



Support a Safe Nation and Safe Communities

The security of the United States and its citizens is a fundamental responsibility of government. The threats to America's citizens and commerce have increased significantly over the last decade. With these increased threats come additional responsibilities for local law enforcement. Local police must deal with both small criminal gangs and transnational crime syndicates. First responders must prepare for major regional disasters, while coping with traditional fire and emergency medical response. Although these new challenges are overburdening many cities and towns already, the economic crisis is further straining local governments' public safety budgets.

Message to Congress

- *Thank you for funding public safety programs in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.* The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and Byrne Justice Assistance Grants are essential resources for preventing crime in our communities and across America.
- *Crime is not just a state and local matter to be resolved.* Federal resources promote intergovernmental coordination that leads to improved criminal justice practices and crime reduction.
- *The nation's economic crisis is a growing public safety threat.* According to a recent study by the Police Executive Research Forum, 64 percent of local police departments are facing cuts in their total funding, while at the same time 44 percent of police departments are reporting increases in certain types of crime.

Request to Congress

- **Protect funding** for proven public safety programs, including the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants.