



New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association
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New Jersey State PBA Response to Federal COPS Grant Awards

The President of the New Jersey State PBA today expressed disappointment in the limited number of positions funded for law enforcement officers in the State under the Federal COPS funding program announced today by Vice President Biden. 305 law enforcement agencies in New Jersey applied for funds to retain or hire a total of 1404 officers but only 18 municipalities received the grants, accounting for 123 officers. "While we are grateful for every job saved or created under the program, the reality is that this level of funding amounts to a band aid over a gaping wound," New Jersey State PBA President Anthony Wieners said. "Irvington, Paterson and Trenton need the help to fight crime but so does Maplewood, Cranford and Cherry Hill and dozens of other suburban towns who are suffering in this economy."

A New Jersey State PBA study conducted in May revealed more than 325 officers were facing layoffs because of the difficult economic times. "Many local governments were holding out hope that these grants would allow them to sustain their level of protection," said Wieners. The State PBA pointed to a breakdown in funding for New Jersey in which only 6 of the 123 COPS funded positions will prevent a layoff or rehire an officer. "I am fearful that many towns who were hoping to prevent layoffs with this funding will now be forced to cut back their police departments and make no mistake that this will seriously impact public safety in the State."

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