

what recruits learn in the academy accurately reflects the work they will do, and whether gaps in training contribute to attrition could also be addressed through funding.

Knowledge/Experience Required:

Applicants must demonstrate a strong knowledge of the issues associated with police recruitment, hiring, and retention. Additionally, any non-law enforcement agency applicants must have experience working with law enforcement agencies.

3. Volunteers in Police Service (B3)

Approximate Funding per Project:
\$50,000

Purpose/Goal: In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of the *USA Freedom Corps*, which is an effort to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility, building on the generous spirit of the American people. The *Citizen Corps* programs are part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative and share the common goal of helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

One of the Citizen Corps programs is Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), administered by the *U.S. Department of Justice*. The goal of VIPS is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. These civilian volunteers provide support for resource-constrained law enforcement agencies by supplementing their community's law enforcement professionals to free officers for frontline duty. Funding will be provided to enhance and institutionalize a volunteer in police service program within local police departments.

Objectives/Expectations: To help expand the VIPS program, the COPS Office is seeking proposals from local law enforcement agencies to establish or enhance their volunteer program and recruitment efforts. Preliminary information from the VIPS program stresses the importance of a volunteer coordinator. An effective volunteer coordinator is often linked to a success of VIPS programs and funds from this grant can (but are not required) be used to help cover costs of this position. Among other items, funding may also be used for such things as advertisements and marketing of volunteer programs (including Web site development), activities associated with neighborhood watch and other resources for volunteer coordination, implementation, and evaluation efforts. Grantees will be required to attend a COPS Office VIPS-

related training and should budget travel for 2 individuals to attend this training. Law enforcement agencies receiving funding must register with USA Freedom Corps as an official VIPS site.

Deliverables/Outcomes: The primary outcome will be an operational volunteer in police service program that enhances the ability of the local police department to effectively provide public services. Grantees will provide a final report to the COPS Office documenting how the funding directly enhanced their volunteer program and the overall benefits to the agency, so that these efforts can be promoted and replicated in other law enforcement agencies.

Knowledge/Experience Required: Applicants must be law enforcement agencies. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the Volunteers in Police Service program (www.policevolunteers.org) for additional information about programs that could possibly be replicated in their agency using this funding. Grantees must also express a strong commitment to maintain volunteer program efforts after grant expiration.

4. Topic Focused Law Enforcement Technology Guides (B4)

Approximate Funding: \$250,000

Purpose/Goal: While the benefits of implementing technology are obvious, the obstacles to getting the most from that technology often are not. In a time when growing responsibilities greatly increase the duties of local law enforcement agencies, a natural response is to turn to technology as a force multiplier. However, there are a limited number of technology resources that are specifically tailored for law enforcement. To meet the need for additional resources, in 2001 the COPS Office funded the development of a Law Enforcement Tech Guide, a comprehensive "A to Z" technology planning, acquisition, implementation and integration guide that helps agencies address crime and social disorder issues. This guide can be found on the COPS Office Web site at www.cops.usdoj.gov/Default.asp?Item=512.

The guide has been well received by the law enforcement community. However, there are numerous other issues in the area of law enforcement technology that could be addressed by similar guides. Funding will be provided to produce additional law enforcement technology guidebooks.

Objectives/Expectations: To meet these evolving needs, the COPS Office is seeking proposals for the development

of multiple technology-specific guidebooks for law enforcement. Topics that may be addressed include, but are not limited to, interoperability, crime mapping, 311, integration, technology training, managing change due to technology implementation, records management systems, and technology for the small/rural agencies.

Deliverables/Outcomes: Applicants will produce guidebooks designed for a law enforcement audience on multiple technology-specific topics.

Knowledge/Experience Required: The applicants should address their knowledge and experience in the area of information systems implementation in law enforcement environments.

Proposals should also demonstrate the applicant's knowledge and experience regarding the specific topics of the guidebooks being proposed and the ability to write for a law enforcement audience.

5. 311 for Homeland Security and Crisis Management (B5)

Approximate Funding per Project:
\$300,000

Purpose/Goal: Since 9/11 homeland security concerns have prompted the Administration to call on citizens to be vigilant. In addition, recent domestic criminal events, such as the October 2002 sniper attacks in the Washington Metropolitan Area, have further illustrated the need to encourage citizen information sharing for crime prevention and crime solving. The effects of such heightened awareness and calls for citizen participation have resulted, in part, in a 911 system challenged to keep up with calls from concerned citizens, many of whom use 911 as their primary vehicle to initiate contact with the police or other public service agencies.

311 Public Service Model non-emergency call systems can support and be integrated into homeland security and emergency preparedness plans and policies. 311 systems can be especially effective when they allow for coordinated efforts and information sharing between multiple public service agencies (e.g., transportation, health, sanitation, victim services etc.). 311 systems can support emergency management efforts and enhance public service agency response efforts to prepare for emergencies.

Proposals are being sought from law enforcement agencies prepared to establish a Public Service Model 311 non-emergency call system that includes multiple public service agencies such as law enforcement, EMS, transportation, health, sanitation, victim