

to others. Under Community Policing Training and Technical Assistance Fellowships, Fellows may pursue initiatives designed to: (1) improve police-citizen cooperation and communication; (2) enhance police relationships within the criminal justice system, as well as at all levels of local government; (3) increase police and citizens' ability to innovatively solve community problems; (4) facilitate the restructuring of agencies to allow the fullest use of departmental and community resources; (5) promote the effective flow and use of information both within and outside of an agency; and/or (6) improve law enforcement responsiveness to members of the community.

PPSE Fellowships will offer police practitioners, researchers, and policy analysts the opportunity to support innovative community policing programs, to engage in activities to assess the effectiveness of community policing approaches, and to apply policy analysis skills to support the advancement of community policing nationwide. The experience is intended to encourage the further development, enhancement, or renewed exploration of program, policy, and evaluation issues that support community policing. This work will be shared with policy makers and practitioners through a variety of forums. Under PPSE Fellowships, Fellows may pursue a wide variety of initiatives. Topic areas of particular interest to the PPSE Division include, but are not limited to, the following goals: (1) improve the ability of policing agencies and community organizations to collect different types of information that will aid in collaborative problem solving efforts; (2) enhance current knowledge of how policing agencies evolve while implementing community policing; (3) enhance current knowledge about how various policing agencies utilize information technology to support crime reduction and community policing efforts; and/or (4) enhance current knowledge of or improve the ability of policing agencies to implement community policing and problem solving in other ways.

Visiting Fellows will study a topic of mutual interest to the Fellow and the COPS Office for up to 12 months. Residency in Washington, DC, is not required, but visits to the COPS Office are encouraged.

Grants or cooperative agreements under the VFP may support salary, fringe benefits, travel essential to the project, and miscellaneous supplies or equipment in support of the project. Reasonable costs for research assistants or support staff will also be considered.

Reasonable relocation expenses and the cost of temporary housing also may be permitted in cases of relocation from a Fellow's permanent address.

Under the VFP, the COPS Office may award grants or enter into cooperative agreements with individuals, public agencies, colleges or universities, nonprofit organizations, and profit-making organizations willing to waive their fees.

Receiving a grant or cooperative agreement under the VFP will not affect the eligibility of an agency to receive awards under other COPS programs.

The selection process is expected to be highly competitive.

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

Dated: March 6, 2000.

Thomas Frazier,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00-6533 Filed 3-15-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; FY 2000 Community Policing Discretionary Grants

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

ACTION: Notice of 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 broadened, comprehensive hiring program that will offer a "menu of options" from salary and benefits for new police personnel to funding for law enforcement training and equipment for new and existing officers. This program, which complements the COPS Office's efforts to fund 100,000 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 written plan to retain COPS-funded officer positions 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. Tribes that wish to establish police departments and meet specific criteria are eligible to apply. Tribes or villages 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 provided by local policing agencies through a contract agreement are not eligible under the COPS program, but may apply to the COPS Universal Hiring Program for police officer positions only.

DATES: Applications will be sent to all Federally Recognized Tribes with existing law enforcement efforts by early March 2000. Tribes or villages that wish to apply as a start-up or consortium may request an application kit from the COPS Office. The deadline for the submission of applications is May 5, 2000. Applications must be postmarked by May 5, 2000, to be 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 be available in early March on the COPS Office web site at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The U.S. Department of Justice Response Center, 1-800-421-6770 or your grant advisor.

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 devoted to community policing on the streets and rural routes in this nation. As part of the Clinton Administration's commitment to combat and prevent crime in America's Tribal communities, the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has made funding available through the Tribal Resource Grant Program, a program developed to meet the most serious needs of law enforcement in Indian communities through a broadened, comprehensive hiring program that will offer a "menu of options" from salary and benefits for new police personnel to funding for law

enforcement training and equipment for new and existing officers. This program, which complements the COPS Office's efforts to fund 100,000 additional community policing officers and support innovative community policing, will enhance law enforcement infrastructures and community policing efforts in these Tribal communities, many of which have limited resources and are affected by high rates of crime and violence.

