

WHAT IS THE C.O.P.S. PROGRAM?



COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICE SERVICES (COPS) PROGRAM

WHAT DID THE COPS PROGRAM DO?

AN INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY? NOT EXACTLY

The 1994 Crime Bill allocated \$8.8 billion towards police services from 1995-2000. The Community Oriented Police Services program (COPS) was created to administer the distribution of those funds to local and state governments.

The principle goals of the COPS program have been:

- To increase the number of officers deployed.
- To encourage 'problem-solving oriented' policing and more interaction between police and communities.
- To encourage innovations in police tactics and administration.
- To develop and distribute new technologies and equipment to polices.

Since 1994, The COPS Program has granted over \$19 billion to state and local governments to fund police programs and directly contributed to the hiring of an additional 100,000 police officers nationwide.

- The costs of those hires were quickly, and continue to be, borne by city budgets.
- Once COPS Program funding ended in select locales, local communities were left to fund these officers without further support from the federal government, with 75% of the salaries of newly hired officers funded through local appropriations.
- Federal funds for policing through programs such as COPS grants funded new equipment and technologies purchased by local police forces, resulting in the escalation of SWAT teams and other paramilitary units.



POLICE IN
SCHOOLS

WE CAN'T GO
BACK

WE NEED
RESOURCES,
NOT POLICE

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The COPS program has been a major driver of the expansion of policing and surveillance in public schools, providing \$1 billion in funding through its COPS in School program. Between 1999 and 2005 it subsidized the hiring of over 7,000 school police, leaving local jurisdictions to fund them after federal subsidies ran out.

The Biden Administration's Safer America Plan recycles 30-year-old policies that have proven to harm our communities, especially Black and brown ones. Adding \$13 billion into hiring 100,000 additional police officers through the COPS program will exacerbate surveillance and targeting of historically marginalized people.

Imagine what \$13 billion in our most underserved communities would do to improve safety. When we guarantee housing, jobs, health services and provide social workers, violence disruptors, and educators instead of cops, our communities thrive. The safer plan for America is to invest in its people, in its communities, not its police forces.