

# Drug Law Enforcement



## Policy Brief

March, 2005

### Changing Federal, State, and Local Roles

#### Overview

The Administration's proposed budget for FY 2006 portends a shift in the federal role in state and local drug law enforcement. This proposed budget comes at a time when all levels of government are fiscally challenged and will likely prompt debate about how best to sort out fiscal responsibilities for domestic drug law enforcement. If the Administration's proposed budget becomes law, long-standing federal government efforts to improve coordination and cooperation among drug law enforcement agencies could suffer.

#### Coordination & Collaboration

The federal government worked over the last decade to promote programs to enhance coordination and collaboration among federal, state, and local law enforcement. One notable example is the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) program. HIDTAs are designated because of the seriousness of their drug trafficking problems and the effects that drugs flowing from these areas had on other parts of the country. Today there are 28 HIDTAs. The program funds standing task forces that specifically target drug trafficking organizations having the greatest impact on their regional market economy. It does so by bringing together law enforcement at all levels of government to attack drug trafficking organizations (DTOs). The program integrates law enforcement activities through resource and information sharing. Preliminary information from the National HIDTA program shows that the program identified over 3,300 DTOs in 2004, dismantled over 650 of them, and disrupted almost 1,400 more. The Administration's FY 2006 Budget Request proposes to reduce resources for HIDTA from \$228 million to \$100 million and to transfer the program to the Department of Justice's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) program.

OCDETF provides funding on an ad hoc

basis to support drug cases that law enforcement encounters in its ongoing investigations. OCDETF funds federal law enforcement cases related to the Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) List, which identifies those significant international drug trafficking and money laundering organizations most responsible for the drug supply to the United States. The CPOT strategy seeks to incapacitate the foreign-based organization heads, their domestic transportation and smuggling systems, their regional and local distribution networks, and their financial operations. In FY 2006, funding for OCDETF increases from \$554 million to \$662 million, mostly due to the transfer of \$100 million in HIDTA resources into the OCDETF program. The Administration has not revealed how the HIDTA program will be managed by OCDETF.

Another program providing funds to enable coordination and collaboration among law enforcement is the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Justice Assistance Program (BYRNE). Prior to FY 2005, the BYRNE Grant consisted of two parts, a formula grant and discretionary grants. The BYRNE formula grant provided funds to enable state and local law enforcement to control drug abuse and violent crime. These grants were most often used to support the integration of law enforcement task forces. In FY 2005 the formula grant was eliminated and the BYRNE discretionary program was consolidated within the Justice Assistance Grant Program. The Justice Assistance Grants program, which received \$634 million in appropriations last year, is proposed for elimination in FY 2006.

#### Intelligence & Technology

The Office of National Drug Control Policy's Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center (CTAC) operates two programs—a Research and Development program (R&D) and a Technology

#### Quick Facts

- A Peter Hart survey of police chiefs conducted for *Drug Strategies* and the *Police Foundation* reports that drug abuse is the most important problem facing local law enforcement.
- Police chiefs report that they have far too few resources to deal with drug abuse and its damaging consequences.
- Police chiefs also report that they believe that the resource gap in dealing with drugs exceeds the resource gap facing the other crime problems they confront.
- There were 1,678,192 total State and local arrests for drug abuse violations in 2003.
- The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program reports the dismantlement of over 650 drug trafficking organizations in 2004.
- According to HHS, the criminal justice system was the principal source of referral for 36% of all substance abuse treatment admissions in 2002.

# Changing Drug Law Enforcement Government Roles

Transfer program (TTP). Among other things, the R&D program addresses law enforcement's scientific and technological needs. The TTP provides state-of-the-art, affordable, easily integrated and maintainable tools to enhance the capabilities of State and local law enforcement agencies for counterdrug missions. TTP delivers hand-held drug detection devices and training to State and local law enforcement agencies to provide case building investigative tools. In FY 2006, \$30 million is proposed for CTAC, a \$12 million reduction from the FY 2005 level. The \$20 million request for TTP is \$4 million less than last year's level.