The Tribal Resources Grant Program is part of a larger federal initiative which over the last three years, has resulted in the Department of Interior and Justice working in collaboration to improve law enforcement in tribal communities. A total of \$91.5 million has been appropriated to several DOJ agencies including the FBI, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Corrections Program Office (CPO), and the COPS Office. COPS is coordinating with these agencies as well as with the Office of Law Enforcement Services of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure that limited resources are not spent on duplicative efforts.

The Tribal Resources Grant will provide tribal communities with the resources to: hire new police officers; train new and existing officers in community policing, grants management and computer training as well as basic police training at a state academy or the Indian Police Academy in Artesia, NM; and provide basic standard issue equipment, ranging from bullet-proof vests and uniforms, to firearms and portable radios.

The Tribal Resources Grant Program emphasizes deployment of officers and resources into communities that are affected by high rates of crime and violence. Applicants must submit a written plan to retain their COPS-funded officer positions after federal funding has ended. This plan must be submitted to the COPS Office with the Tribal Resource Grant Program application.

A total of \$40,000,000 in funding will be available under the Tribal Resources Grant Program. The grant will cover a maximum federal Share of 75% of total project costs, including approved salary and benefits of entry-level police officers (up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer over three years), basic law enforcement training and equipment, vehicles, and technology. A local match requirement of 25% of the total project costs is included in this program. A waiver of the local match requirement may be requested but will be granted only on the basis of documented

demonstrated fiscal hardship. Requests for waivers must be submitted with the application.

Tribes whose law enforcement services are provided by local policing agencies through contract arrangements are not eligible under this COPS program. However, tribes that do not meet the eligibility requirements for this program may apply to the COPS Office Universal Hiring Program for police officer positions only.

Receiving an award under the Tribal Resources Grant Program will not preclude grantees from future consideration under other COPS grant programs for which they are eligible.

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

Dated: March 6, 2000.

Thomas Frazier,
Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Public Meeting; Concerning Heavy Duty Diesel Engine Consent Decrees

The Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency announce a public meeting to be held on March 21, 2000 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 1425 New York Ave., N.W., 13th Floor Conference Room, Washington, DC. The subject of the meeting will be implementation of the provisions of seven consent decrees signed by the United States and diesel engine manufacturers and entered by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on July 1, 1999. In supporting entry by the Court of the decrees, the United States committed to meet with states, industry groups, environmental groups, and concerned citizens to discuss consent decree implementation issues. This will be the third of a series of public meetings to be held quarterly during the first year of implementation of the consent decrees and at least annually thereafter. Future meetings will be announced in the **Federal Register** and/or on EPA's Diesel Engine Settlement web page at: www.epa.gov/oeca/ore/aed/diesel.

Topics covered will likely include the manufacturers' progress toward meeting the emission standards in the Consent Decrees and EPA's recent approval of the manufacturers' Project proposals. Interested parties may contract the Environmental Protection Agency prior to the meeting at the address listed

below with questions or suggestions for other topics of discussion.

For further information, please contact: Anne Wick, EPA Diesel Engine Consent Decree Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Mail Code 2242A), EPA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20460, e-mail: WICK.ANNE@EPA.GOV.

Joel M. Gross,

Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division.
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Notice of Lodging of Partial Consent Decree Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.

Under 28 CFR 50.7, notice is hereby given that on March 2, 2000, a proposed partial consent decree ("consent decree") in *United States v. Excel Corp.*, Civil Action No. 3:93CV119RM, was lodged with the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

In this action the United States sought recovery, under Section 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), of response costs incurred in connection with the Main Street Well Field Site in Elkhart, Indiana ("Site"). The proposed consent decree provides for the payment by American Electronic Components, Inc., successor by statutory merger to defendant Durakool, Inc. ("AEC/Durakool"), of \$2,700,000 of the United States' unrecovered response costs at the Site, plus interest.

The Department of Justice will receive for a period of thirty (30) days from the date of this publication comments relating to the proposed consent decree. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044-7611, and should refer to *United States v. Excel Corp.*, D.J. Ref. No. 90-11-3-799.

The proposed consent decree may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney, 301 Federal Building, 204 South Main Street, South Bend, Indiana; and at the Region 5 Office of EPA, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Illinois 60604. A copy of the proposed consent decree may be obtained by mail from the Department of Justice Consent Decree Library, P.O. Box 7611, Washington, DC 20044. In requesting a