



**COPS**

Community Oriented Policing Services  
U.S. Department of Justice

# Fact Sheet

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## 2018 COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force Program

The FY 2018 COPS Office Anti-Heroin Task Force (AHTF) Program is a competitive award program designed to advance public safety by providing funds to investigate illicit activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescriptive opioids, or unlawful heroin and prescription opioid traffickers through statewide collaboration.

### Background

The abuse of opioids, a group of drugs that includes heroin and prescription painkillers, has a devastating impact on public health and safety in this country.

Drug overdose deaths and opioid-involved deaths continue to increase in the United States. Deaths from drug overdose are up among both men and women, all races, and adults of nearly all ages. More than three out of five drug overdose deaths involve an opioid. Opioids are substances that work on the nervous system in the body or specific receptors in the

brain to reduce the intensity of pain. Overdose deaths from opioids, including prescription opioids and heroin, have more than quadrupled since 1999. Overdoses involving opioids killed more than 50,000 people in 2016. Over half of those deaths were from prescription opioids.<sup>1</sup>

The response to the opioid epidemic requires a seamless partnership between public health and public safety professionals. Each of these sectors has access to information that can improve the effectiveness of investigations: e.g., public health records on cause of death that can pinpoint the exact drug responsible for an overdose death; Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs data on prescribing patterns can

1. National Institute on Drug Abuse, "Overdose Death Rates," National Institutes of Health, last modified September 2017, <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/overdose-death-rates>.

### Resources

The following resources discuss various efforts to address the problem of heroin and other opioids:

#### **Crime Prevention Research Review No.1: Disrupting Street-Level Drug Markets**

This report summarizes the findings from all rigorous academic studies evaluating a range of street-level drug law enforcement interventions. It finds that strategic crime control partnerships with a range of third parties are more effective at disrupting drug problems than law enforcement-only approaches. <https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P128>

#### **Drug Market Intervention: An Implementation Guide**

This guide provides practical information intended to help law enforcement, community, and social services partners—the strategy's key stakeholders—prepare and successfully execute a drug market intervention to close overt drug markets. It discusses the ways overt drug markets damage neighborhoods, contribute to disorder, and negatively affect communities. This publication guides the reader through the processes of partnership formation, police-community reconciliation, dealer notifications, staging call-ins, maintaining closure of drug markets, and delivering services to dealers. <https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P303>

#### **Drug Dealing in Privately Owned Apartment Complexes**

This problem-oriented guide for police focuses on drug dealing in privately owned apartment complexes. It clearly distinguishes between open and closed drug markets, provides information on what is known about each market type, and offers questions to ask when analyzing each market. <https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P013>

#### **The High Point Drug Market Intervention Strategy**

The High Point Drug Market Intervention Strategy tells the compelling story of designing and implementing the original intervention in High Point, North Carolina, and describes a subsequent successful replication in Providence, Rhode Island. This publication is part of an ongoing series by the National Network for Safe Communities about its two core crime reduction strategies. <https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P166>

help law enforcement target prescribers who operate outside ethical norms; and public health data can tie overdose patterns to particular drug dealers. Collaborative work by public safety and public health can not only improve the outcome of investigations but also help bridge the gap between overdose and treatment. As an example, local law enforcement agencies have stepped up across the United States to implement protocols to transition overdose victims—mostly revived by the reversal drug naloxone—to treatment programs provided by the public health sector. It has also laid the groundwork for accurate assessment of drug trends, which is critical to strategic deployment of investigative resources.

### Funding Provisions

Provisions include the following:

- AHTF provides funds directly to state law enforcement agencies with high rates of primary treatment admissions for heroin and other opioids.
- AHTF funding shall be used for investigative purposes to locate or investigate illicit activities, including activities related to the distribution of heroin or unlawful distribution of prescriptive opioids, or unlawful diversion and distribution of prescriptive opioids.
- AHTF will be open to state law enforcement agencies with multijurisdictional reach and an interdisciplinary team structures. Task force participation is not required; however, agencies that participate in a task force will receive additional consideration. These state law enforcement agencies must have primary law enforcement authority over heroin and other opioids seizures and investigations. Please check with our office if you have

any questions on determining your agency's eligibility to apply.

- AHTF funding is not available for treatment programs or prosecution of heroin and other opioid-related activities.
- Approximately \$32 million in funding is available for the FY 2018 AHTF. Each award is two years (24 months) in duration, and there is no local match. Each award recipient may receive a maximum of \$3 million.

### How to Apply

Applicants are required to register via [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and complete an SF-424. After submitting the SF-424, applicants will receive an e-mail with instructions on completing the second part of the AHTF application through the COPS Office Online Application System. To complete the AHTF application, please visit the COPS Office website at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov) and click on the "Account Access" tab in the upper right-hand corner. Applicants should then enter their username and password, and select "Applications" from the Agency Portal Menu.

Complete application packages for the FY 2018 AHTF solicitation are due by June 27, 2018, at 7:59 p.m. EDT. Hard copies or electronic copies sent via email will not be accepted.

### Contact the COPS Office

For more information about the COPS Office AHTF Program, please call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770, or visit the COPS Office online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).