

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY



Fiscal Year 2016

**CONGRESSIONAL
BUDGET
SUBMISSION**

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) advises the Administration on national and international drug control policies and strategies, and works to ensure the effective coordination of drug programs within the National Drug Control Program agencies and with various other governmental, non-profit, and private entities.

For Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, ONDCP is requesting \$308,883,000 and 85 full-time equivalent (FTE). The FY 2016 budget request reflects three appropriations: the Salaries and Expenses (S&E); Other Federal Drug Control Programs; and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA).

The FY 2016 request for S&E is \$20,047,000 and 84 FTE.

The FY 2016 request for the Other Federal Drug Control Programs is \$95,436,000 and 1 FTE. This request includes funds for the Drug Free Communities Support Program, Anti-Doping Activities, and the World Anti-Doping Agency Membership Dues.

The FY 2016 request for the HIDTA program is \$193,400,000. This request includes \$190,700,000 for grants and Federal transfers and up to \$2,700,000 for HIDTA auditing services and associated activities.

ONDCP FUNDING SUMMARY
(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Salaries & Expenses:			
Operations	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
Subtotal, Salaries & Expenses	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
Other Federal Drug Control Programs:			
Drug Free Communities Support Program	\$92,000	\$93,500	\$85,676
Anti-Doping Activities	\$8,750	\$9,000	\$7,700
Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$0
Section 1105 of P.L. 109-469	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0
World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Membership Dues	\$1,994	\$2,000	\$2,060
Subtotal, Other Federal Drug Control Programs	\$105,394	\$107,150	\$95,436
HIDTAs:			
Grants and Federal Transfers	\$235,822	\$242,300	\$190,700
HIDTA Auditing Services and Associated Activities	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700
Subtotal, HIDTAs	\$238,522	\$245,000	\$193,400
Total	\$366,666	\$374,797	\$308,883

Totals may not add due to rounding.

II. MISSION

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) advises the President on national and international drug control policies and strategies and works to ensure the effective coordination of drug control programs within the Federal Government and with various other governmental, non-profit, and private entities. ONDCP seeks to foster healthy individuals and safe communities by effectively leading the Nation's effort to reduce drug use and its consequences.

ONDCP's major responsibilities include:

- Developing the *National Drug Control Strategy (Strategy)*;
- Overseeing a consolidated *National Drug Control Budget (Budget)* to implement the *Strategy* and certifying whether the drug control budgets proposed by National Drug Control Program agencies are adequate to carry out the *Strategy*;
- Coordinating, overseeing, and evaluating the effectiveness of Federal drug control policies and programs of the National Drug Control Program agencies responsible for implementing the *Strategy*;
- Conducting policy analysis and research to determine the effectiveness of drug-control programs and policies in accomplishing the *Strategy's* goals;
- Encouraging private sector, state, local, and tribal initiatives for drug prevention, treatment, and law enforcement;
- Designating High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTAs) and providing overall policy guidance and oversight for the award and management of Federal resources to HIDTAs in support of Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partnerships within these areas;
- Overseeing the Drug-Free Communities Support (DFC) program, which provides grants to community anti-drug coalitions with the primary focus of reducing substance abuse among youth;
- Developing and issuing the National Interdiction Command and Control Plan (NICCP) to ensure the coordination of the interdiction activities of all the National Drug Control Program agencies and ensure consistency with the *Strategy*;

- Overseeing the creation and implementation of the *National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, which aims to stem the flow of illegal drugs and their illicit proceeds across the Southwest border and reduce associated crime and violence in the region. ONDCP coordinates interagency implementation of the National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy by chairing the Southwest Border Strategy Executive Steering Group (SWB-ESG);
- Overseeing the creation and implementation of the *National Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, which aims to reduce the flow of illicit drugs and their proceeds across the Northern border. ONDCP coordinates interagency updates and implementation; and
- Developing a biennial *Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy*. The Strategy will articulate the Administration's plans to substantially reduce the flow of illicit drugs and drug proceeds into and out of the Caribbean border with a focus on reducing drug-related violence.

ONDCP's three primary responsibilities are developing the *Strategy*; developing the *Budget*; and evaluating the effectiveness of the implementation of the *Strategy*.

National Drug Control Strategy

ONDCP develops the President's *Strategy* for submittal to Congress. The *Strategy* sets forth a comprehensive plan for the year to reduce illicit drug use and the consequences of such illicit drug use in the United States by limiting the availability of, and reducing the demand for, illegal drugs.

In preparation of the *Strategy*, ONDCP consults with the heads of the National Drug Control Program agencies; Congress; state, local, and tribal officials; private citizens and organizations, including community and faith-based organizations with experience and expertise in demand reduction; private citizens and organizations with experience and expertise in supply reduction; and appropriate representatives of foreign governments.

Federal Drug Control Budget

The *Budget* identifies resources and performance indicators for programs within the Executive Branch that are integral to the *Strategy*, categorizing the resources for activities of agencies into common drug control areas. The *Budget* is an accurate, transparent, and reliable accounting of Federal resources spent to reduce drug use and its consequences.

Certification of separate agency budgets is the statutory process by which ONDCP reviews and shapes drug control budget proposals. ONDCP is required to determine the adequacy of an agency's proposed budget to implement the objectives of the *Strategy*. Certification affects the formulation of agency budgets that are incorporated into the President's proposed budget to Congress each year.

To be certified, agency budgets must support the priorities identified in the *Strategy*. The Director of ONDCP provides specific guidance to National Drug Control Program agencies on how best to support these priorities. National Drug Control Program agencies consider this guidance when formulating their budgets.

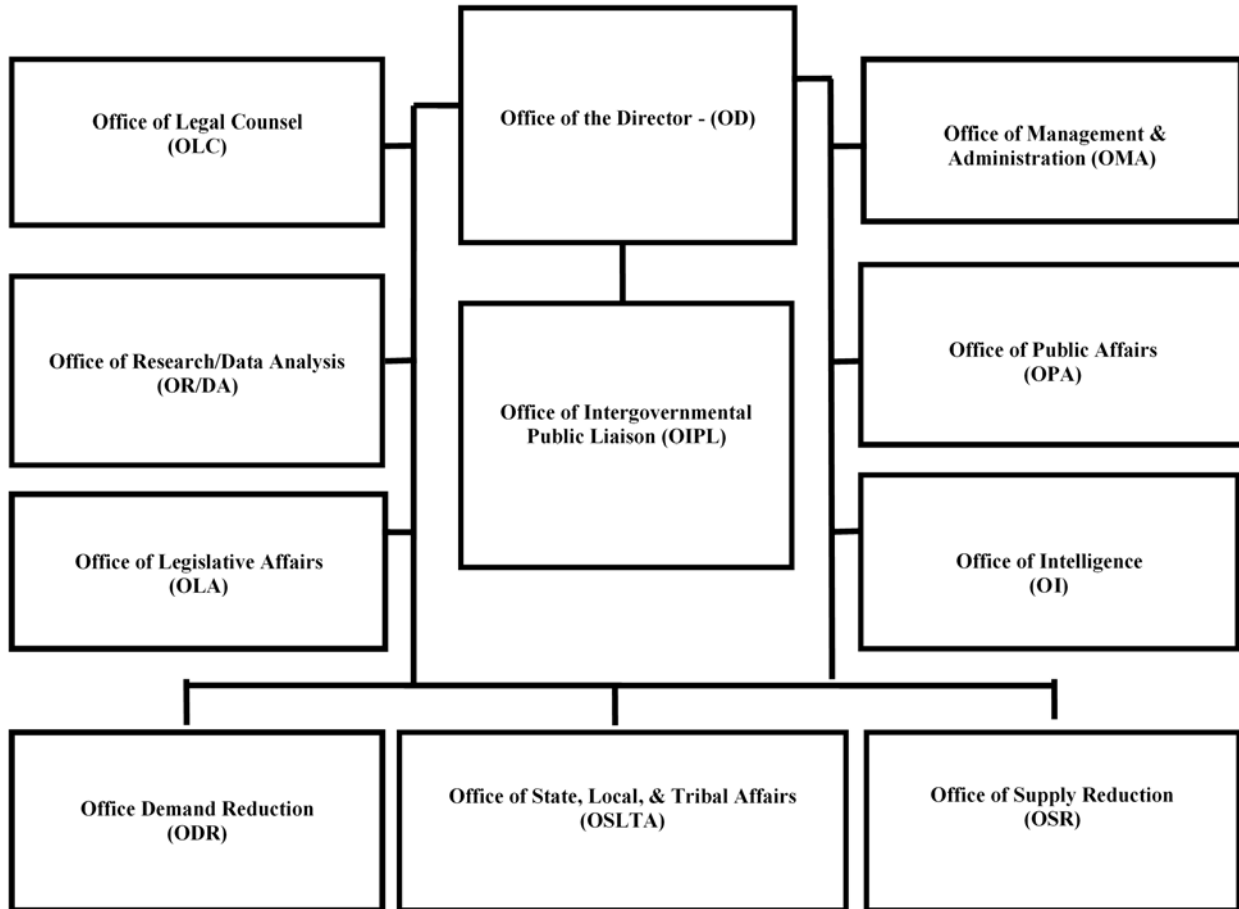
Evaluating Progress in Implementing the Strategy

ONDCP uses the Delivery Unit to measure progress in implementing the *Strategy*. The Delivery Unit is a valuable tool for holding the interagency accountable for meeting the objectives and milestones of the *Strategy* action items.

Each chapter of the *Strategy* includes specific action items. A lead agency and up to six partner agencies are designated for each action item. The lead agencies, partner agencies, and ONDCP subject matter experts have distinct responsibilities. Lead agencies are charged with preparing implementation plans (i.e., objectives and fiscal year milestones) for every action item. The lead agency also must certify that, in developing its implementation plan, it has coordinated with its partners and that the submitted content represents the consensus of all participants. Partner agencies, meanwhile, are responsible for reviewing, modifying (if necessary), and finally approving the lead agency's submission. Finally, an ONDCP subject matter expert is assigned to each action item. The subject matter expert coordinates the work of the lead and partner agencies and, after the plans are submitted, reviews those plans to ensure they are sufficient to fulfill the action item and feasible given the resources and time available. Updates are conducted biannually.

In addition to tracking progress in implementing the current *Strategy*, the Delivery Unit provides ONDCP and the interagency with valuable information needed to update action items, action plans, and milestones for future iterations of the *Strategy*.

III. CURRENT ORGANIZATION CHART



Currently, ONDCP is made up of 11 offices that address issues related to prevention, treatment, recovery, domestic law enforcement, international relations, and data and research analysis, as well as standard agency administrative functions. Over the next 18 months, ONDCP will look for opportunities to eliminate internal silos in an effort to foster public health and public safety collaboration to achieve the goals and objectives of the National Drug Control Strategy. In support of this effort, the Administration will submit a reauthorization bill to the Congress that authorizes ONDCP through FY 2020. The bill will contain several changes meant to streamline the agency functions and improve coordination and collaboration among its many stakeholders.

The following are summary descriptions of the current ONDCP offices. The information is not intended to serve as a comprehensive description for each office.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (OD)

This office supports the Director in the management of ONDCP and the development and coordination of drug control policy.

OFFICE OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC LIAISON (OIPL)

This office works closely with national, state, local, and tribal leaders and law enforcement and substance abuse organizations to provide strategic outreach as ONDCP establishes policies, priorities, and objectives for the Nation's drug control program.

OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL (OLC)

This office provides legal advice on all aspects of ONDCP business and policy development.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH/DATA ANALYSIS (OR/DA)

This office provides the Director and senior ONDCP staff with analysis of data and performance and recent research results pertaining to drug policy. Additionally, the component oversees ONDCP's Policy Research program, which conducts research projects, via contractors, to inform policy formulation and assessment.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS (OLA)

This office works to advance the Administration's drug policy with the United States Congress through outreach to Members of Congress and their staff, involvement in Congressional hearings, and the development of legislative strategies for bills and issues.

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION (OMA)

This office coordinates policy and budget development by the National Drug Control Program agencies, and provides financial management, human resources, information technology, security, administrative support, and travel services for ONDCP.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (OPA)

This office develops and implements communication strategies to convey the Administration's drug policy priorities to the media and the public.

OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE (OI)

This office provides analytic support of international issues to the Director and senior ONDCP staff and coordinates drug-related Intelligence Community and law enforcement intelligence efforts.

OFFICE OF DEMAND REDUCTION (ODR)

This office coordinates prevention, treatment, and recovery support policies for Federal agencies and supports state, local and tribal efforts to enhance prevention and treatment.

OFFICE OF STATE, LOCAL, AND TRIBAL AFFAIRS (OSLTA)

This office coordinates Federal efforts to disrupt the domestic market for illegal drugs. In addition, this office manages the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas and Drug Free Communities programs.

OFFICE OF SUPPLY REDUCTION (OSR)

This office coordinates international efforts to disrupt the market for illegal drugs with strategic actions and partnerships with other countries, as well as oversight to non-domestic drug interdiction efforts.

IV. HISTORICAL FUNDING OVERVIEW

FY 2010 - FY 2016
(\$ in millions)

FISCAL YEAR

	2010 Enacted	2011 Enacted	2012 Enacted	2013 Operational	2014 Enacted	2015 Enacted	2016 Request
Salaries & Expenses							
Operations	\$28.3	\$25.8	\$24.5	\$23.2	\$22.8	\$22.6	\$20.0
Policy Research	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, Salaries & Expenses	29.6	27.1	24.5	23.2	22.8	22.6	20.0
CTAC	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CTAC – Cancellation of Prior Year Balances			[-5.2]				
HIDTA	239.0	238.5	238.5	226.0	238.5	245.0	193.4
Other Federal Drug Control Programs	154.4	140.6	105.6	100.3	105.4	107.2	95.4
OFDCP – Cancellation of Prior Year Balances 1/			[-6.1]				
Total ONDCP Resources	\$428.0	\$406.2	\$368.6	\$349.6	\$366.7	\$374.8	\$308.9

1/ In FY 2012, rescissions for Other Federal Drug Control Programs include \$359,958 for a chronic users study and \$5,723,403 for the National Anti-Drug Youth Media Campaign.