Another change proposed in the Administration's budget is the closure of the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC). NDIC was established in 1993 and was designated in 2000 as the nation's principal center for strategic domestic counterdrug intelligence. Its mission is to provide strategic domestic drug intelligence and to produce national, regional, and state drug threat assessments. NDIC's major product is its national- and state-level threat assessments that describe drug trafficking and abuse trends within the nation. The assessment supports state and local law enforcement by providing current quantitative and qualitative information on availability, demand, production and cultivation, transportation, and distribution. The \$17 million requested in FY 2006 is to pay for an orderly shutdown of NDIC's operations.

The FY 2006 Budget increases the Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) from \$39 million to \$45 million. RISS was originally designed to support state and local law enforcement efforts to combat drug trafficking and organized criminal activity. RISS improves local law enforcement's ability to target, investigate, and prosecute crime—including drug-related crime—and fosters collaboration within the local law enforcement community. Increased funding does not target drug law enforcement, but is intended to expand

RISS support for communicating terrorism alerts and related information.

## Other Drug Programs

The proposed budget does continue other state and local drug law enforcement programs, but many are at reduced levels. These include programs targeting specific drug problems, drug laws, and specialty programs:

- Funding for the Weed and Seed program, which funds comprehensive strategies to combat drug and violent crime and revitalize communities, decreases slightly from \$61 million to \$60 million.
- Funding for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, which help states prevent and detect the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances, decreases from \$10 million to \$5 million.
- Funding for Methamphetamine Enforcement and Cleanup decreases from \$51 million to \$20 million.
- The National Alliance for Model State Drug Laws is targeted for elimination. The Alliance supports state and local governments by working with states to address alcohol and other drug problems through laws, policies, and programs.

The Community Oriented Policing Services Program—once part of the federal drug budget—is also affected. The request eliminates funding for the hiring of police officers, training and technical assistance, and the COPS Interoperable Communications Technology Program.

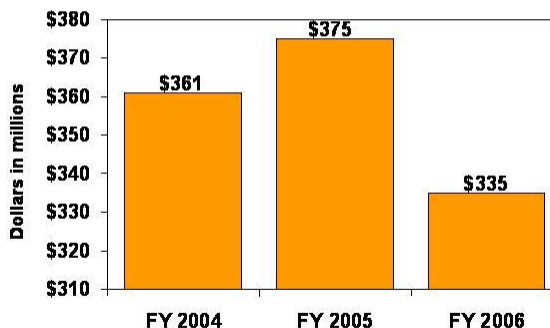
One area to receive an increase is the Drug Courts program—from \$39 million to a proposed \$70 million. This program uses the coercive power of the court to force abstinence and alter behavior by drug-dependent defendants with a combination of mandatory drug testing, treatment, sanctions, and aftercare.

## Conclusion

The Administration's proposed budget for FY 2006 will reduce federal support for state and local drug law enforcement, domestic intelligence sharing among law enforcement, and intergovernmental and inter-jurisdictional drug law enforcement cooperation. If approved by Congress, these changes will have a significant impact on the ability of state and local governments to respond to drug trafficking threats in a coordinated and effective manner. Drug law enforcement cuts combined with the current fiscal environment will leave state and local governments with difficult choices if they try to maintain existing efforts to combat drug trafficking and drug-related crime.

Additional publications can be found at: [www.carnevaleassociates.com/publications.html](http://www.carnevaleassociates.com/publications.html)

## Spending for Drug Law Enforcement in the Federal Drug Control Budget



### Note:

Estimates reflect resources counted by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy as drug-related. Excludes other law enforcement changes highlighted in this Policy Brief.

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, FY 2006 Budget Summary



14501 Cervantes Ave., Darnestown, MD 20874  
(301) 977-3600

This **Policy Brief** is a publication of the Research and Policy Analysis Group of Carnevale Associates, LLC. Carnevale Associates provides strategic leadership to public and private organizations through its three practice groups: Strategic Planning; Research and Policy Analysis; and Integrated Communications.

[www.carnevaleassociates.com](http://www.carnevaleassociates.com)

© 2005 Carnevale Associates LLC