COMMUNITIES AT RISK

Budget Cuts and their Impact on Homeland and Hometown Security
The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) has grown increasingly concerned about the severe cuts to state, local, and tribal law enforcement assistance grants in the past few fiscal years. These continued cuts have the potential to cripple the capabilities of the 18,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide and force many departments to take officers off the streets, likely leading to more crime and violence in our hometowns and ultimately less security for our homeland.

**Protecting our Homeland**

In addition to the impact these cuts may have on crime levels and crime prevention in general, these reductions will have a profound and direct impact on our ability to prevent terrorist attacks in our communities and upon our homeland.

For example:

- From fiscal year (FY) 2010 to FY 2011, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) was cut by 22 percent. The LETPP is the only funding source that is dedicated solely to terrorism prevention and to meeting law enforcement’s unique mission to detect and prevent future terrorist attacks.

- From FY 2010 to FY 2011, the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) was cut by 16 percent. The UASI aids urban areas, some of which carry the highest risk of a terrorist attack, in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism.

- From FY 2010 to FY 2011, the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) was cut by 15 percent. The SHSGP aids states in their homeland security strategies including planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs on the state and local level.

Unfortunately, as dramatic as these cuts were, funding for these vital programs was slashed by an additional **32 percent in FY 2012**. As highlighted in the chart below, these cuts have vastly accelerated the steep decline in Department of Homeland Security (DHS) assistance funding experienced over the past few years.
Exacerbating these reductions is the requirement that, in FY 2012, the limited funds being made available must fund not only SHSG, UASI and LETPP programs but also at least six additional assistance programs; this means that at least nine programs will be sharing significantly less funding ($977 million) than was allocated in FY 2010 to just the UASI and the SHSGP alone ($1.448 billion).

**Protecting the Communities We Serve**

Unfortunately, these cuts come on top of severe reductions to other vital law enforcement assistance programs that have consistently proven their value to the state, local, and tribal law enforcement community. For example:

- In FY 2010, the Community Oriented Policing Services Program (COPS) received $792 million; $495 million in FY 2011; and, in FY 2012, $198.5 million—a **75 percent decrease over the past three fiscal years**. Additionally, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to **ELIMINATE** this program in 2011. COPS cover many areas, such as hiring law enforcement officers, technology, combating methamphetamine production, and school safety grants.

- In FY 2010, the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) was allocated $511 million; $494 million in FY 2011; and, in FY 2012, $470 million—a cut of nine percent over three fiscal years. Byrne-JAG provides funds to assist states and units of local government in controlling and preventing drug abuse, crime, and violence; and in improving the criminal justice system. **Unfortunately, these cuts only continue a 10-year history of decline. In FY 2003, the same programs funded by Byrne-JAG received $1.05 billion, marking a 56 percent reduction to date!**

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1 This includes: the Metropolitan Medical Response System; the Citizen Corps Program; Public Transportation Security Assistance and Railroad Security Assistance; Over-the-Road Bus Security; Port Security Grants; Driver's License Security Grants Program; Interoperable Emergency Communications Grant Program
Additionally, the administration recently released its FY 2013 budget proposal, including funding for DHS and DOJ programs which fund state, local and tribal assistance programs. In this budget,

- $290 million is proposed for the Community Oriented Police Services Program (COPS), of which $257 million is set aside for hiring. And of that amount, $15 million is set aside for training and technical assistance funds.
- $413 million is proposed for the Edward R. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) Program.
- Current programs would be eliminated and/or condensed. SHSG, UASI and LETPP would all be replaced with a “National Preparedness Grant” (NPGP) funded at $1.5 billion.

**Critical Impact**

Unfortunately, the severe cuts to these programs come at a time when state, local, and tribal agencies are already dealing with dramatic cuts in state, county, municipal, and tribal budgets. In order to get a better picture of what agencies were facing, the IACP brought together more than 500 chiefs to discuss this fiscal crisis. More than 85 percent of agencies surveyed by the IACP reported that, over the past year, they were forced to reduce their budgets, with nearly half of agencies surveyed reporting that they had to lay off or furlough staff in the past 12 months.2

In addition, many agencies have already been forced to make drastic reductions in services such as responding to only high-level or life-threatening calls for service, forgoing equipment replacement and upgrades, and eliminating special programs and units. Even more troubling is the fact that most chiefs reported that their levels of services would continue to decline as the impact from budget cuts intensified.

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2 Policing in the 21st Century, Survey Results, April 2011
These are critical losses. Community policing, and other police-community partnerships have played a critical role in our ability to detect, deter and prevent crime and terrorist attacks in our communities. If we lose, through the disappearance of community policing, the full and active support of our communities, the capabilities of state and local law enforcement will be significantly reduced.

**Action Needed**

The IACP firmly believes that just as state, local and tribal law enforcement officers have protected our communities from crime it is “a well trained, well equipped officer, armed with the best information, will be our first line of defense,” against terrorism. That is why it is imperative that we ensure that law enforcement agencies have the resources they need to meet their core responsibilities of protecting our communities from crime while at the same time they continue their vital role in protecting our homeland from attack.

Finally, the IACP is very concerned that debate over funding for the various law enforcement and homeland security assistance programs has become increasingly partisan over the past several years. The IACP believes that this issue is too important to the safety of our communities and our nation to allow political differences to delay or reduce efforts to make certain that law enforcement and other public safety agencies receive the resources they need to ensure that they have the equipment, the assets, the training, and the boots on the ground necessary to fulfill their missions.

If immediate action is not taken to restore these critical funds, the damage that has already been done will continue. The IACP urges Congress to act now to restore necessary resources that will allow state, local, and tribal law enforcement to mount effective anticrime and antiterrorism programs to protect our communities and our homeland.
For additional information on these issues, or other matters of concern to the law enforcement community, please contact the IACP Legislative Affairs staff:

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The International Association of Chiefs of Police is the world’s oldest and largest nonprofit membership organization of police executives, with more than 21,000 members in over 100 different countries. The IACP’s leadership consists of the operating chief executives of international, federal, state, tribal, and local agencies of all sizes.

Founded in 1893, the association’s goals are to advance the science and art of police services; to develop and disseminate improved administrative, technical and operational practices and promote their use in police work; to foster police cooperation and the exchange of information and experience among police administrators throughout the world; to bring about recruitment and training in the police profession of qualified persons; and to encourage adherence of all police officers to high professional standards of performance and conduct.

Since 1893, the International Association of Chiefs of Police has been serving the needs of the law enforcement community. Throughout the past 115 years, we have been launching historically acclaimed programs, conducting ground-breaking research, and providing exemplary programs and services to our membership across the globe.

Professionally recognized programs such as the FBI Identification Division and the Uniform Crime Records system can trace their origins back to the IACP. In fact, the IACP has been instrumental in forwarding breakthrough technologies and philosophies from the early years of our establishment to the present. From spearheading national use of fingerprint identification to partnering in a consortium on community policing to gathering top experts in criminal justice, the government and education for summits on violence, homicide, and youth violence, the IACP has realized our responsibility to positively affect the goals of law enforcement.

Even with such an esteemed history, we are continually initiating programs to address the needs of today’s law enforcement professionals. Our members have let us know that they consider the IACP to be a progressive organization, successfully advancing the law enforcement profession.

If you would like additional information about the IACP, please contact IACP Headquarters at 1-800-THE-IACP (1-800-843-4227) or visit our website at www.theiacp.org.