Totals may not add due to rounding.

V. SALARIES AND EXPENSES

A. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Salaries & Expenses: (\$ in thousands)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Operations	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
Total, Salaries & Expenses	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
Staffing	94	94	84

This Administration is committed to developing a 21st century drug policy, one that emphasizes the important role played by treatment, prevention and support for recovery in reducing drug use and its consequences. At the same time, the Nation's efforts to protect public safety depend upon effective criminal justice and supply reduction strategies. ONDCP's FY 2016 Budget reflects this 21st century drug policy and proposes a way forward that will enable ONDCP to better coordinate its core mission areas of policy and budget oversight.

Over the next 18 months, ONDCP will look for opportunities to eliminate internal silos in an effort to foster public health and public safety collaboration to achieve the goals and objectives of the *Strategy*. ONDCP envisions a more streamlined agency that works collaboratively to promote common goals and objectives across the entire spectrum of drug policy, to include public health, criminal justice, and supply reduction activities. ONDCP will work to have improvements implemented by October 1, 2016. Over a two year period, savings achieved through streamlining the Office's functions will be realized. During the first year (FY 2016), a reduction of 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) to 84 FTE and other operational changes will result in a request for ONDCP Operations of \$20,047,000, a savings of \$2,600,000. In the second year (FY 2017) a reduction to 74 FTE will result in additional savings of \$1,580,000. The total FTE reduction over the two year period will be 20. It is anticipated that these FTE reductions will be achieved through normal attrition and early out incentives.

The Administration will submit a Reauthorization Bill to the Congress that authorizes ONDCP through Fiscal Year 2020. The Bill will contain several changes that reflect a 21st century drug policy approach—to include streamlining agency functions and improving coordination and collaboration among its many stakeholders. Additionally, the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Reauthorization will be submitted to the Congress as a separate bill as an important part of the Administration's emphasis on prevention strategies.

B. APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Federal Funds

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy; for research activities pursuant to the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–469); not to exceed \$10,000 for official reception and representation expenses; and for participation in joint projects or in the provision of services on matters of mutual interest with nonprofit, research, or public organizations or agencies, with or without reimbursement, [\$22,647,000] \$20,047,000: *Provided*, That the Office is authorized to accept, hold, administer, and utilize gifts, both real and personal, public and private, without fiscal year limitation, for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Office. (*Executive Office of the President Appropriations Act, 2015.*)

C. SALARIES & EXPENSES FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

ONDCP S&E Operations

The FY 2016 request for ONDCP Operations is \$20,047,000 and supports an FTE level of 84. This funding level will allow ONDCP to continue to execute innovative policies and programs to reduce drug use and its consequences while pursuing drug policy reform. The President's balanced *Strategy* seeks to prevent illicit drug use in our communities; intervene early in the health care system; strengthen drug treatment services and support those in recovery; break the cycle of drug use, crime, and incarceration; disrupt domestic drug production and trafficking; strengthen international partnerships; and improve drug-related information systems. This budget will support the continuation of this focused coordination and oversight of interagency drug control policies and programs. Below are several accomplishments in support of the *Strategy*:

Prescription Drug Abuse:

- Developed and implemented the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Action Plan, which identifies four key areas for reducing prescription drug abuse: education for prescribers, patients, and parents; the creation of effective prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs); secure, convenient, and environmentally sound disposal of medications; and law enforcement efforts to reduce the number of illicit pain clinics. Also added content to the plan concerning emerging issues such as first responder naloxone distribution and overdose prevention, and neonatal abstinence syndrome.
- Partnered with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to announce and promote the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) for extended-release and long-acting (ER/LA) opioids, which requires all manufacturers of ER/LA opioids - 22 companies in total - to develop free or low-cost educational materials and continuing education courses for prescribers of these medications. The manufacturers must also develop information that prescribers can use when counseling patients about the risks and benefits of opioid use.
- Worked with the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to develop two free, online, continuing education training tools for health care professionals who prescribe opioid analgesics. Released in October 2012, these training tools have provided thousands of hours of continuing medical education (CME) credits and better training for physicians and nurses on the abuse potential and patient safety related to prescribing these medications.
- Encouraged the uptake of provider education on safe opioid prescribing and understanding of overdose prevention opportunities among prescribers via keynotes at

regional trainings in New England and via webinars that were co-hosted with professional provider associations, such as the American Psychiatric Association and the American Academy of Emergency Physicians.

- Worked with state leadership to establish and improve PDMPs, bringing the total to 49 states with laws authorizing PDMPs and the District of Columbia. A total of 48 states now have programs.
- Worked with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to align interstate data sharing between PDMPs. As a result, 29 states now have some data sharing capacity across state lines. Prior to the June 2011 White House meeting on PDMPs, only two states had demonstrated the ability to exchange data.¹
- Partnered with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), on nine National Take-Back Day initiatives since September 2010. Through these events, DEA has collected and safely disposed of more than 4.8 million pounds (2,411 tons) of unneeded or expired medications. In addition, HIDTAs across the country continued to support the National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Initiative sponsored by the DEA.
- Partnered with the DOJ and Vermont's Governor's Office on a Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit which led to initiation of a naloxone and overdose prevention toolkit development project for law enforcement and an announcement by DOJ that Federal agencies should examine feasibility of implementing naloxone programs for their law enforcement organizations.
- Led efforts to secure bipartisan passage of prescription drug disposal legislation (Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010), signed by the President in October 2010. Along with Office of Management and Budget, led efforts to complete the final rule publication by facilitating negotiation of final agreements with affected agencies. Participated in rollout of the final rule by conducting technical assistance calls with stakeholder groups working with partners at the state level on prescription drug abuse such as the National Governor's Association Prescription Drug Policy Academy. ONDCP and DEA partnered on a webinar for which over 800 people registered.

¹ <http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/rules-regulation/063012-final-action-plan-clearance.pdf>

- Identified, through the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, the need for the Department of Veterans Affairs to share information with state PDMPs, an issue addressed by the U.S. Congress in the FY 2012 Appropriations bill. Removing the prohibition on this data sharing will provide an important patient safety tool for veterans.
- Worked with contractor to finalize a doctor shopping/prescription drug diversion study which provided estimates of diversion and a map of changes at the zip 3 level, state-level and nationally from 2008-2012.
- Continued to monitor through the National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative (NMPI) programs that impact the diversion of pharmaceutical products by working with state, local and tribal leaders and continued to explore policy, regulatory, and enforcement options to reduce domestic methamphetamine production in support of the Strategy. Additionally, the NMPI continued to provide training for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals on pharmaceutical crime investigations and prosecutions.

Drugged Driving:

- The President declared the month of December National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, during 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014 calling on all Americans to help prevent the loss of life by practicing safe driving and reminding drivers to stay sober, drug free, and safe on the road.
- Worked with the international community to secure passage of a United Nations resolution calling on all nations to address the threat of drugged driving.
- Convened a drugged driving summit that brought together a wide coalition of prevention, youth-serving, and safety organizations; automobile and insurance industry representatives; and Federal agencies to discuss emerging issues and challenges related to drugged driving. At this summit, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and ONDCP established a partnership to support the victims of drugged driving crashes and raise public awareness regarding the consequences of drugged driving.
- Shared the Drugged Driving Toolkit at major national conferences. This toolkit provides: tips for parents of teen drivers; sample community activities to raise public awareness regarding drugged driving; and resources to help teens reject negative influences.

- Established an agreement with RADD: The Entertainment Industry’s Voice for Road Safety to develop and implement a drugged driving prevention campaign targeting youth and families that includes an in-school program.
- Raised awareness of drugged driving in collaboration with the National Traffic Safety Board during the first ever “Reaching Zero: Actions to Eliminate Substance-Impaired Driving” conference.
- Partnered with the Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (DOT/NHTSA), to develop an online version of the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement program, allowing more law enforcement and prosecutor personnel to receive advanced training on drugged driving enforcement. As of January 5, 2015, there were 1,460 participants enrolled in the online ARIDE training, 651 participants completed the training, and 92 participants completed the surveys for the training, along with recommendations.

Drug Prevention:

- Co-sponsored a Policy Forum at the White House in collaboration with the Department of Education (ED), entitled “Ensuring Positive Futures and Academic Success: Student Substance Use and Educational Success”. The Forum brought together researchers, prevention experts, educators, and policy makers from around the country – the group focused on how collectively we can encourage progress in addressing the nexus between student substance use and reduced academic achievement.
- Developed an instructional module with ED, on substance abuse prevention for school aged children. The training module was posted on the You-for-Youth Portal, an online, learning and technical assistance portal for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grantees which supports over 8,900 centers and serves 1.5 million students across the states and territories.
- Collaborated with the Office of National AIDS Policy, the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in support of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy and support of the HIV Care Continuum, to promote HIV prevention efforts by offering provider training on medication assisted treatment for opioid use disorders.
- Strengthened Federal prevention efforts along the Southwest border through collaboration with the U.S. Section of the U.S. - Mexico Border Health Commission to

improve coordinated efforts by 15 sister cities along the border and associated DFCs. The DFC Program provides much needed resources to border communities whose youth are particularly impacted by the potential negative impacts of drug use in these border communities.

- Released the FY 2014 DFC Request for Application (RFA), with SAMHSA, in January 2014 and the FY 2014 DFC Mentoring Program RFA in March 2014. A video recording of an Applicant Workshop was posted on the ONDCP and SAMHSA websites. In addition, two application workshops were conducted in February 2014. The release of the FY 2014 DFC RFA and Mentoring Program RFA provided community coalitions around the country with an opportunity to apply for funds to increase collaboration among community partners and to prevent and reduce youth substance use. ONDCP and SAMHSA staff conducted three application workshops in order to assist community coalitions with guidance on the DFC statutory eligibility requirements as well as step-by-step technical assistance with their submissions. The video-taped session posted on the ONDCP and SAMHSA websites was created to provide interested applicants, who were unable to attend one of these sessions, the same opportunity for technical assistance. The goal of the DFC Applicant Workshops is to assist as many community coalitions as possible in submitting applications that meet the DFC statutory eligibility criteria in order to proceed to peer review.
- Released the 2014 *Strategy* with a DFC funded community coalition in Roanoke, Virginia; hosted public discussions with over 1,900 community coalition leaders at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's (CADCA) Mid-Year Training Institute; and shared the *Strategy* via the DFC Workstation to over 8,000 community volunteers.
- Awarded, during FY 2014, a total of 680 DFC grants (660 DFC grantees and 20 DFC Mentoring grantees) in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the Federated States of Micronesia (Palau). DFC mobilizes over 8,000 community volunteers all working together to strengthen communities and reduce youth substance use.
- Held multiple roundtables and/or meetings with DFC coalition leaders and HIDTA leaders to discuss the success of increased collaboration efforts among coalitions and law enforcement.
- Led the Nation in observing October as National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, raising awareness about the importance of prevention to improve the health, safety, and prosperity of our youth and communities. DFC funded communities across the country led and participated in various events.

Drug Treatment:

- Educated state leadership teams, policymakers and stakeholder groups in Arizona, Georgia, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, Utah, and Virginia on the essential health benefit for treatment of substance use disorders and the value of ensuring that benefit is comprehensive and affordable. These educational sessions provided information that promotes access to improved and expanded substance use disorder treatment.
- Convened Federal partners through the Treatment Coordination Group. The group has worked to: (1) ensure access to substance use disorder treatment – including medication-assisted treatment – is improved; (2) increase the quality of treatment services delivered; and (3) establish systems to monitor the outcome of these services.
- Acted with the Federal Health Information Technology (HIT) Interagency Workgroup (IWG) on the measures for the Electronic Health Records (EHR) Meaningful Use-3. The IWG has been working to ensure that behavioral health is included in these programs, including the Meaningful Use EHR Incentive program (a principle element of the HITECH Act). The workgroup has supported the development of behavioral health-related Clinical Quality Measures (CQMs), their electronic specification for use in EHRs, and their inclusion in relevant Federal programs to support increased focus on providing high quality behavioral health care.
- Coordinated with Federal partners on the use of electronic health records in the criminal justice system. The partners identified current efforts and best practices to connect the criminal justice and community health care systems through the use of health information technology across the country; described the benefits, impediments, and opportunities for incorporating health information technology and health information exchange into standard practices; and highlighted achievable next steps on the road to interoperability.
- Collaborated with institutions of higher learning – notably the University of California system – to implement campus-wide substance use disorder services to include implementation of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in college and university student health centers and recovery support services.
- Collaborated with professional organizations such as the Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and the American Osteopathic Academy on Addiction Medicine to develop education curriculum and training on substance use disorders.

Recovery:

- ONDCP hosted an event on September 17, 2014 entitled “Recovery Month at the White House: Celebrating 25 Years.” It was a commemoration of the 25th anniversary of *National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month* and was streamed on *White House Live*. The event leveraged Twitter and 75 registered viewing parties to expand the reach of ONDCP messaging and to permit live interaction with the online audience. It surpassed all previous ONDCP event social media participation records by a wide margin, reaching 1.8 million people on Twitter and attracting 2,300 live viewers, nearly doubling the previous live viewership record for an ONDCP event.
- Collaborated with Federal partners in 2014 to initiate work to expand the number of individuals in recovery from substance use disorders in the Federal workplace. In partnership with the workgroup charged with implementing Executive Order 13548, which requires that the number of Federal employees with disabilities be increased by 100,000, ONDCP developed strategies to engage Federal Employee Assistance Program leadership and personnel and Federal hiring authorities to inform them of evidence-based approaches to addressing substance use disorders in the workplace.
- Worked in partnership with ED to raise awareness of procedures provided under law to reinstate eligibility for Federal student aid when it is lost due to a drug-related conviction while an individual is receiving Federal student aid. To address questions regarding student loan eligibility ONDCP and ED developed “FAFSA Facts” (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). This fact sheet has been widely disseminated to students and parents across the country.
- Drafted a resolution on the importance of recovery, which was then proposed by the United States at the 57th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and then approved on March 21st in Vienna, Austria. This resolution marks the first time in the more than 50-year history of the global anti-drug regime that the concept of recovery was formally accepted and supported by United Nations Member States.

