form for multiple programs, thus reducing the need for applicants to learn how to complete multiple, differing forms. In addition, the COPS Application Package forms will be completed online. Applicants will benefit from online instructions and field validations.

4. Efforts to Identify Duplication

There is no duplicative effort.

5. Methods to Minimize Burden on Small Business

This collection instrument will have no significant impact on small businesses.

6. Consequences of Less Frequent Collection

Less frequent collection is not possible. Funding for the COPS Office's grant and cooperative agreement programs is appropriated on an annual basis. For additional funds in future years, applicants may be required to reapply to the program. Interested agencies cannot become eligible for COPS Office grants without first reviewing the application information within the COPS Application Package.

7. Special Circumstances Influencing Collection

There are no special circumstances that would influence the collection of information pertaining to the COPS Application Package.

8. Reasons for Inconsistencies with 5 C.F.R. § 1320.6

No public comments were received regarding this collection. A request was received for a copy of the collection instrument and at the time of this submission the COPS Office has responded to this request.

9. Payment or Gift to Respondents

The COPS Office does not provide any payment or gift to respondents. Furthermore, it is not permitted under the terms of the grants.

10. Assurance of Confidentiality

No assurance of confidentiality has been made to respondents.

11. Justification for Sensitive Questions

There are no questions of a sensitive nature. No information commonly considered as private is included in the proposed requested information.

12. Estimate of Hour Burden

There may be as many as 5,000 COPS Office applicants annually who will be required to review the information within the COPS Application Package. The estimated hourly burden to the applicant is 11 hours for each respondent to review the instructions and complete the application.

11 hours per respondent x 5,000 respondents = 55,000 hours

Total Respondent Burden Hours: 55,000 hours

There is no record keeping burden for this collection.

13. Estimate of Cost Burden

Reviewing the COPS Application Package will not generate any costs other than those associated with the applicants' time. Therefore, the estimated burden cost is 0.

14. Estimated Annualized Cost to Federal Government

The estimated annualized cost to the Federal Government for reviewing, compiling, and processing the projected 5,000 grant applications is approximately 2 hours per form. No special equipment, other than currently in-use computing equipment is required. The cost to the Federal Government is as follows:

2 hours per form X 5,000 forms = 10,000 hours
10,000 hours @ \$29.93 per hour = \$299,300

Total Annualized Cost to the Federal Government for reviewing the COPS Application Package= \$299,300

15. Reason for Change in Burden

There is no change in burden for FY2015.

16. Publication

This data collection will not be published.

17. Request not to Display OMB Control Number

The COPS Office will display the OMB approval number and expiration date on the upper right hand corner of the collection instrument.

18. Exceptions to Certification Statement

The COPS Office does not request an exception to the certification of this information collection.

Part B. Statistical Methods:

This collection of information does not require the employment of statistical methods.