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DATES: The application deadline for UHP funding is June 6, 2003. All UHP applications must be postmarked by the deadline date. Applications postmarked after the deadline date will not be considered. All grant awards are subject to the availability of funds. In the event that UHP funding requests exceed available grant funds, applications may be considered in subsequent fiscal years, subject to the availability of funds.

ADDRESSES: To obtain a copy of an application or for additional information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. The UHP application kit and information on the COPS Office are also available on the Internet via COPS Online at: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-322) authorizes the Department of Justice to make grants to increase deployment of law enforcement officers to increase or enhance community policing on the streets and rural routes of this nation. The Universal Hiring Program (UHP) enables interested agencies to supplement their current sworn forces, or interested jurisdictions to establish a new agency, through federal grants for up to three years.

The *National Strategy for Homeland Security*, the Administration's roadmap for securing the homeland, highlights the key role that state and local governments play in responding to a terrorist attack. Terrorism preparedness and prevention have become key responsibilities for state and local units. As such, while all policing agencies, as well as jurisdictions seeking to establish new policing agencies, are eligible to apply for this program, priority consideration will be given to those applications that demonstrate a use of funds related to terrorism preparedness or response through community policing.

Grants will be made for up to 75 percent of the entry level salary and benefits for each new officer over a three year grant term for a total of 36 months, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer, with a required minimum of 25 percent local match to be paid with state or local funds. Funding will begin once the new officers have been hired on or after the date of the award, and will be paid over the course of the grant. Officers must be

hired on or after the grant award start date to qualify for grant funding.

Waivers of the non-federal matching requirement may be requested under UHP, but will be granted only upon a demonstration of extraordinary fiscal hardship.

COPS grant funds must not be used to replace funds that agencies otherwise would have used to fund an officer in the absence of the grant. In other words, any hiring under UHP must in addition to, and not in lieu of, officers that otherwise would have been hired with state, local or other non-COPS funds. At the time of application, applicants must also agree to plan for the retention of each additional COPS-funded UHP position with state, local or other non-COPS funds at the conclusion of federal funding, for a minimum of one full local budget cycle. The retention requirement cannot be satisfied through attrition.

An award under the COPS Universal Hiring Program will not affect the consideration of an agency's eligibility for a grant under other COPS programs.

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) reference for this program is 16.710.

Dated: April 8, 2003.

Carl R. Peed,

Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

FY 2003 Community Policing Discretionary Grants

AGENCY: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice of funding availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) announces the availability of funds under the Tribal Resources Grant Program, a program designed to meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in Indian communities through a comprehensive grant program that will offer a variety of funding options including: New, additional police officer positions; basic and/or specialized training for new and existing officers; training in community policing, grants management and computer training; uniforms and basic issue equipment; department-wide technology; and police vehicles. This program, which complements the COPS Office's efforts to fund additional

community policing officers and to support innovative community policing, will enhance law enforcement infrastructures and community policing efforts in tribal communities which have limited resources and are affected by high rates of crime and violence.

Applications should reflect the department's most serious law enforcement needs and must link these needs to the implementation or enhancement of community policing. In addition, a Retention Plan Certification form outlining how COPS-funded officer positions will be retained after federal funding has ended must be submitted with the grant application.

All Federally Recognized Tribes with established police departments or existing police efforts are eligible to apply. Federally Recognized Tribes that wish to establish police departments and meet specific criteria are eligible to apply. Federally Recognized Tribes may also apply as a consortium with a written partnership agreement that names a lead agency and describes how requested resources will serve the consortium's population. In addition, tribes that are currently served by Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) law enforcement may request funding under this grant program to supplement their existing police services. Tribes whose law enforcement services are exclusively provided by local policing agencies through a contract agreement are not eligible under the COPS TRGP program, but may be eligible to apply to the COPS Universal Hiring Program, and/or COPS in Schools program for police officer positions only.

DATES: Applications will be available in late April. Federally Recognized Tribes or villages that wish to apply may request an application from the COPS Office. The deadline for the submission of applications is May 30, 2003.

Applications must be post marked by May 30, 2003, to be considered eligible.

ADDRESSES: To obtain an application or for more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. A copy of the application kit will also be available in April on the COPS Office Web site at: <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The U.S. Department of Justice Response Center, 1-800-421-6770 and ask to speak with your Tribal Grant Program Specialist.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Overview

The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-322) authorizes the Department of Justice to