Breaking the Cycle of Drug Use, Crime, Delinquency and Incarceration:

- Convened meetings with police chiefs, sheriffs, and other law enforcement leadership to advance training for law enforcement on addiction as a brain disease, improving partnerships with treatment providers, and medication assisted treatment as part of ONDCP’s criminal justice training and technical initiative. An educational video for line-level officers is being developed.

- Funded training and technical assistance for judges, court administrators, treatment providers, and corrections officials on evidence-based sentencing, the science of addiction, and medication assisted treatment. The project also conducted three pilots on implementing interventions throughout the criminal justice system for individuals with substance use disorders.
- Partnered with DOJ to convene an expert panel of law enforcement, health officials, and policy experts; national organizations; and Federal agencies; on overdose prevention and reversal efforts for first responders, including law enforcement officers. A toolkit was developed for law enforcement agencies implementing overdose prevention programs and is available through DOJ's website.
- Funded the provision of trainings for drug court professionals on using the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to expand access to treatment for substance use disorders and using medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders.

Disrupt Domestic Drug Trafficking and Production:

- In 2013, HIDTA initiatives identified 9,035 Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) operating in their areas of responsibility and reported disrupting or dismantling 3,136, of which 524 were linked to Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) cases. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the disrupted or dismantled DTOs were determined to be part of multi-state or international operations. In the process, HIDTA initiatives removed significant quantities of drugs from the market and seized over \$780.0 million in cash and \$349.3 million in non-cash assets from drug traffickers (\$1.1 billion total).
- Continued HIDTA program support to the *Strategy*, in particular the effort led by the Public Lands Drug Control Committee to eliminate marijuana production on our public lands. HIDTAs in high marijuana production areas continued to support law enforcement entities investigating DTOs engaged in indoor and outdoor marijuana production, principally on public lands.
- Continued implementation of the *National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy* by supporting the Southwest Border (SWB) HIDTA. The SWB HIDTA multi-agency task forces work to address the strategic objectives outlined in the *Strategy*. Improved and enhanced cooperation, communications, and coordination are an integral part of the SWB HIDTA's efforts.
- Through the HIDTA program, supported efforts to secure the Northern border with initiatives such as the Northwest HIDTA Border Task Force. This task force coordinated

international, Federal, state, and local effort with three distinct components, including the joint U.S.-Canada-staffed Pacific Integrated Border Intelligence Team (IBIT), Border Enforcement Security Taskforces (BEST), and a prosecution unit.

- Facilitated information sharing by continuing to work with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS), the DEA, and 28 HIDTAs (including the five SWB Regions) Investigative Support Centers (ISCs) in an effort to reduce the movement of illicit drugs and drug proceeds via parcel post.

Improved International Relations and Reduced Drug Supply:

- Cocaine consumption in the United States has been significantly reduced, due in large part to substantial eradication and interdiction efforts by Colombia and other nations. Between 2006 and 2012, the United States experienced a dramatic 32 percent decrease in the number of current users of cocaine.
- Served as Chair of the Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD), Demand Reduction Experts Group. Led efforts, in collaboration with OAS/CICAD staff, to develop and disseminate policy papers on: drugged driving; prescription drug abuse prevention; community-based prevention; data collection; and alternatives to incarceration. This included a CICAD engagement in Bogotá to discuss U.S. Drug Policy.
- Improved relations with Central American countries by establishing an ongoing dialogue with the seven Central American Ambassadors to the United States. Further, augmented relationships through numerous visits to the region.
- Articulated the Administration's plans to substantially reduce the flow of illicit drugs and drug proceeds into and out of the Caribbean border with a focus on reducing drug related violence by developing a biennial *Caribbean Border Counternarcotics Strategy*. The Strategy addresses the combined efforts of the National Drug Control Program agencies in the following areas as they pertain to the Caribbean border: intelligence collection and information sharing; interdiction in the air and maritime domains as well as in and between ports of entry; investigations and prosecutions; disrupting and dismantling DTOs, with a focus on the threat posed by drug related violence; and increased demand reduction efforts in affected communities.
- Reduced the production of cocaine from South America to record lows due to the continued commitment of Colombia and Peru to the eradication of illicit coca crops.

- Helped to shape the Inter-Agency effort to craft a post-2014 Counter-Narcotics (CN) Strategy for Afghanistan.
- Developed post 2014 North American Leadership Summit Drug Policy dialogue between the United States, Canada and Mexico.
- Conducted an on-site assessment of interagency coordination along the SWB. Met with Federal, interagency and local law enforcement officials to discuss their perspectives and issues.
- Drafted the development of solutions to Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands illicit trafficking issues, and participated in an update briefing for Puerto Rico/U.S. Virgin Islands/New York Congressional staffs.
- Engaged with Latin America Chamber of Commerce to discuss trusted financial systems and encouraged the use of the United States' Government interagency mini-blocks of training for Latin America Chamber members.

Increased Transparency and Outreach:

- Promulgated the public health-based approach to drug policy to a broad audience by hosting public discussions with the Center for American Progress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Wilson Center, and the Council on Foreign Relations. These discussions were webcast and the messages amplified on blog and Twitter accounts.
- Increased stakeholder outreach through more regular communication, including an e-newsletter.
- Increased DFC communication to National HIDTA Directors regarding the release of the FY 2014 DFC RFA, DFC Applicant Workshops, and National Substance Abuse Prevention Month.
- As of January 2015, there were 30,300 followers on ONDCP's main account (@ONDCP) and 1,390 followers on Acting Director Botticelli's account (@Botticelli44). The number of ONDCP's Twitter followers has increased by more 300% since April 2012, significantly expanding the reach of all of our communications and increasing the public's access to the office.

Improved Interagency Communications:

- Maintained a formal interagency process to track the progress of the remaining Action Items in the *Strategy*. The overall remaining number of action items is indicative of progressive collaboration between ONDCP and the interagency to actively address meeting the objectives and milestones of each action item.
- Drew together interagency partners and encouraged internal collaboration among ONDCP components, providing a platform for communication to support the development of the 2014 *Strategy*.

Gifts and Donations

The FY 1990 appropriation for Salaries and Expenses and subsequent authorization language established a Gift Fund (GF) for ONDCP. The GF includes a trust fund into which all private monetary gifts and donations made to ONDCP are deposited.

D. SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING

**Salaries and Expenses
(\$ in thousands)**

Line Number	Program by activities	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
00.01	Salaries & Expenses	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
10.00	Total Obligations	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
	Financing:			
39.00	Budget Authority	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
	Budget Authority:			
40.00	Appropriation	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047
	Relation of Obligations to Outlay:			
90.00	Total Outlays	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047

(SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING, Continued)

Gifts and Donations
(\$ in thousands)

Line Number	Financing Schedule	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
21.40	Unobligated Balance Available, Start of Year	\$55	\$55	\$45
24.40	Unobligated Balance Available, End of Year	\$55	\$45	\$35
	Relation of Obligations to Outlays:			
90.00	Outlays (net)	\$0	\$10	\$10

E. SUMMARY TABLES OF PERSONNEL

PERSONNEL	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Total Number of Appropriated Full-Time Permanent Positions	94	94	84

F. DETAIL OF PERMANENT POSITIONS

Permanent Positions	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
EX 1	1	1	1
EX 2	1	1	0
EX 3	3	3	2
SES	11	11	9
GS-15	28	28	28
GS-14	22	22	20
GS-13	10	10	8
GS-12	8	8	8
GS-11	5	5	3
GS-10	2	2	2
GS-9	1	1	1
GS-8	1	1	1
GS-7	1	1	1
Total Permanent Positions	94	94	84

G. SUMMARY TABLES OF BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS

**Salaries and Expenses – Operations
(\$ in thousands)**

Line Number	Salaries and Expenses Operations	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
10.0	Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$15,435	\$15,360	\$14,040
21.0	Travel & Transportation of Persons	\$500	\$450	\$100
22.0	Transportation of Things	\$18	\$18	\$18
23.1	Rental Payments to GSA	\$3,332	\$3,345	\$3,410
23.3	Communications, Utilities, & Miscellaneous Charges	\$275	\$280	\$278
24.0	Printing & Reproduction	\$64	\$29	\$29
25.0	Other Contractual Services	\$2,832	\$2,870	\$1,881
26.0	Official Reception and Representation Funds	\$10	\$10	\$10
26.0	Supplies & Materials	\$274	\$275	\$271
31.0	Equipment	\$10	\$10	\$10
99.0	Total Obligations	\$22,750	\$22,647	\$20,047

(SUMMARY TABLES OF BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS, Continued)

Gifts and Donations
(\$ in thousands)

Line Number	Gifts and Donations	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
26.00	Supplies & Materials	\$55	\$55	\$45
99.00	Total Budget Authority	\$55	\$55	\$45

H. EXPLANATION OF BUDGET REQUEST BY OBJECT CLASS
(\$ in thousands)

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$15,360	\$14,040

Funds in this object class provide full-year salaries and benefits for 84 FTE.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Travel and Transportation	\$450	\$100

The amount funds the full-year cost of travel for ONDCP staff and invitational travel.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Transportation of Things	\$18	\$18

This object class includes express mail and miscellaneous moving expenses.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Rental Payments to GSA	\$3,345	\$3,410

This amount includes an estimated \$3,410,000 for the full year cost of office space at a rate established by the General Services Administration (GSA) for office space in the Washington, D.C. central business district. The building is privately owned and ONDCP is located on five separate floors (57,130 square feet of rentable space and 13 structured/reserved parking spaces). The building includes office space, four conference rooms, a video/teleconferencing center, a mapping center, and a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). NOTE: The current occupancy agreement runs through May 31, 2017.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Communications, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Charges	\$280	\$278

The amount funds commercial and wireless services, including BlackBerry service charges, parking space rental charges, video teleconferencing center Internet charges, miscellaneous rental charges, and television charges.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Printing and Reproduction	\$29	\$29

This amount reflects basic printing needs to include the publication of the *Strategy*, the *Budget*, research reports, as well as the Federal Register and the Code of Federal Regulations. Printing services are provided by the U.S. Government Printing Office and the Defense Automated Printing Service. We will be limiting the publication and printing of hard copy documents and will continue to provide documents on our agency website in addition to other electronic formats.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Other Services	\$2,870	\$1,881

This amount reflects contract services including: information technology (IT) contract support services; staff training to provide professional development opportunities and enhance employees' ability to accomplish the objectives of the *Strategy*; guard services through the Federal Protective Services' contract; copier labor support agreement; building maintenance; service and equipment maintenance renewal; travel service fees; website services; MAX maintenance support; and foreign language translation services.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Supplies and Materials	\$285	\$281

This amount reflects office supplies, materials, electronic subscriptions, and publications. This also includes \$10,000 for Official Reception and Representation funds which would allow the Director to host meetings with non-Federal partners and stakeholders participating in the effort to reduce drugs and its consequences.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Equipment	\$10	\$10

This amount funds the purchase of miscellaneous equipment that needs replacement.

	FY 2015 Estimate	FY 2016 Estimate
Total All Object Classes	\$22,647	\$20,047

VI. OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

A. APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

Federal Funds

OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For other drug control activities authorized by the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–469), [~~\$107,150,000~~] *\$95,436,000*, to remain available until expended, which shall be available as follows: [~~\$93,500,000~~] *\$85,676,000* for the Drug-Free Communities Program, of which \$2,000,000 shall be made available as directed by section 4 of Public Law 107–82, as amended by Public Law 109–469 (21 U.S.C. 1521 note); [~~\$1,400,000~~] for drug court training and technical assistance; [~~\$9,000,000~~] *\$7,700,000* for anti-doping activities; [~~\$2,000,000~~] *and \$2,060,000* for the United States membership dues to the World Anti-Doping Agency [; and \$1,250,000 shall be made available as directed by section 1105 of Public Law 109–469]: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading may be transferred to other Federal departments and agencies to carry out such activities. (*Executive Office of the President Appropriations Act, 2015.*)

B. SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING

OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS
(\$ in thousands)

Line Number	Program by Activities	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
00.01	Drug Free Communities Support Program	\$92,000	\$93,500	\$85,676
00.01	Anti-Doping Activities	\$8,750	\$9,000	\$7,700
00.01	Drug Court Training and Technical Institute	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$0
00.01	Section 1105 of Public Law 109-469	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0
00.01	World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Membership Dues	\$1,994	\$2,000	\$2,060
10.00	Total Obligations	\$105,394	\$107,150	\$95,436
	Financing:			
39.00	Budget Authority	\$105,394	\$107,150	\$95,436
	Budget Authority:			
40.00	Appropriation	\$105,394	\$107,150	\$95,436
	Relation of Obligations to Outlay:			
90.00	Total Outlays	\$105,394	\$107,150	\$95,436

Totals may not add due to rounding.

C. PERSONNEL

Personnel associated with the administration of Other Federal Drug Control Programs are funded from ONDCP's Salaries and Expenses account, except one reimbursable position authorized from the Drug Free Communities Act.

PERSONNEL	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
Total Number of Appropriated Full-Time Permanent Positions	1	1	1

D. OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

The FY 2016 request for the Other Federal Drug Control Programs account is \$95,436,000. These funds will be used to carry out three programs:

- Drug Free Communities Support Program;
- Anti-Doping Activities; and
- World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Membership Dues.

1. DRUG-FREE COMMUNITIES SUPPORT PROGRAM

a. MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Support Program is to strengthen local collaboration to prevent youth drug use in communities across the country. In order to undertake this mission, ONDCP supports community-based coalitions in the development and implementation of comprehensive, long-term plans to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

The DFC Program was created by the Drug-Free Communities Act of 1997 (P.L. 105-20), reauthorized through the Drug-Free Communities Reauthorization Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-82), and reauthorized again through the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-469). This includes funding for the CADCA which provides training and technical assistance for DFC grantees.

