

## February 18, 2009 - Murtha: Stimulus Package makes Grants Available for Law Enforcement Personnel

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Congressman John P. Murtha (PA-12) announced today that the U.S. Department of Justice has made funding available for local police departments to hire law enforcement personnel through the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP).

The \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which President Obama signed into law yesterday, included \$1 billion to address the personnel needs of state and local law enforcement. CHRP is a competitive grant program that provides funding directly to law enforcement agencies to create and preserve jobs and to increase community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts.

“The federal funds made available from the economic stimulus package will add approximately 5,500 additional law enforcement officers to our nation’s streets,” commented Murtha. “Over the past several years, I’ve been able to secure millions-of-dollars for our local police departments for training and to purchase equipment and vehicles. This new round of funding will complement these efforts by giving departments the opportunity to hire additional officers to keep our communities safe.”

These CHRP funds do not require a local match and will provide 100 percent of the total entry-level salary and benefits of each new officer, for a period of three years. All jurisdictions that receive funding must submit and adhere to a plan to retain COPS-funded officer positions after the federal funding has ended.

Application materials will be available in the coming weeks, and police departments can access this information only online through the COPS Office website: [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).

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