

COMMUNITY POLICING RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Sponsored by the

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

In partnership with

The Governor's Office

The Illinois Attorney General

The Regional Institute for Community Policing (RICP)

The Institute of Public Safety Partnerships (IPSP)

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association

The Illinois Municipal League

The Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board

INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and their partners recognize community policing as an effective strategy for the reduction of crime. It is a strategy that encourages officers to form partnerships with their communities, to think creatively and to identify and solve problems.

Community policing is useful in jurisdictions of all sizes and can be brought to bear on problems specific to individual communities. Through the use of partnerships and innovative approaches, the police and their communities can reduce crime and improve the quality of life for all.

The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and their partners in this program wish to encourage and facilitate community policing. Toward that end, we will recognize, in the form of a COP Recognition Award, agencies that have adopted and practice the community policing philosophy as proactive and innovative in the suppression of crime. All law enforcement agencies in Illinois (State, County, Municipal, and University) are eligible to make application for recognition.

The IACP Community Oriented Policing (COP) Recognition Award is a non-competitive process. All applicants are reviewed on their own merits and are not competing against other applicants.

RECOGNITION PROCESS

The recognition process requires:

Application

- Applicants submit requests for review to be submitted to the IACP Community Policing Committee no later than August 1 of the proceeding year. See below for application requirements.
- Chairperson of the IACP Community Policing Committee reviews applications for the compliance with submission guidelines and sends a letter indicating receipt of the application or requesting further documentation.
- For applications that meet minimum submission guidelines, an assessment team will be formed, preferably consisting of 2 members; team membership will include at least one community policing institute representative (Regional Institute for Community Policing or Institute for Public Safety Partnerships) and the other representative(s) will be selected from members of the IACP COP Committee who have already received the recognition.

Site visit

- The assessment team will review the submitted application and determine the specific components that will be assessed at the site visit (i.e., persons to be interviewed, records to be reviewed, locations to visit, etc.)
- The assigned institute will send a letter to the contact person for the applying agency, indicating duties of the agency, and a list of required and recommended persons to be interviewed. Upon receipt of the letter, the applicant will immediately respond to the institute to make arrangements for the site visit and receive any clarification that may be necessary. Prior to the site visit, the applicant will provide the institute, for approval, an agenda/schedule of those to be interviewed.
- Each site visit will take approximately one day to complete.

Review of application and site visit report

- The assessment team will complete a report form and brief summary by November 1, of that year.
- All completed forms and summaries will be submitted to the IACP COP Committee with recommendations by the assessment teams. Scoring will be based on a “MET” / “NOT MET” format.

Awarding of Recognition

- The IACP COP Committee will meet to discuss the applications, make the selections and announcements.
- Agencies to be recognized will be furnished with a certificate and be authorized to post a sign(s) in their community announcing the recognition. The IACP COP Committee Chairman will present recipient agencies with their recognition award at the IACP Winter conference and will designate himself or other COP Committee members to present the award in the recipients local venue of choice.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

There is no single definition of community policing. For that reason, several different views and concepts were reviewed when developing this program. The following were identified as elements of community policing that will be considered when assessing an agency:

- External Support
- Partnership with Community
- Preventive/Proactive Policing
- Mission and Value Statements
- Problem-Solving
- Empowerment
- Training

An agency seeking recognition will have to demonstrate that each of these elements has been addressed and instituted in one form or another. This can be demonstrated in various ways.

External Support - Corporate Authorities and Administration

While the police have long been thought of as a part of the criminal justice system, the community policing philosophy acknowledges that the police are also an arm of local government. As such, it is vital that a community policing initiative by a local police agency has the support of the legislative body and administration of the local government. This support can be demonstrated by resolutions, letters of support, or other types of public pronouncement.

Partnership with Community

Working in partnership with the community is recognized as a key element in community policing. This partnership enables the police to consult and collaborate with the community to identify and solve problems, and can be demonstrated in several ways:

- The establishment of a mechanism for community feedback such as regular surveys or focus groups.
- The ability to meet with the community for the purpose of consultation and collaboration by means of:
 - a community liaison or advisory group;
 - the establishment of, and meeting with, neighborhood watch groups;
 - citizen police academy;
 - partnerships with groups within the community such as business, school and faith based, and;
 - involvement with all sectors of the community including youth and elderly support organizations.

Preventive/Proactive Policing

Crime prevention may be the ultimate goal and centerpiece of community policing as the purpose of community policing efforts is to aggressively prevent crime. The philosophy of community policing includes the concept that it is better to prevent a crime than to solve it. Preventing crime is the most effective way to create a safer environment in the community.

- Preventive policing is defined as the absence of crimes and disorder.
- Includes traditional crime prevention programs (e.g., Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) as well.