The DFC Program provides grants to community-based coalitions that meet specific statutory eligibility requirements to construct and solidify a public-private infrastructure to create and sustain community-level change related to youth substance use. Over time, it is the intent of the program to prevent and reduce youth substance use and, therefore, adult substance abuse through effective community collaboration and leveraging of resources.

Since the inception of the DFC Program, more than 2,000 community coalitions have been funded. In FY 2014, ONDCP awarded 197 new communities with a DFC grant and 3 new communities with a DFC mentoring grant. These new awards were in addition to the DFC continuation grants simultaneously released to 463 currently funded DFC coalitions and 17 DFC mentoring continuation coalitions. In FY 2014, there were 680 DFC communities across the country.

b. FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

The DFC Program is built upon the idea that local problems require local solutions. DFC funding provides for the bolstering of community infrastructure to support environmental prevention strategies² to be planned, implemented, and evaluated in local communities across the United States, Territories and Protectorates. The DFC Program is committed to the idea that Federal “experts” can provide insight, but that local communities are the real problem solvers in America.

To instigate a grassroots effort, the DFC Program requires the gathering and support of 12 community sectors comprised of youth, parents, schools, business, media, law enforcement, faith-based/fraternal organizations, healthcare professionals, civic/volunteer groups, state, local and/or tribal governments, youth-serving organizations, and other organizations that address youth substance use. To further community change, the DFC Program requires funded coalitions to use environmental prevention strategies that engage all facets of the community to address existing or missing local policies, practices, and procedures. Through a comprehensive and ongoing community assessment process, DFC coalitions remain abreast of the issues their community faces. In doing so, coalitions are able to address gaps, barriers, and existing conditions that hinder youth substance use prevention or decrease overall youth substance use. It is the job of the community coalition to become the hub of efforts related to substance use prevention in their targeted area.

In FY 2014, ONDCP awarded 197 new communities with a DFC grant and 3 new communities with a DFC mentoring grant. These new awards were in addition to the DFC continuation grants simultaneously released to 463 currently funded DFC coalitions and 17 DFC mentoring continuation coalitions. In FY 2014, there were 680 DFC communities across the country.

For FY 2016, \$85,676,000 is requested to support the DFC program. Of this amount, \$76,821,920 will fund grants made directly to approximately 614 community-based coalitions focusing on preventing youth substance use throughout the United States. A total of \$2,000,000 will be used to provide a directed grant award to the CADCA’s National Coalition Institute. The Institute is the primary source of training and technical assistance to DFC coalitions and coalitions working toward submitting a successful DFC application. The remaining \$6,854,080 (the maximum 8 percent allowable for administrative support costs) will fund program support costs, such as program staff, daily oversight of grants and the DFC National Cross-Site Evaluation.

² Environmental prevention strategies incorporate efforts that change local conditions, systems, structures, institutions, policies, procedures, and practices that lead to long-term, population-level change. An example would be to increase local fines for underage alcohol possession and route the money to substance abuse prevention efforts.

Drug-Free Communities Program	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$92,000	\$93,500	\$85,676

Grants to Communities (\$76,821,920)

DFC Grants. The DFC Program was created to provide funding to community coalitions that focus their efforts on the prevention of youth substance use. This is a competitive, peer reviewed grant program. The DFC program will provide grants to communities using \$76,821,920 of the total FY 2016 request of \$85,676,000. New and continuation grants are for \$125,000 per year for five years, and coalitions cannot receive more than 10 years of DFC funding. It is expected that awards will also be made to new and continuation mentoring grants for \$75,000 per year. The primary goal of the DFC Mentoring Program is to assist newly forming coalitions in becoming eligible to apply for DFC funding on their own.

National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute (\$2,000,000)

The 2001 Reauthorization directed ONDCP to create a National Community Anti-Drug Coalition Institute. In December 2006, P.L. 109-469 authorized \$10 million over five years (FYs 2008-2012) to support the Institute. The Institute is housed at the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and is responsible for providing training and technical assistance, as well as publications and other resources to community coalitions across the country. The Institute is also charged with connecting the research and evaluation community with the DFC Program in order to foster community-based participatory and other research to solidify the coalition movement as a method for addressing substance abuse and other public health problems. Over the five year span, the Institute has been a valuable partner in generating research and publications for DFC coalitions. Some examples of this work include a series of research and evaluation briefs entitled, “Community-Based Participatory Research” and “Research Support for Comprehensive Community Interventions” that are made available on the CADCA website. The DFC Program will provide \$2,000,000 for the Institute.

Program Administration (\$6,854,080)

P.L. 109-469 defines administrative costs within the DFC Program as expenses that are not grants to communities or to the National Anti-Drug Coalition Institute. ONDCP requests \$6,854,080, a cap of 8 percent of the total FY 2016 request, to support all other costs associated with the administration of the DFC program, the daily management of grants, and the National Cross-Site Evaluation. ONDCP plans to allocate \$870,280 for costs associated with the position of DFC Administrator, grantee trainings/meetings, grant application workshops, continuing the contacts management database for grantees, and supporting the DFC technology platform. A total of \$1,700,000 will be allocated for the DFC National Cross-Site Evaluation. The remaining \$4,283,800 will be used for daily grants management, monitoring, and oversight.

c. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

National Evaluation of the Drug-Free Communities Support Program Summary of Core Outcome Findings through 2013

The DFC Program collects the following core measures from DFC grantees on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and prescription drugs in at least three grades (6th-12th) every 2 years:

- Past 30-day use;
- Perception of risk or harm;
- Perception of parental disapproval of use; and
- Perception of peer disapproval of use.

The DFC National Evaluation receives process data from all DFC grantees twice a year. In addition, DFC grantees report every two years on the core measures. The amount of data included within this collection is vast and compiling the data takes time.

The following findings (Figure 1) are from January 2002 – July 2013 for the DFC Program. These findings are in alignment with DFC’s former core measures and were reported for alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana in middle and high school grades (6th-12th). The previous core measures included: past 30-day use, age of onset, perception of risk or harm of use and perception of parental disapproval. The data below reflects past 30-day use by middle and high school youth from DFC grantees first report to the most recent report.

FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN PAST 30 DAY USE: FIRST REPORT TO MOST RECENT REPORT (ALL DFC GRANTEES EVER FUNDED)

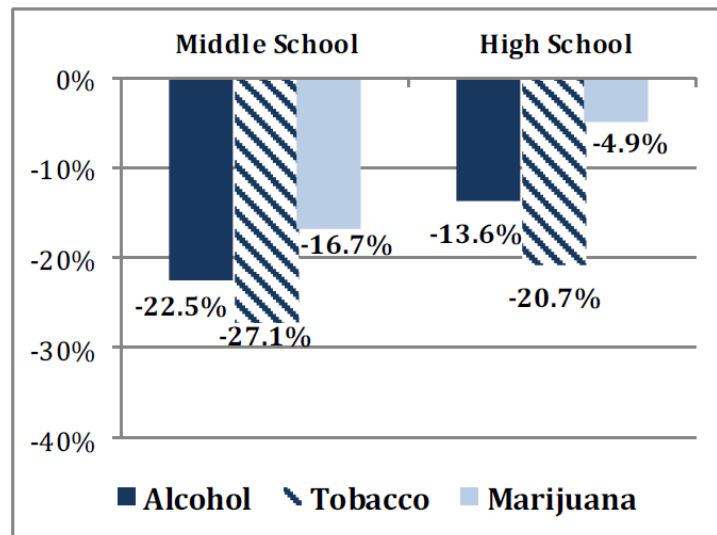


Figure 1

To summarize, prevalence of past 30-day use declined significantly across all substances (alcohol, tobacco, marijuana) and school levels (middle and high school) between DFC coalitions' first and most recent data reports (see Figure 1).

- 22% reduction of middle school alcohol use;
- 27% reduction of middle school tobacco use;
- 17% reduction of middle school marijuana use;
- 14% reduction of high school alcohol use;
- 21% reduction of high school tobacco use; and
- 5% reduction of high school marijuana use.

Prevalence of past 30-day use declined significantly for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana at each school level (middle and high school) within current DFC grantees' funded between first and most recent data reports.

Prevalence of past 30-day use was significantly lower for DFC high school students as compared to a nationally-representative sample of high school students taking the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Differences in prevalence of 30-day use between DFC and YRBS were statistically significant for alcohol in 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, and 2011. Differences in prevalence of 30-day use were also statistically significant for marijuana in 2003, 2005, 2007, and 2009, but not in 2011.

The work of DFC grantees represents a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach focusing on the reduction of youth substance use that reaches communities containing more than one third of the Nation's population. In addition to the DFC core measures identified above, DFC grantees also submit qualitative data. DFC community coalitions are encouraged and supported in using evidence-informed strategies shown to be effective in reducing substance use. They are introduced to the "Seven Strategies for Community Change" during training events and through publications developed by the National Coalition Institute. Activities that fall under each of these strategies are used in various combinations by DFC community coalitions to address community needs and build on community assets related to preventing substance use.

In the August 2013 report, all DFC grantees except one (99.8%) indicated they had engaged in information dissemination activities. Nearly all (98%) provided services related to enhancing skills, (91%) engaged in activities to promote access/reduce barriers to prevention and treatment services; (87%) engaged in supporting positive opportunities for positive activities reducing risk for substance use; (82%) carried out activities designed to change the consequences related to substance use; (77%) promoted law or policy changes to decrease substance use and associated negative behaviors; and (72%) engaged in activities to change physical environments to decrease opportunities for and encouragement of substance use.

On average, DFC grantees provided more skills activities for youth than any other community group; alternative drug-free activities for youth were the support activity used by most DFC grantees; reducing home access to substances was the enhancing access/reducing barriers activity most often used by DFC grantees; and more DFC grantees focused on school policies than on any other category of law and policy change.

Updates to the DFC Program’s Core Measures and Data Collection System

The four DFC original core measures included (1) the prevalence of past 30-day use, (2) perception of risk, (3) perception of parental disapproval, and (4) age of first use. Each of the original core measures covered three substances: alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. Highlights of changes made in the transition to the revised core measures include:

- **Addition of Prescription Drugs as a Core Substance:** There has been a rapid expansion in the past decade in the number of youth who engage in illicit use of prescription drugs and other medications. Approximately 1 in 4 people using drugs for the first time in 2012 began by using a prescription drug non-medically.³ The broad availability of prescription drugs and misperceptions about their dangers is an alarming combination. Beginning in 2012, DFC grantees are required to include in their core measures survey questions that ask about each core measure with regard to using prescription drugs not prescribed to you.
- **Removal of Age of First Use as a Core Measure:** Age of First Use is difficult to use as a performance measure, given that many youth may have already started using substances prior to the start of the DFC grant. Moreover, it is not a particularly reliable measure since many youth must recall an event that happened many years in the past. Some DFC coalitions continue to collect Age of First Use for local assessment purposes.
- **Perception of Risk of Alcohol Moved from Regular Use to Binge Drinking:** To be consistent with the National Outcome Measures (NOMs), and to capture a more realistic pattern of use among youth, the Perception of Risk measure for alcohol use was modified to measure perceived risk of binge drinking rather than perceived risk of regular use. Grantees are permitted to continue to measure perception of risk of regular alcohol use as that data is reported for other federal grant programs.
- **Additional Specificity Provided on “Regular” Use:** Several measures (Perception of Risk for Alcohol, Tobacco, and Marijuana, Perception of Parental Disapproval of alcohol use) focus on regular use of a particular substance. While regular use of alcohol was previously defined as 1-2 drinks nearly every day, regular use of marijuana was not defined. Regular marijuana use is now defined as 1-2 times per week.
- **Perception of Peer Disapproval Added as a Core Measure:** Perception of Peer Disapproval was added as a core measure. The addition of this core measure will allow analyses regarding the potential relationship between perceived disapproval of parents and peers on the decision to use alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

In addition, these measures are in alignment with the NOMs, which have been collected by SAMHSA for many years.

³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, *Results from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings*, NSDUH Series H-46, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 13-4795. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2013. Available at: <http://www.samhsa.gov/data/NSDUH/2012SummNatFindDetTables/NationalFindings/NSDUHresults2012.htm>

FY 2016 Strategies

ONDCP's overall mission of reducing the demand for drugs in this country is substantially supported by local communities organizing and mobilizing around their specific drug problems. The prevention and reduction of youth substance use is the ultimate goal of the DFC Program. ONDCP intends to assist coalitions in achieving this goal through the following strategies:

- Provide training/technical assistance opportunities through the National Coalition Institute and other entities, related to drug trends, strategic planning, implementation, and the institutionalization of efforts by coalitions;
- Encourage the adoption and implementation of environmental prevention strategies that will change policy, practices, and procedures in the whole community;
- Continue and seek new collaborations with Federal and non-Federal partners (e.g., SAMHSA, CADCA, HIDTA Program, DEA, National Guard Drug Demand Reduction, etc.); and,
- Continue to provide DFC staff support to DFC coalitions and enable them to reflect the best model for effective community-based prevention delivery.

Summary

From the DFC Program's inception in FY 1998 to the awards made to the FY 2014 cohort, over 2,000 community-based coalitions have received DFC funding to reduce youth substance use. The Federal investment in the DFC Program has more than doubled by the matching funds provided by the grantee communities. Specifically, the past 30-day use declined significantly across all substances and all grade levels in DFC funded communities from grantee first report to the most recent. DFC will continue to learn from its own data how to improve the program and to enable grantees and communities to successfully prevent and reduce youth substance use.

2. ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

a. ANTI-DOPING ACTIVITIES

The FY 2016 request level for anti-doping activities is \$7,700,000. Anti-doping activities focus on efforts to educate athletes on the dangers of drug use, eliminate doping in amateur athletic competitions, and rely on standards established and recognized by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC). Anti-doping activities support athlete drug testing programs, research initiatives, educational programs, and efforts to inform athletes of the rules governing the use of prohibited substances outlined in the World Anti-Doping Code (Code). In addition, anti-doping activities support efforts to enforce compliance with the Code and adjudicate athlete appeals involving doping violations.

Anti-doping activities seek to raise awareness about the health dangers and ethical implications of drug use in sport among young and future athletes. In addition, these activities support state-of-the-art research within the scientific and public health communities related to anabolic steroids and other performance enhancing drugs.

Anti-Doping Activities	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$8,750	\$9,000	\$7,700

b. WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY DUES

The FY 2016 request level for United States membership dues to the WADA is \$2,060,000. The additional funding in FY 2016 is to fund an increase in dues formalized by WADA. WADA is the international agency created to promote, coordinate, and monitor efforts against doping and illicit drug use in sport on a global basis. This project supports WADA's mission to facilitate and harmonize comprehensive anti-doping efforts. WADA is jointly funded by national governments and the international sporting movement. Continued support of the project allows the United States to maintain its leadership role in this drug-related international organization. As part of ONDCP's continued support for this project, the United States serves on WADA's governing Foundation Board and Executive Committee. The project supports drug testing operations, athlete drug education and prevention efforts, and medical and social science research related to drug use in sport.

The project aims to promote an increased awareness in the United States and internationally of the health and ethical dangers of illicit drug use and doping in sport. The project protects athletes' fundamental rights to participate in drug-free sports and thus promote the health and safety of athletes at all levels. The project seeks to increase global coordination of anti-drug education programs, cooperation with law enforcement and investigative authorities relating to the trafficking of illicit substances, and promoting more consistent adjudication results

in cases involving doping worldwide.

World Anti-Doping Agency Dues	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$1,994	\$2,000	\$2,060

VII. HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

A. MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the HIDTA program, as defined by its authorizing statute [21 U.S.C. 1706 (d)], is to reduce drug trafficking and drug production in the United States by:

- (A) Facilitating cooperation among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to share information and implement coordinated enforcement activities;
- (B) Enhancing law enforcement intelligence sharing among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies;
- (C) Providing reliable law enforcement intelligence to law enforcement agencies needed to design effective enforcement strategies and operations; and,
- (D) Supporting coordinated law enforcement strategies which maximize the use of available resources to reduce the supply of illegal drugs in designated areas and in the United States as a whole.

The Director of ONDCP may, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, heads of the National Drug Control Program agencies, and the Governor of each applicable state, designate any specified area of the United States as a high intensity drug trafficking area.

When determining whether to designate an area as a high intensity drug trafficking area, the Director shall consider the extent to which:

- (A) the area is a significant center of illegal drug production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution;
- (B) state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies have committed resources to respond to the drug trafficking problem in the area, thereby indicating a determination to respond aggressively to the problem;
- (C) drug-related activities in the area are having a significant harmful impact in the area, and in other areas of the country; and
- (D) a significant increase in allocation of Federal resources is necessary to respond adequately to drug-related activities in the area. The Director may also consider any other criteria he deems appropriate.

There are currently 28 regional HDTAs located in 48 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The SWB HIDTA comprises of five regions (Arizona, California, New Mexico, South Texas, and West Texas), each of which operates in many respects as a separate entity but in partnership with the other four.

The HIDTA program principally supports the enforcement aspect of the *Strategy* by providing assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States. As such, the program provides resources to these agencies in each HIDTA region to carry out activities that

address the specific drug threats of that region. At the local level, each HIDTA is directed and guided by an Executive Board composed, in most cases, of an equal number of regional Federal and non-Federal (state, local, and tribal) law enforcement leaders⁴. Where it is impractical for an Executive Board to consist of equal numbers of representatives of Federal agencies and state, local, and tribal agencies, a system of proxy votes or weighted votes must be used to achieve the voting balance required by the National HIDTA Program Policy and Budget Guidance and the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-469).

A central feature of the HIDTA program is the discretion granted to the Executive Boards to design and implement initiatives that confront the specific drug trafficking threats in each HIDTA region. This flexibility ensures that each HIDTA Executive Board can tailor its strategy and initiatives to local conditions and can respond more quickly to address region-specific threats. Each year, every HIDTA Executive Board assesses the drug trafficking threat in its defined area, develops a strategy to address the threat, designs initiatives to implement the strategy, and proposes funding needed to carry out the initiatives in the coming year. After the end of a program year, the Executive Board prepares an annual report describing the HIDTA's performance against the overall objectives outlined in its strategy for that year.

The types of initiatives designed and implemented by each HIDTA's Executive Board to address the specific drug trafficking threats in its region include:

- 1) Enforcement initiatives that engage in multi-agency investigative, interdiction, and prosecution activities targeting drug trafficking and money laundering organizations (MLOs), drug production organizations, drug gangs, drug fugitives, and other serious crimes which have a drug nexus;
- 2) Intelligence and information-sharing initiatives that furnish intelligence (tactical, operational, and strategic), deconfliction services (event and case/subject⁵), information collection and dissemination, and other analytical support for HIDTA initiatives and participating agencies;
- 3) Drug use prevention and drug treatment initiatives which facilitate increased coordination between the law enforcement and prevention communities to reduce drug use and its negative consequences; and
- 4) Management initiatives and support initiatives that provide assistance beyond the core enforcement and intelligence and information-sharing initiatives (e.g., training, crime and forensic labs, information technology initiatives, and coordination initiatives).

In addition to the HIDTA-level initiatives outlined above, the HIDTA program supports several major domestic projects identified below. These national initiatives are administered by

⁴ Only agencies with at least one staff member assigned full-time in a HIDTA initiative may have a voting member on the Executive Board.

⁵ Event deconfliction ensures law enforcement agencies working in close proximity of each other are immediately notified when enforcement actions are planned in a manner that threatens effective coordination or that compromises enforcement operations. Notification of such conflicts enhances officer safety and promotes the coordination of operations in a multi-agency environment. Similarly, target (case/subject) deconfliction alerts investigators when there is an investigatory cross-over by enforcement agencies. Notification of duplicate targets encourages investigators to share information and resources.

the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC) and overseen by the HIDTA Directors Committee (HDC). Historically, they have been financed in part through HIDTA discretionary funding.

- The Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) program provides assistance to the HIDTAs with market disruption through a coordinated nationwide highway enforcement strategy. The DHE strategy is based on collaborative, intelligence-led policing to enhance coordinated, multi-jurisdictional operational law enforcement efforts to counter the transportation of illegal drugs on interstate highways specifically identified as drug trafficking corridors. The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) supports the DHE program through its analysis of input provided into the National Seizure System (NSS), the DHE community website, the Tactical Incident Notification System (TINS), and its Predictive Intelligence Unit. ONDCP continues to support the DHE program by providing funding to the NHAC for two coordinators that facilitate over 100 corridor conference calls monthly and maintain the DHE input to the DHS Homeland Security Information Network website. The NHAC further supports the DHE program by organizing the DHE nationwide meetings.
- The NMPI assists the HIDTAs with coordination, information sharing, and training to prosecutors, investigators, intelligence analysts, and chemists. The goal is to enhance the identification of criminal targets; increase the number of chemical/pharmaceutical drug crime-related investigations and prosecutions; and curtail foreign chemical and precursor sources that are used by domestic illicit drug producers. The NMPI is also tasked with addressing the pharmaceuticals trafficking and diversion issue through intelligence sharing and training. In 2014, the initiative received \$500,000 in base funding and \$135,000 in discretionary funding.
- The National Marijuana Initiative (NMI) is a law enforcement support initiative whose mission is to detect, deter, and disrupt domestic marijuana cultivation and trafficking by coordinating investigations and interdiction operations. The NMI's efforts are coordinated and closely aligned with the Public Lands Drug Control Committee (PLDCC), a Federal interagency group that aligns policies and coordinates programs to support field-level eradication, operations, investigations, and intelligence and information sharing. In 2014, the initiative received \$417,347 in base funding.

The *Strategy* emphasizes a balanced approach to drug policy based on prevention, early intervention, treatment, enforcement, and international partnerships. Law enforcement agencies have substantial experience in implementing problem-oriented policing strategies and are well positioned to promote and participate in community-based drug prevention and treatment programs. In order to better emphasize these activities, ONDCP requests new language in FY 2016 to remove restrictions related to the use of HIDTA funds for prevention and treatment initiatives.

Today, prevention and treatment initiatives are an integral part of the HIDTA program. Currently, 22 regional HIDTA programs support prevention initiatives across the country, including all 5 SWB HIDTA regions. These initiatives are funded through both baseline and discretionary funding. The HIDTA members work with community-based coalitions and adhere to evidence-based prevention practices, such as community mobilization and organizational

change.

One such initiative, SCOPE of Pain (Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education), sponsored by the New England HIDTA in partnership with the Boston University School of Medicine, provides continuing education opportunities to physicians. Another example is a program funded by the Northwest HIDTA in Skagit County, Washington. A multidisciplinary partnership of community coalitions, law enforcement, tribal, medical health providers and other agencies, it provides prevention programs to the Hispanic student population in several schools.

In 2013, the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA funded 10 initiatives that provided drug treatment services to 521 individuals (offenders in the criminal justice system), with the goal of reducing their rate of recidivism. Each initiative uses the following tenets of effective treatment programming for offenders:

- 1) Initiatives clinically assess each offender and place him or her in the appropriate level of treatment.
- 2) Criminal justice and substance abuse treatment personnel must form partnerships in order to provide for the continuity of services and accountability.
- 3) All individuals in the programs are subject to:
 - a. frequent random urinalysis,
 - b. progressive sanctions and rewards, and
 - c. a treatment curriculum that addresses criminogenic factors of the offender's behavior.
- 4) Individuals in the programs must undergo at least six months of treatment through a full continuum of treatment services, ranging from detox, to various levels of residential and outpatient treatment services.

Finally, an essential component of the HIDTA program is the NHAC which is located in Miami, Florida. The NHAC provides financial services to assist ONDCP in the administration of the HIDTA program and is responsible for the proper functioning of the HIDTA Financial Management System (FMS). The FMS is a web-based application developed and maintained by the NHAC and used for budgeting and grant administration. The center also provides training and multi-media support to the HIDTAs. As previously mentioned, the center also supports the DHE program, the NMI, and the NMPI.

B. APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

Federal Funds

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, [\$245,000,000] *\$193,400,000*, to remain available until September 30, [2016] *2017*, for drug control activities consistent with the approved strategy for each of the designated High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas ("HIDTAs"), of which not less than 51 percent shall be transferred to State and local entities for drug control activities and shall be obligated not later than 120 days after enactment of this Act: *Provided*, That up to 49 percent may be transferred to Federal agencies and departments in amounts determined by the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, of which up to \$2,700,000 may be used for auditing services and associated activities: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the requirements of Public Law 106–58, any unexpended funds obligated prior to fiscal year [2013] *2014* may be used for any other approved activities of that HIDTA, subject to reprogramming requirements: [*Provided further*, That each HIDTA designated as of September 30, 2014, shall be funded at not less than the fiscal year 2014 base level, unless the Director submits to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate justification for changes to those levels based on clearly articulated priorities and published Office of National Drug Control Policy performance measures of effectiveness: *Provided further*, That the Director shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the initial allocation of fiscal year 2015 funding among HIDTAs not later than 45 days after enactment of this Act, and shall notify the Committees of planned uses of discretionary HIDTA funding, as determined in consultation with the HIDTA Directors, not later than 90 days after enactment of this Act:] *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds so transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, [and upon notification to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate,] such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the restriction on the percentage of funds appropriated for the HIDTA Program that can be "expended for the establishment of drug prevention programs" contained in section 707(f) of title VII of division C of Public Law 105–277, as amended, shall not apply to funds appropriated for the program in fiscal year 2016; and that the restriction that no funds appropriated for the HIDTA Program can be "expended for the establishment or expansion of drug treatment programs" contained in section 707(f) of title VII of division C of Public Law 105–277, as amended, shall not prohibit funds appropriated for the program in fiscal year 2016 from being used to support any initiatives that provide access to addiction treatment as part of a diversion or other alternative sentencing or community reentry program for drug offenders. (*Executive Office of the President Appropriations Act, 2015.*)

C. SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING

**High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
(\$ in thousands)**

Line Number		FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
	Program by activities:			
00.01	Grants and Federal Transfers	\$235,822	\$242,300	\$190,700
00.01	HIDTA Auditing Services and Associated Activities	\$2,700	\$2,700	\$2,700
10.00	Total Obligations	\$238,522	\$245,000	\$193,400
	Financing:			
39.00	Budget Authority	\$238,522	\$245,000	\$193,400
	Budget Authority:			
40.00	Appropriation	\$238,522	\$245,000	\$193,400
41.00	Transferred to Other Accounts	(\$23,000)	(\$23,000)	(\$20,000)
43.00	Appropriation (adjusted)	\$215,522	\$222,000	\$173,400
	Relation of Obligations to Outlay:			
90.00	Total Outlays	\$215,522	\$222,000	\$173,400

D. PERSONNEL

No personnel costs are associated with the HIDTA program. Personnel responsible for providing policy direction and oversight for the HIDTA program are funded from ONDCP's Salaries & Expenses account.

E. SUMMARY TABLES OF BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS

**High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas
(\$ in thousands)**

Line Number		FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
25.00	High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas – Obligations	\$215,522	\$222,000	\$173,400
99.00	Transfer to Federal Accounts	\$23,000	\$23,000	\$20,000
99.00	Total Budget Authority	\$238,522	\$245,000	\$193,400

F. FY 2016 BUDGET REQUEST

The FY 2016 request for the HIDTA program is \$193,400,000, which includes \$190,700,000 for grants to state, local, and tribal agencies, and transfers to Federal agencies participating in the 28 HIDTAs, and up to \$2,700,000 to be used for auditing services and associated activities.

