

February 20, 2007

## NAPO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **PRESIDENT'S FY2008 BUDGET SLASHES FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAMS**

#### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ) GRANT PROGRAMS

The President's fiscal 2008 budget proposes large cuts to state and local law enforcement assistance grant programs. The budget proposal would cut federal assistance to these DOJ grant programs by more than half (54%) compared to FY2007 funding levels, from \$2.6 billion to \$1.2 billion. While the President's budget does not propose to eliminate the Byrne-JAG program as it has in previous years, it does propose to consolidate certain grants under the program into four new law enforcement grant programs: the Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative, the Byrne Public Safety and Protection Program, the Prevention and Prosecution of Violence Against Women and Related Victim Services Program, and the Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Program. These would all be discretionary competitive grant programs, meaning that there would no longer be a formula grant under Byrne-JAG, and that local agencies would have to compete for all funding.

Below are program descriptions of the four newly proposed consolidated grants programs:

- **The Violent Crime Reduction Partnership Initiative** would be to help communities suffering from high rates of violent crime to address the issue by forming and developing effective multi-jurisdictional law enforcement partnerships between local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies. Through a competitive grant process, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) would provide funding and technical assistance to communities seeking to establish partnerships to investigate and reduce violent crime – including efforts to address drug trafficking and criminal gang activity. This program is slated to be funded at \$200 million.
- **The Byrne Public Safety and Protection Program** would consolidate many of OJP's State and local law enforcement assistance programs into a single, flexible grant that will help State, local, and tribal governments develop programs that would fit the particular needs of their jurisdictions. Through a competitive grant process, OJP will assist State and local governments in addressing a number of high-priority concerns, including: (1) reducing violent crime at the local levels through the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative; (2) addressing the criminal justice issues surrounding substance abuse through drug courts, residential treatment for prison inmates, prescription drug monitoring programs, methamphetamine lab cleanup, and cannabis eradication efforts; (3) promoting and enhancing law enforcement information sharing efforts; (4) improving the capacity of State and local law enforcement and justice system personnel to make use of forensic evidence and reducing DNA evidence analysis backlogs; (5) addressing domestic trafficking in persons; (6) improving and expanding prisoner re-entry initiatives; and (7) improving services to victims of crime to facilitate their participation in the legal process. This program is marked to be funded at \$350 million.

All other grant programs under State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance are proposed to be eliminated.

- **The Prevention and Prosecution of Violence Against Women and Related Victim Services Program**, located within the Office on Violence Against Women, is a new consolidated, competitive grant program to support State, local, tribal, and community efforts to develop and implement effective, coordinated prevention and prosecution of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking, and support related victims services. Awarded funds are designed to forge state, local and tribal partnerships among police, prosecutors, the judiciary, victim advocates, health care providers, and faith leaders, in order to help provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives, while simultaneously enabling communities to hold offenders accountable. This program would be funded at \$370 million.
- **The Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Program** consolidates existing grants under the Juvenile Justice Programs, such as the Internet Crimes Against Children, into a single flexible grant program. As with the previous three grant programs proposed in the President's FY2008 budget, the OJP will award funding through a competitive discretionary grant process to assist State and local governments in addressing multiple child safety and juvenile justice needs to: reduce incidents of child exploitation and abuse, including those facilitated by the use of computers and the Internet, improve juvenile justice outcomes, and address school safety needs. This program would be funded at \$280 million.

The President's budget allocates only \$32.308 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program - \$4 million for training and technical assistance and the remaining \$28.308 million for program management and administration. This is a far cry from the authorized funding level of \$1.15 billion, and it provides absolutely no funding for the hiring or retention of police officers.

The President's reasoning for reducing or eliminating funding for these vital state and local law enforcement grant programs is that the administration feels they are "excessive and not effective." This is despite numerous meetings NAPO and other law enforcement groups have had with the administration during the development of the budget in which we expounded on the necessity and value of these grant programs to law enforcement agencies for protecting our communities. The President also cites that he has increased funding for federal law enforcement agencies, particularly the Federal Bureau of Investigation, as a reason why he proposes cutting funding for state and local law enforcement. While NAPO fully supports our brothers and sisters in federal law enforcement, we feel that state and local law enforcement is no less important in protecting our neighborhoods from domestic crime and terrorist threats.

For a complete breakdown of the President's fiscal 2008 budget proposal for DOJ programs please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2008/pdf/appendix/jus.pdf>

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAMS

The President's FY2008 budget proposes \$1.896 billion for Department of Homeland Security State and local programs, of which \$1.050 billion is provided for the three biggest first responder grant programs: the State Homeland Security Grant (SHSG) program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP), and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). Funding for all three programs would be cut under this budget proposal compared to FY2007 levels, with the SHSG program taking the biggest hit for the second year in a row - from \$525 million down to \$187 million. The LETPP is cut from \$375 million to \$263 million, and UASI is down to \$600 million from \$770 million. Combined, this would represent a total cut of \$620 million from FY2007 levels, and an approximate 60% cut from FY2004 funding levels, when these programs received more than \$3

billion in funding. NAPO will demand answers as to why the administration continues to propose cuts in funding for these and other essential state and local law enforcement grant programs, especially since the importance of local law enforcement in the fight against terror has not diminished over the past 4 years.

For a complete breakdown of the President's fiscal 2008 budget proposal for DHS programs please visit: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2008/pdf/appendix/dhs.pdf>

#### NAPO POSITION

As mentioned in last month's *Washington Report*, the FBI released its semi-annual Uniformed Crime Report (UCR) on December 18, 2006, which stated that there was a steep increase in violent crime in the first half of 2006. These results follow the 2005 UCR, which stated that the murder rate increased by 4.8 percent from 2004 to 2005 and that violent crime rates in general, which included forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as murder, were up 2.5 percent. Up to this point, 2005 marked the highest rise in the crime rate in fifteen years. This report makes clear that state and local law enforcement needs the full support of the federal government to continue fighting the war on drugs, protect our neighborhoods from crime, and defend against terrorist threats. The last thing the administration should be doing is gutting vital programs that assist those who are our nation's first line of defense against crime and terrorism. NAPO will work tirelessly to ensure that Congress rejects these proposed cuts in funding and restores full funding to all of these essential state and local law enforcement programs.