Mission and Values Statements

Mission describes the purpose and philosophy of an organization. It is the starting point for the organization's goals, objectives and plans, and should focus on what the organization really tries to do.

An organization's mission statement should clearly specify its "business" by defining *who* are the organization's customers, *what* customer needs the organization is attempting to fill, and *how* the organization plans to go about its business. It should reflect the values, beliefs and philosophy of the organization, and it should focus on one strategic thrust.

Values comprise those things that are most important to the people of an organization, are tied to the organization's culture, and give direction to the various decisions that are made every day at every level of the organization.

Police departments which have adopted community policing have found it helpful to develop concise value statements which reflect its philosophy, and can serve as an institutional pledge to the community. Values must be presented and reinforced through training, policy, performance evaluations, etc. Agencies will have to demonstrate that they have Mission and Value Statements, which incorporate the community policing philosophy and personnel are aware of and practice those principles.

Problem-Solving

A distinction can be made between *problem-solving* and *problem-oriented policing*. Problem-solving is a strategy used by individual officers, small teams of officers, or special units to address a specific problem. This may or may not be encouraged and guided by the department. Problem-oriented policing is an agency-wide strategy to encourage and guide all members to engage in problem-solving.

Problem-oriented policing, as a police strategy based on the "SARA" model. This process consists of four stages:

- Scanning: an officer or community member identifies an issue and determines the degree of the problem.
- Analysis: officers or community members collect information from sources inside and outside the agency. The goal is to understand the scope, nature and causes of the problem.
- Response: the collected information is used to develop and implement solutions.
- Assessment: officers and community members evaluate the effectiveness of the response.

Agencies must demonstrate evidence of identifying and solving problems in collaboration with communities that address not only crime but also quality of life issues.

Empowerment

One of the mainstays of community policing is the decentralization of command and authority. A key assumption of community policing is that different neighborhoods and communities have different problems and priorities. In order to adapt the delivery of police services to these problems and priorities, subordinate commanders must be given the flexibility to respond in different ways.

Community policing uses decentralization to gain the operational flexibility necessary to shape police strategies to particular neighborhoods. It implies that small and more local is better. However, decentralization does not just refer to a change to policing based on area, it also refers to authority.

In a decentralized department, street officers are empowered. They have much greater freedom to make decisions about what is to be done, and how they will do it, in order to contribute to the overall objectives of the agency. In community policing, the de-facto discretion that has always existed, and which is widely used by police officers, is recognized and developed.

Training

Training staff is essential. Both sworn and civilian employees should be taught the community policing philosophy to ensure common understanding. Staff should also receive practical training related to problem-solving, crime prevention and analyses strategies. In particular, patrol officers and first-line supervisors need to understand their role in community policing. The COPS Office of the Department of Justice, the Regional Institute for Community Policing or the Institute for Public Safety Partnerships are examples of organizations specializing in community oriented policing training.

For additional information or submission of Application Form, contact the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, 426 S. Fifth St., Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701, Phone 217/523-3765, Fax 217/523-8352, E-mail iacp@ilchiefs.org or visit the IACP website at <http://www.ilchiefs.org/forms/copawardform.pdf> .

APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY POLICING RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Agency Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Person Responsible for Application:

**In completing the following items, please refer to the attached “Community Policing Recognition Program”.
Submission Deadline is August 1st each year.**

1. Describe the type of support your agency has received from businesses, schools, public officials and other community partners. Support can be shown through municipal websites, newspaper articles, letters of support etc.
2. Describe your community partnerships:
3. Describe your efforts at preventive/proactive policing:
4. Describe your efforts involving your problem solving method and give examples:
5. Describe your efforts at empowering street level officers to contribute to the overall agency objectives:
6. What efforts have been made to train your staff in the community policing philosophy?
7. Provide any other information you believe is relevant regarding your efforts at developing a community policing philosophy in your agency:
8. Please attach your mission and values statement.
9. Please identify 2 successful problem solving ideas and enter into the IMAGINE Database located on the Illinois Regional Institute for Community Policing website, <http://ricp.uis.edu> and clicking on Database Center. The database serves as a state repository and research center for collaborative problem solving ideas and projects.

10. List of previous awardees:

2002

Elk Grove Village Police Department
Highland Park Police Department
Wilmette Police Department

2003

Kankakee Police Department
Lincoln Police Department
Naperville Police Department
Northlake Police Department
Wood Dale Police Department

2004

Carbondale Police Department
Carol Stream Police Department
Evanston Police Department
Hoffman Estates Police Department

2005

Carol Stream Police Department
Lake County Sheriff's Office
O'Fallon Police Department
Mundelein Police Department
Rolling Meadows Police Department
Schaumburg Police Department

**Submit Application Form to: Community Policing Recognition Program, Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police,
426 S. Fifth St., Suite 200, Springfield, IL 62701, Phone 217/523-3765, Fax 217/523-8352**