The HIDTA program plays a key role in helping keep communities safe, and supports a policy designed to increase the impact of government dollars by leveraging place-conscious planning and place-based programming. It is a regional program, locally managed, and tied to a national mission. It principally supports drug supply reduction by bringing together and providing assistance to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug trafficking regions of the United States. Law enforcement agencies have substantial experience in implementing problem-oriented policing strategies and are well positioned to promote and participate in community-based drug prevention and treatment programs. To that end, ONDCP requests language to remove the program cap on prevention spending and to modify the restrictions currently in place for drug treatment programs. This change will enable HIDTAs to place more emphasis on expanding prevention efforts and to support initiatives that provide access to treatment for substance use disorders as part of a diversion or other alternative sentencing or community reentry program.

The attached request for each HIDTA includes:

- (1) The amount of funding proposed.
- (2) A justification that explains:
 - (A) the reasons for the proposed funding level; how such funding level was determined based on a current assessment of the drug trafficking threat in each HIDTA;
 - (B) how such funding will ensure that the goals and objectives of each such area will be achieved; and
 - (C) how such funding supports the *Strategy*.
- (3) The amount of HIDTA funds used to investigate and prosecute organizations and individuals trafficking in methamphetamine in the prior calendar year, and a description of how those funds were used.

Once the funding distribution has been approved, each HIDTA will propose to ONDCP initiatives designed to implement its strategy to address the threat identified in its region. Additionally, in consultation with the HIDTA Directors Committee, ONDCP will draft a plan for the use of discretionary funding to continue to support major domestic projects and respond to emerging threats.

Summary of HIDTA Program Request

HIDTA	FY 2016 Request
Appalachia	\$6,094,495
Atlanta/Carolinas	\$5,296,608
Central Florida	\$2,640,447
Central Valley California	\$2,640,447
Chicago	\$4,688,813
Gulf Coast	\$6,599,308
Hawaii	\$2,548,822
Houston	\$8,478,508
Lake County	\$2,621,704
Los Angeles	\$12,195,099
Michigan	\$2,852,180
Midwest	\$11,504,065
Nevada	\$2,548,822
New England	\$2,652,594
New York/New Jersey	\$10,691,558
North Florida	\$2,665,435
Northern California	\$2,548,822
Northwest	\$3,706,127
Ohio	\$2,801,295
Oregon	\$2,848,684
Philadelphia/Camden	\$3,564,149
Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands	\$7,881,156
Rocky Mountain	\$8,014,009
South Florida	\$10,584,720
Southwest Border	\$40,573,687
Texoma	\$2,665,435
Washington/Baltimore	\$11,677,235
Wisconsin	\$4,363,889
National HIDTA Assistance Center	\$2,751,887
Total Base Allocation	\$190,700,000
Auditing Services And Associated Activities	\$2,700,000
Total	\$193,400,000

Appalachia HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$6,094,495

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Appalachia HIDTA (AHIDTA) region encompasses one of the predominant marijuana production areas in the United States. Additionally, the AHIDTA is faced with serious threats from heroin, cocaine, and synthetic substances trafficking and abuse, methamphetamine production and abuse, prescription drug diversion, and drug-related violence.

Heroin distribution and abuse arguably pose one of the greatest and most significant threats to the people in the AHIDTA area, and have grown significantly since calendar year (CY) 2011. Heroin-related emergency department visits have risen nationally, and areas of the AHIDTA region are seeing significant increases in heroin-related overdose deaths as opposed to pharmaceutical drug-related overdose deaths. Despite controls on the amounts of pseudoephedrine products individuals may purchase, the production and abuse of methamphetamine remain a notable threat to the region. Although the threat posed by diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical drugs has decreased due to the emergence of heroin to the marketplace, abuse is still prevalent in all four states and drug-related crime is still significantly impacted by pharmaceutical drug abuse and addiction. Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) operating in the AHIDTA are primarily Caucasian (prescription drugs, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine), followed by African-American (cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, and pharmaceutical drugs), and Mexican/Mexican-American (cocaine, heroin).

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The AHIDTA is instrumental in fostering cooperation and collaboration among Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The Executive Board develops and manages the AHIDTA Strategy and its initiatives, focusing resources at the region's primary drug threats and ensuring the achievement of desired outcomes. The AHIDTA Strategy and initiatives are designed to target drug cultivation, distribution, drug-related violent crime, and to reduce drug use. The executive board is dedicated to facilitating cooperation and strengthening the relationships of the AHIDTA's participating law enforcement agencies, which include 7 United States Attorneys' Offices (USAOs), 8 Federal agencies, 14 state agencies, and nearly 100 local agencies. The board's efforts help to achieve common goals and respond to current drug threats effectively.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The AHIDTA supports the Strategy in a number of ways. Its task forces reduce large-scale marijuana production and the shipment of large amounts of marijuana to other areas of the country; disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking and/or MLOs that distribute marijuana, heroin, methamphetamine, pharmaceutical drugs, and cocaine.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, the AHIDTA continued to battle a significant methamphetamine threat. While the threat primarily consisted of small, unsophisticated, one-step method laboratories, 22 larger labs were encountered and dismantled. Despite legislative setbacks, the AHIDTA continued to support legislative efforts to strengthen controls on the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine. AHIDTA task force initiatives will continue to seek out and eliminate clandestine laboratories and prosecute their operators.

AHIDTA task forces processed significantly more glassware/equipment sites and more dumpsites in 2013 than in 2012. AHIDTA personnel conducted 238 percent (88 vs. 26) more seizures of chemicals, glassware, and/or equipment and encountered 21 percent more dumpsites (122 vs. 101). The number of children found by AHIDTA task forces to be living at, or endangered by, clandestine labs decreased slightly to 31 in 2013 from 35 in 2012. These children were turned over to child welfare professionals in accordance with each agency's requirements.

Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$5,296,608

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Atlanta/Carolinas (A-C) HIDTA region is a major distribution center for DTOs, particularly Mexico-based DTOs, and their associated MLOs that supply the eastern United States. DTOs distribute illicit drugs from the A-C HIDTA region to eastern cities including Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Cincinnati and Columbus, OH; Columbia, SC; Gainesville, Orlando, and Pensacola, FL; Indianapolis, IN; Knoxville, TN; Louisville, KY; and Norfolk, VA. The supply lines reach as far as Detroit, MI and New York, NY. Interstate 85 is the major artery for this distribution.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The A-C HIDTA has implemented a three-part strategy (geographical, functional, and operational) to focus on upper and mid-level drug trafficking and MLOs. The HIDTA employs state-of-the-art intelligence and telecommunications technology in addition to more traditional techniques to target investigations against major DTOs/MLOs. The program fosters collaborative working relationships with 52 participating Federal, state, and local investigative and prosecuting agencies, as well as the approximately 400 law-enforcement agencies which take advantage of A-C HIDTA training programs.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the A-C HIDTA and achieve the goals of the *Strategy*, the Executive Board will focus HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale;
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies; and
- Through the A-C HIDTA Prevention Initiative (ACHPI) bringing together agency representatives from law enforcement, prevention, and treatment to meet and discuss ways to reduce the impact of drug abuse and providing expert advice regarding policy and legislative decisions.

(3) Methamphetamine

Mexican DTOs continue to use Atlanta as a major distribution hub for methamphetamine. In 2013, 734 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized by the A-C HIDTA. Ninety-six percent of the seized meth was in the crystal form known as ice. The wholesale value of all meth seized was estimated at almost \$30 million. However, the price of meth is falling because the market is flooded, and dealers are acquiring meth when there is a shortage of cocaine. Georgia investigators did not discover any superlabs in 2013, but noted an increase in the use of the “one pot” or “shake and bake” method. It was also noted that bulk quantities of methamphetamine are still being dissolved in various liquids for transport, while an increasing amount of powder

methamphetamine was being sent from Mexico-based sources. Powder meth is converted to ice at clandestine conversion labs, which can produce far more ice than the local “one-pot” labs. According to the NMPI, there were 565 labs discovered in North Carolina and 396 in South Carolina, an increase of 29.89 percent in North Carolina and a decrease of 5.49 percent in South Carolina. North and South Carolina both have active pseudoephedrine monitoring programs, but local methamphetamine producers are still able to acquire enough pseudoephedrine through smurfing activities to produce user quantities using the “one pot” method. During 2014, local production is expected to increase.

Central Florida HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,640,447

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

A majority of 2014 Central Florida HIDTA (CFHIDTA) Drug Threat Survey respondents view cocaine as the greatest threat, followed by CPDs and synthetics. Puerto Rican and Mexican DTOs dominate the CFHIDTA region as the primary wholesale suppliers of most cocaine and heroin. Mexican DTOs continue to be primary suppliers of methamphetamine. Several CFHIDTA initiatives report an increase of 76 percent in marijuana parcel interdiction seizures. Marijuana remains widely available in the central Florida region as DTOs continue to ship high grade marijuana from California via USPS, UPS, and FedEx. The threat of Puerto Rico based DTOs utilizing the U.S. Postal Service to ship kilogram quantities of cocaine to associated cells in central Florida continues.

Cuban DTOs heavily control indoor marijuana cultivation in central Florida. These DTOs continue to employ strategies to make detection of grow operations more difficult for law enforcement. Some initiatives report prioritizing CPDs and other drug investigations ahead of indoor marijuana cases. The number of indoor marijuana grows seized in the CFHIDTA region decreased by 20 percent, from 122 in 2012 to 98 in 2013. There was also a reduction in the number of plants seized, from 6,847 in 2012 to 3,750 in 2013. This is a 45 percent decline due to a reduction in the size of indoor marijuana grow operations.

In 2011 and 2012, the prevailing drug threats to the central Florida region were cocaine and CPDs. This trend continued in 2013, however, CPD seizures and availability were significantly reduced due to legislative action establishing the PDMP and to a lesser extent, local legislation. The notion that Florida was seen as a ready source for CPDs has abated due to these legislative actions. One CFHIDTA participating agency, the Tampa Police Department, reported a 63 percent decline in the number of pain clinics in their area of operation. This is a result of adopting city ordinances to control the pain clinic problems. The Tampa Police Department also reported that the number of users who obtained prescriptions by fraud dropped significantly from 110 a month to, recently 1. The precipitous decline in CPD availability has led to an increase in heroin and cocaine use. In 2013, eight CFHIDTA initiatives reported a slight increase in heroin sales and consumption. The *2013 Medical Examiners Commission Interim Drug Report for the first Half of 2013* indicated the number of deaths associated with cocaine, used alone or with other drugs, was higher in the HIDTA region than during the same period in 2012. Six CFHIDTA initiatives did however continue to provide full-time personnel to the CPD threat, seizing over 112,850 dosage units of CPDs in 2013 investigations.

In 2013, the CFHIDTA region saw a dramatic increase in Mexican methamphetamine seizures due to the emerging threat posed by Mexican trafficking organizations operating in Polk County. Seizures of Mexican methamphetamine totaled 212 kilograms in 2013 compared to 98 kilograms in 2012.

The synthetic drug threat continues to increase in central Florida. According to the 2014 CFHIDTA Drug Threat Surveys, synthetic drugs are more prevalent in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Volusia counties. The Pinellas Task Force seized 31 kilograms of synthetic drugs in 2013 compared to 1.6 kilograms in 2012. The Colombian/South American Task Force (Tampa) seized 253 kilograms of synthetic drugs in 2013 compared to 13.3 kilograms in 2012. Volusia County seized 29.3 kilograms of synthetic drugs in 2013 compared to 4.5 kilograms in 2012. The increase in synthetic drug seizures is primarily due to government emergency scheduling and assigning stricter regulations pertaining to the chemical composition of these drugs. Methylone or “Molly” has also emerged in 2013 as a notable drug threat particularly in the Tampa Bay area. Primarily imported from China, methylone has flooded the market once dominated by MDMA. Users have turned to “Molly” due to its similar affects, low cost and availability. Seizures of methylone totaled 38 kilograms in 2013 compared to .5 kilograms in 2012.

Orlando metropolitan street level heroin purity reported by the DEA Domestic Monitoring Program for 2013 was 17.2 percent, which is even lower than 2012 data (25%). Seizures of heroin by CFHIDTA initiatives in 2013 showed a very slight increase of 1 percent from 2012. The number of heroin DTOs remains at 7 percent of all the DTOs identified by CFHIDTA in 2013. The 2014 CFHIDTA Drug Threat Survey indicates the price of heroin did not change significantly from 2012. The average cost of a gram was \$120 and an ounce was \$2,500. The survey also suggests there was an increase of individuals turning to heroin as the drug of choice over CPDs (opioids). This slight increase is most likely due to the continued usage of the PDMP and Electronic – Florida Online Reporting of Controlled Substances Evaluation (EFORCSE). Although heroin is ranked in the Medical Examiner Report for the first 6 months of 2013 as the most lethal drug, occurrences of heroin documented in deaths decreased by 12.5 percent and deaths caused by heroin decreased by 6.8 percent when compared to the last 6 months of 2012.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The CFHIDTA will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships between the nine Federal agencies, and eight state and local agencies to achieve the common goals of dismantling or disrupting DTOs/MLOs and reducing the demand for drugs.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the CFHIDTA and achieve the goals of the *Strategy*, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale.
- The HIDTA ISC will work to increase intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies.
- The HIDTA leadership will work with regional Drug Free Communities Programs and prevention providers and organizations to foster a stronger relationship between law enforcement and the prevention and treatment communities.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, clandestine methamphetamine labs seized and dismantled totaled 154 in the CFHIDTA's eight county region. Of the labs encountered, 99 percent were "one-pot" production labs. During 2013, 211 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized of which 180 kilograms were ice methamphetamine.

Central Valley California HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding requested for FY 2016: \$2,640,447

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Central Valley California (CVC) HIDTA's most serious drug threats are methamphetamine and marijuana, followed by cocaine, heroin, pharmaceuticals, and other drugs. The 10-county region is a leading producer of methamphetamine. The area was once known for an abundance of precursor-based labs; however, methamphetamine encountered in the region is now most often smuggled into the United States from Mexico, either as finished product or in liquid form, which is then finished into crystal meth (ice) at conversion labs. CVC HIDTA initiatives seized several such labs in 2013, one in conjunction with 100 pounds of finished ice methamphetamine, and another that was capable of producing over 400 pounds of methamphetamine each month. In all, CVC HIDTA task forces seized nearly 2,400 pounds of methamphetamine in 2013.

The region is renowned for high-grade marijuana, cultivated both indoors and outdoors. Industrial-scale outdoor marijuana cultivation takes place on public and tribal lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and several Native American tribes. Large-scale grows also occur on private property. Of the nearly 4.4 million marijuana plants eradicated in the United States during 2013, over 1.7 million - or nearly 39 percent - were eradicated in the CVC HIDTA. While dramatic, this number is actually a decrease from recent years as a direct result of resource constraints at the state and local levels; there is no evidence to suggest the amount of marijuana cultivated in California is declining.

Large cannabis plots frequently are tended by undocumented aliens, many of whom are armed. These plots can pose a serious danger to people using public lands for recreation, as well as those employed in forest-related occupations. Assaults and homicides occur in the grow sites, usually as a consequence of crop theft. The environmental damage caused by marijuana cultivation is profound: water quality and wildlife are threatened by the pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers used by the growers; clear-cutting and water diversion cause erosion and disrupt the water table. Growers abandon miles of irrigation lines and tons of gear and trash at grow sites.

An emerging threat within the CVC HIDTA is the increasing occurrence of THC extraction labs. These labs use volatile solvents to produce a concentrated, highly potent cannabis product. The labs are usually not discovered until after they explode. For example, in early 2014, an apartment-based THC extraction lab exploded in Sacramento sending two suspects to the hospital with serious burns, and displacing more than 100 residents because of the damage to the apartment building.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The CVC HIDTA applies a multi-agency task force model to leverage diverse authorities, expertise, and resources to combat DTOs. Approximately 150 Federal, state, county, and

municipal law enforcement members representing 52 agencies participate in CVC HIDTA initiatives. The task forces are aligned according to region or drug type; however, there is flexibility in order to address the poly-drug nature of the DTOs in the area. Task force efforts are supported by a network of criminal intelligence analysts; some embedded within initiatives and others working at the ISC.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the CVC HIDTA and achieve the goals of the Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate CVC HIDTA resources to initiatives with a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from the sale of drugs. In 2013, the CVC HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 83 DTOs and MLOs;
- Improving investigative effectiveness by providing quality case support and predictive, actionable intelligence through the ISC and its subsystems; and,
- Strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations through continued collaboration with the other California HIDTAs on a state-wide prevention initiative.

(3) Methamphetamine

During 2013, CVC HIDTA enforcement initiatives directed significant resources to address the methamphetamine threat. A total of 1,075 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized. There were 17 methamphetamine laboratories dismantled; of those, 4 were classified as superlabs (having the capacity to yield more than 10 pounds during a single production cycle). The initiatives will continue to adapt strategies to address the shift from precursor-based methamphetamine labs to smuggled meth in liquid form finished at conversion labs. Flexible strategies are also necessary to account for the poly-drug nature of the DTOs operating in the CVC HIDTA.

Chicago HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$4,688,813

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Chicago's geographic location and unique demographics, combined with its role as a principal national transportation and financial mecca, have distinguished Illinois as a "non-traditional border state", particularly as it relates to illicit drug trafficking. It is believed the majority of illicit drugs reaching the US are coming across the Southwest border, a large portion of which is destined for the Chicago area, some to be consumed locally and the remainder to be transshipped elsewhere throughout the country. The Chicago area's vast Mexican population creates opportunities for source-country connections and close relationships with major traffickers. Illicit proceeds collected from drug sales are often staged in and around Chicago for bulk shipment or other distribution schemes back to the trafficking organizations.

The distribution and use of heroin and related overdose deaths are perceived to be the major threat in the region. Cocaine, marijuana, increasing amounts of high potency marijuana, the abuse of prescription drugs, and gang violence are also areas of primary threats.

Street gangs are the primary retail distributors of illicit drugs. These gangs regularly engage in violent criminal activities to protect their drug supplies, distribution territories, and illicit drug proceeds. Street gangs are continuing their incursion into outlying areas and are becoming increasingly problematic for suburban law enforcement.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The Chicago HIDTA continues to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in order to eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences. This includes coordinated efforts to reduce the production, manufacturing, distribution, transportation, and use of illegal drugs, as well as the attendant money laundering of drug proceeds.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the Chicago HIDTA and achieve the goals of the Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale;
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all law enforcement agencies in Illinois and the other regions that are impacted by the illegal drug trade emanating from the Chicago HIDTA's area of responsibility; and,

- Seeking ways to enhance its relationship with community organizations, educational institutions, and other organizations engaged in drug education, prevention, and treatment activities.

(3) Methamphetamine

The Chicago HIDTA has no enforcement initiatives focusing on methamphetamine since manufacture and/or use of meth in the Chicago HIDTA region is minimal. However, methamphetamine destined for other markets is transported through the Chicago HIDTA region.

Gulf Coast HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$6,599,308

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Gulf Coast (GC HIDTA) is a geographically diverse area consisting of 27 HIDTA-designated counties/parishes in the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The drug which continues to pose the greatest threat in the GC HIDTA is cocaine, along with its derivative, crack. Law enforcement intelligence indicates that cocaine/crack is transported into the GC HIDTA by Mexico-based poly-DTOs and subsequently distributed by local drug trafficking groups. Methamphetamine is ranked, overall, as the second-most serious threat in the GC HIDTA's area of responsibility, except in Arkansas, however, where it surpasses cocaine/crack as the primary threat. In July 2010, Mississippi enacted House Bill (HB) 512, designating ephedrine and pseudoephedrine Schedule III drugs and has since begun enforcement of provisions designed to regulate the sale of methamphetamine precursors. Consequently, prescriptions are required for all medications containing these methamphetamine precursors. Methamphetamine labs have dropped significantly throughout Mississippi since the law's enactment.

Diverted pharmaceuticals obtained through internationally-based Internet pharmacies, Mexico-based DTOs, and illicit pain management clinics remain a significant threat across the GC HIDTA region and the number one threat in Mississippi and in Shelby County, Tennessee. With the attention given by area law enforcement to the diverted pharmaceutical threat, the region is experiencing a marked increase in heroin use, overdoses, and seizures as drug users seem to have migrated to heroin use when diverted pharmaceuticals are unavailable. Violent crime continues to affect the safety and quality of life of the citizens in the GC HIDTA region. Violent drug trafficking groups have returned to the storm-ravaged areas of Louisiana and Mississippi, leading to a series of violent crimes and related social problems. A 2013 survey found that over 30 percent of the 25 most dangerous metropolitan areas of the United States were located in the GC HIDTA region.⁶

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The GC HIDTA endeavors to promote an effective working relationship among and between its law enforcement initiatives by designing and deploying an infrastructure that fosters information sharing and ensures a coordinated response to the drug threat, thereby realizing an environment through which the participating Federal, state, and local agencies may achieve the goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing the demand for drugs by focusing on specific drug threat elements unique to their respective areas.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the GC HIDTA and achieve the goals of the Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct

⁶ http://os.cqpress.com/citycrime/2012/CityCrime2013_MetroCrimeRateRankings.pdf

relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale. The GC HIDTA will support enforcement initiatives to target regional DTOs; and,
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies. The GC HIDTA ISC and BLOC Watch Center will accomplish this through event and case deconfliction, analytical support, lead referrals, and the production and dissemination of intelligence products.

(3) Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine is ranked as the second most serious threat to the GC HIDTA. As such, significant fiscal, enforcement, and intelligence resources are committed to disrupting and dismantling DTOs focusing on the manufacture, transportation, and distribution of the drug. While Mexican DTOs continue to dominate the transportation and distribution of bulk quantities of methamphetamine in the region, the simpler “one-pot” method of production continues to strongly influence the overall numbers of methamphetamine laboratory seizures as well as the total amount of methamphetamine seized across all areas of the GC HIDTA. In 2013, 121 methamphetamine labs were dismantled. GC HIDTA initiatives also removed 431.6 kilograms of methamphetamine from the marketplace with an estimated wholesale value of \$13,058,155. Although this HIDTA is able to report on seizures of methamphetamine, they have indicated that they are unable to track funding specifically used to address methamphetamine trafficking.

Hawaii HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,548,822

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The trafficking and use of “ice” methamphetamine, the abuse of diverted pharmaceuticals, and the production and cultivation of marijuana pose the greatest illicit drug threats to the state of Hawaii.

Methamphetamine is widely available throughout Hawaii. Organizations comprised of individuals of Asian, Polynesian, Caucasian, and Hispanic descent control most methamphetamine distribution activities in Hawaii. While large scale production facilities are not located in Hawaii, a nominal number of small manufacturing locations have been identified in the state in recent years; indicating that the majority of the methamphetamine available in Hawaii is transported into the state from the continental United States, primarily California, Nevada, Arizona, and Washington. In addition, methamphetamine is also transported to Hawaii from Mexico via the continental U.S.

Transportation methods favored by DTOs shipping methamphetamine to Hawaii include the use of human couriers traveling on commercial airline flights who may conceal the methamphetamine on their bodies, or secrete it in carry-on baggage. In addition, DTOs sometimes employ corrupt airline employees who ensure methamphetamine shipments circumvent airport security. DTOs also use package services such as the United States Postal Service, Federal Express, and the United Parcel Service to transport small amounts of methamphetamine to Hawaii from the continental U.S. Finally, intelligence indicates that DTOs use containers onboard commercial shipping vessels to transport methamphetamine to Hawaii. Proceeds derived from the sale of methamphetamine originally shipped from the continental U.S. are either mailed to the continental U.S., hand carried by human couriers traveling on commercial airline flights, or transferred via wire remitters.

The trafficking and distribution of pharmaceuticals in Hawaii occurs in numerous manners, but there is currently no evidence to suggest the presence of large, well organized DTOs obtaining and distributing pharmaceuticals throughout the state. Rather, intelligence indicates there are small groups of individuals, some of whom work with one another in a coordinated manner, who obtain pharmaceuticals from physicians and pharmacies for personal use as well as for distribution to other end users. DTO members are also known to solicit addicts as well as other disenfranchised members of the community to obtain pharmaceuticals from physicians known to write prescriptions when there is no legitimate physician/patient relationship. The “patient” then fills the prescription at a pharmacy; he or she may keep a portion of the prescription for personal use or to sell it to other users.

Marijuana is readily available in Hawaii, which passed medical marijuana legislation in 2000. It is both cultivated locally and transported to Hawaii from the continental U.S. Locally cultivated marijuana is routinely grown indoors as well as outdoors on public or private lands. It is not uncommon for DTOs to lease several residences within geographic

proximity to one another, which are then used as indoor marijuana grows. In addition, recent intelligence indicates that “wax” is being produced and trafficked in Hawaii.

DTOs employ a variety of transportation methods to ship marijuana to Hawaii from the continental U.S. These methods include: using human couriers traveling on commercial airline flights; employing corrupt airline employees who ensure marijuana shipments bypass airport security; using package services such as the United States Postal Service, Federal Express, and United Parcel Service to transport small amounts of marijuana to Hawaii from the continental U.S. When using shipping services, DTOs use a variety of concealment methods to disguise the marijuana’s odor.

The organizations responsible for distributing marijuana throughout Hawaii consist of individuals from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including Asian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and Caucasian. In addition, most marijuana DTOs operating in Hawaii are not poly-drug in nature – they tend to distribute only marijuana, synthetic cannabinoids, and/or e-liquids for use in e-cigarettes. There is no evidence to date that synthetic cannabinoids and/or e-liquids are manufactured in Hawaii; intelligence indicates that local distributors purchase them from a variety of manufacturers located in both the continental U.S. and certain foreign countries.

Marijuana grown for local consumption is often cultivated on islands other than Oahu; it is then transported to Oahu using a variety of methods, including via commercial airlines flights using human couriers. While it remains unclear whether airline employees may be involved in these activities, it is likely the DTOs recruit them in order to ensure the marijuana shipments bypass airport security check points. In addition, smaller amounts are shipped to Oahu using small package shipping services, as well as container shipping services. Proceeds are repatriated to outlying islands using a variety of methods, including concealing the proceeds in shipments of legitimate goods.

Hawaii’s geographical location also provides potential international and multi-state criminal groups with ample opportunity to traffic drugs to, through, and from the area due to Hawaii’s exceptionally high volume of international and domestic air and/or ocean traffic.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The Hawaii HIDTA has a clear-cut mission for its law enforcement and intelligence components. The Hawaii HIDTA fosters cooperative and effective working relationships between all 24 of Hawaii’s Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. These relationships are demonstrated in the co-located and co-mingled law enforcement environment of personnel who are strategically aligned into task forces that focus on both long- and short-term multijurisdictional investigations, complex money laundering investigations, violent offender and fugitive apprehensions, border interdiction, and marijuana eradication. The Hawaii HIDTA pursues an intelligence-led policing approach within its intelligence components and applies an analytical intelligence cycle to ensure that priorities can be established to address its most pressing law enforcement threats in a focused manner.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the Hawaii HIDTA and achieve the goals of the *Strategy*, the Executive Board will allocate and focus resources on initiatives with a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale;
- Increasing intelligence sharing by continuing to invest heavily in a robust ISC;
- Creating a stronger relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations. Specifically, the Hawaii HIDTA works with local coalition groups to develop a strong consistent anti-drug message for Hawaii's youth; and,
- Working with community stakeholders to bring to light, analyze, and deliver an education/prevention message relating to the emerging trend of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical abuse.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, Hawaii HIDTA task forces removed 155.9 kilograms of ice methamphetamine having a wholesale value estimated at \$6,080,724 and seized \$2,973,295 in cash proceeds from the illicit drug market. In doing so, the Hawaii HIDTA disrupted and/or dismantled 43 methamphetamine-related DTOs.

Houston HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$8,478,508

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The threat from illicit drug trafficking and associated violence within the Houston HIDTA remains high, in large part due to its close proximity to the Southwest border area, as well as its seaports and national highway infrastructure. As a result, the region is one of the most significant distribution and transshipment areas for the variety of illegal drugs trafficked from Mexico into the United States. It is also a primary consolidation point for bulk cash smuggled back across the border. Therefore, Houston is one of the principal centers for drug activity in the country. Houston has experienced an increased threat from pharmaceutical diversion activities and methamphetamine availability, heightening the level of threat posed to the region and beyond. In addition to the imminent threat posed by the vast supply of illegal drugs moving through the region, drug-related violence continues to escalate, especially among the region's gangs. Gangs within the Houston HIDTA continue to grow in strength and number. Their violence, often spurred by drug-related turf issues, is increasingly brutal, heightening the severity of the impact of the drug trade in the region.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

Continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, state, and local agencies that participate and/or operate in the Houston HIDTA region to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing the demand for drugs.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the Houston HIDTA and achieve the goals of the *Strategy*, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs;
- Implementing programs and activities that improve the effectiveness and coordination of agencies participating in the HIDTA;
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies; and,
- Strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and prevention and treatment organizations.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, the Houston HIDTA provided \$218,680 to fund the Methamphetamine Initiative Group housed at the Texas Department of Public Safety in Houston, Texas. Over the last year, an increase in the number of small labs using the “one-pot” method of production resulted in the dismantlement of 18 methamphetamine labs. Houston HIDTA initiatives seized 475 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine in 2013, with an estimated wholesale value of over \$16.6 million.

Lake County HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,621,704

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The drug threat in the Lake County HIDTA region has increased over the past year because of the rising availability levels of heroin, CPDs, marijuana, and the availability of crystal “ice” methamphetamine. Heroin availability and abuse continue to increase throughout the HIDTA region. Treatment facilities are reporting an increase of heroin-related admissions. Overdose deaths related to opiates, including heroin, have increased over the last few years. Based on survey responses from local police agencies in the area, CPDs are an increasing, evolving threat. There remains a prominent presence of Mexico-based DTOs in the region, which have direct links to Chicago and the Southwest border. These DTOs supply most of the heroin, marijuana, cocaine, and “ice” methamphetamine to the area. High-potency, locally produced marijuana is also readily available. Crack cocaine is an isolated threat, especially in the northern cities of Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago.

Key issues identified in the Lake County HIDTA region include the following:

- Heroin availability is increasing in both Lake and Porter Counties, contributing to rising levels of heroin abuse, treatment admissions, and overdoses.
- CPD availability and abuse, especially prescription opiates, are increasing throughout the HIDTA’s area of responsibility and contributing to a recent surge in drug overdose deaths.
- Growing demand for high-potency marijuana in Lake and Porter Counties has resulted in greater availability.
- The availability of cocaine has remained stable over the last year.
- “Ice” methamphetamine availability is increasing. Much of the “ice” is being brought to the area from the Southwest border, California, and Chicago.
- Chicago-based street gangs continue to expand into the HIDTA region. Gangs are involved in the trafficking of drugs and firearms between Northwest Indiana and Chicago.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The HIDTA works with 18 state and local jurisdictions, 9 law enforcement initiatives, and 7 Federal agencies in bringing a coordinated law enforcement effort to the HIDTA to combat drug trafficking.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the Lake County HIDTA and achieve the goals of the Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate and focus HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale.
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all law enforcement agencies in Northwest Indiana.

(3) Methamphetamine

While local law enforcement units have not seen an increase in locally produced methamphetamine, HIDTA initiatives have verified an overall increase in the availability of “ice” methamphetamine over the last two years. Mexican DTOs are transporting “ice” methamphetamine from Mexico and the western United States to Chicago and Northwest Indiana in an attempt to introduce the drug to local users. The purity of “ice” methamphetamine is often found in the 90 – 100 percent range, as evidenced by several HIDTA initiative seizures.

Methamphetamine seized by HIDTA initiatives increased from 2.4 kilograms in 2012 to 2.8 kilograms in 2013. “Ice” seizures increased from 17.3 kilograms in 2012 to 27.9 kilograms in 2013. Although this HIDTA is able to report on seizures of methamphetamine, they have indicated that they are unable to track funding specifically used to address methamphetamine trafficking.

Los Angeles HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$12,195,099

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Mexico-based DTOs and criminal groups control the wholesale distribution of illicit drugs in the Los Angeles HIDTA (LA-HIDTA) region. They supply illicit drugs to distributors within the region and to distributors in most other significant drug markets throughout the country. Their influence is so profound that the LA-HIDTA region has become one of the most significant illicit drug distribution centers in the United States for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, MDMA, and PCP. Sources of the investigations for most of the open DTO cases in the LA-HIDTA at the end of 2013 are Mexican nationals.

Additionally, the Mexico-based DTOs and criminal groups based in the LA-HIDTA region are increasing their control over illicit drug distribution in many drug markets, most recently in East Coast drug markets that have long been controlled by other trafficking groups, which further enhances the role of the region as a national-level drug distribution center. It clearly is a staging area for Mexico-based DTOs and some that have national and/or international presence.

The geographic, cultural, social, and economic diversity and general affluence of the population within the four county areas (8th largest economy in the world, with approximately 13 percent of the national GDP, the largest in the United States) have helped make the LA-HIDTA a huge market for drug use and distribution. At the same time, the highly developed transportation routes and the proximity to the Southwest border have made the LA-HIDTA a primary distribution, storage, and supply hub for illicit drugs destined for all the major metropolitan areas in the United States. Further, the large rural and remote desert areas make the LA-HIDTA an ideal location for clandestine manufacturing of methamphetamine (ice). However, the majority of methamphetamine encountered in the LA-HIDTA is manufactured in Mexico.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

By design, the LA-HIDTA strategy provides a comprehensive, dynamic law enforcement/intelligence plan which combines and coordinates regional drug control efforts in areas where they can have the most significant impact upon the threat. By Executive Board direction, this HIDTA consists of seven major operational task forces comprising co-located Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and three intelligence initiatives. It is their collective purpose to effectively and efficiently work within the strategy to identify and target the major DTOs that operate at the higher levels of the illegal narcotic “food chain,” in order to measurably reduce drug trafficking and its impact in this and other areas of the country.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the LA-HIDTA and achieve the goals of the Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the major DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale in and through the Los Angeles region.
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. It is the primary mission of the LA CLEAR to ensure officer safety and operational efficiency by providing a robust deconfliction capability serving the LA-HIDTA region, case support, advanced technology, intelligence, and enhanced information sharing to all law enforcement agencies. Additionally, the JRIC serves as one of the components of the national fusion center system thus fostering better intelligence sharing between the HIDTA and DHS networks; and
- Creating a stronger relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations. The LA-HIDTA is coordinating with the other California HIDTAs on a statewide prevention initiative.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, LA-HIDTA initiatives used approximately \$1.2 million to dismantle 17 clandestine powder methamphetamine labs – an historic low for our region. Assuming a significantly reduced regional selling price of \$500 per ounce, the LA-HIDTA prevented the production of an estimated \$21,500 worth of powder methamphetamine.

As ice methamphetamine production levels are increasing in the region, quantities sufficient for national-level distribution continue to be trafficked into and produced in the region. As stated earlier in this report, the numbers found in the LA-HIDTA relative to seizures of cartel-related super “ice” conversion labs (10 pounds or greater), where enforcement elements in California seized 32 (89%) of those reported nationwide. Of the 32 super “ice” conversion labs seized in California, 28 (87%) were from within the LA-HIDTA. There were 36 “ice” conversion labs (all sizes) in the LA-HIDTA in 2013.

As reported above, while the numbers of reported meth powder labs in our region was dramatically reduced in 2013, the number of “ice” conversion labs dramatically increased. Our intelligence systems report that the majority of powder or liquid methamphetamine is being produced in Mexico and then transported across the border to be converted into “ice”, which has a higher sales value. Our enforcement initiatives have moved with the threat to additionally target the major transportation cells that move methamphetamine across the U.S./Mexico border into our region and beyond.

During 2013, the enforcement initiatives of the LA-HIDTA seized a total of 608.2 kilograms of methamphetamine powder valued at \$5.9 million and 3,147.8 kilograms of ice methamphetamine valued at \$43 million. The total weight of all methamphetamine seized in the Los Angeles HIDTA in 2013 was in excess of 4.14 tons and had a combined wholesale value of \$48.9 million.

Michigan HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,852,180

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Michigan HIDTA region is located between major drug markets in Chicago and New York City, shares an international border with Canada, and has 3 of the top 25 busiest commercial land ports in the United States. DTOs transport illicit drugs into and through the region from Chicago, New York City, Atlanta, the Southwest Border states, and Canada. Michigan HIDTA counties include major drug markets in Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, Grand Rapids, and Kalamazoo. These markets serve as distribution centers for smaller markets within the Michigan HIDTA region and neighboring states.

Heroin is readily available, and its abuse continues to increase throughout the entire state of Michigan. Over the years, heroin demand has surpassed cocaine, and prescription opiate users have turned to heroin as a cheap alternative to prescription drugs. In 2013, heroin accounted for the largest percentage of drug treatment admissions in Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne Counties, as well as the City of Detroit.

Prescription drug diversion continues to be a significant threat to the state due to their availability through multiple methods of acquisition. Concurrent with last reporting period, the methods of acquiring illegal prescription drugs include prescription fraud activities, "doctor shopping," pharmacy robberies, fake prescription call-ins to pharmacies, and visiting physicians who operate as DTOs. Illegally obtained pharmaceutical drugs from Detroit and the surrounding metro area are subsequently distributed at higher costs to other states such as Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Indiana, and West Virginia. Opiate abuse has continued to increase since 2008 in the metropolitan Detroit area.

Marijuana continues to be the most commonly abused drug in the state of Michigan. Mexico remains the primary source of supply for low quality, high-yield marijuana imported to Michigan. Since the passing of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act in 2008, local marijuana production has increased. The increased emphasis on local cultivation has resulted in a greater availability of illicit Michigan-produced, high quality marijuana throughout the state.

Cocaine availability has remained moderate in this region, with some areas reporting decreased availability. Demand for cocaine continues to decline. Consequently, the price of cocaine per kilogram remains high.

Methamphetamine availability is not evenly dispersed throughout the state. Local production and consumption is a significant concern for the west side of the state. Much of the methamphetamine in Michigan is produced locally for personal consumption and/or small-scale retail sales. While production is a lower level concern in some areas of the state, in 2013 methamphetamine labs and/or methamphetamine incidents were reported in approximately 60 Michigan counties. The presence of methamphetamine imported from the southwest is becoming more prevalent, selling for about \$20,000 per kilogram. Though few Michigan law enforcement agencies have reported seizures of crystal methamphetamine,

those that have indicate it is readily available and in demand in their areas.

MDMA, also known as “ecstasy,” is available in Michigan. MDMA is primarily trafficked into Michigan from Canada through the international border ports of entry, and/or is shipped via parcel deliveries from China to sellers in the United States. Synthetic drugs are available in most parts of the state with no significant increases over the past year.

Detroit, Flint, Saginaw, and Pontiac continue to be four of the most violent cities in the United States. Drug-related violent crime continues to pose a significant threat in these areas. The Michigan HIDTA continues to be an integral component of the Detroit One Violent Crime Reduction Initiative. This community and law enforcement partnership spearheaded by the U.S. Attorney’s office for the Eastern District of Michigan, in cooperation with the Detroit Police Department and our Federal, state and local partners, focuses on identifying and arresting the worst offenders involved in violent firearms offenses in the City of Detroit. Since the partnership began in March of 2013, 114 of the most violent felons have been arrested and charged.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The Michigan HIDTA has adopted a three-tiered enforcement strategy. The initiatives target street-level dealers threatening the community (Level 1), mid-level dealers and priority targets (Level 2), and major drug and MLOs identified in the HIDTA’s threat assessment (Level 3).

The HIDTA accomplishes its mission and addresses the threat in the region through a united response from its Federal, state, local, and tribal partners, taking full advantage of their knowledge, skills and expertise. Through co-location, interagency cooperation, and consolidation of strategic and tactical information, the HIDTA fosters a comprehensive response to illicit drug trafficking by bringing together all available law enforcement resources. Cooperative working relationships have been developed over many years by the Executive Board and Executive Director to ensure that enhanced communication, collaboration, and information sharing support effective, intelligence-driven investigations.

(C) Support of the National Drug Control Strategy

To accomplish the mission and achieve the goals of the *Strategy*, the Executive Board focuses HIDTA resources on:

- Disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that manufacture, transport, and distribute illicit drugs and seizing the illicit proceeds from their sales;
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the HIDTA’s efforts by increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among HIDTA initiatives, law enforcement partners in Michigan, and law enforcement partners in other regions that are impacted by illegal drugs that originate or flow through the Michigan HIDTA’s area of responsibility; and,
- Enhancing relationships with organizations committed to drug education, prevention, and treatment, including community-based and educational institutions.

(3) Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine production remains a major threat as the “one-pot” method continues to grow in popularity throughout the state. Production has been discovered in 60 counties throughout the state. In 2013, Michigan HIDTA initiatives dismantled 260 methamphetamine laboratories in Michigan HIDTA counties, conservatively preventing more than \$700,000 worth of methamphetamine from reaching the marketplace. The presence of methamphetamine imported from the southwest is becoming more prevalent; selling for about \$20,000 per kilogram. In 2013 Michigan HIDTA initiatives seized 11.3 kilograms of methamphetamine and 7.8 kilograms of ice methamphetamine. In 2014, the Michigan HIDTA continues its commitment to provide funding to initiatives for methamphetamine-related enforcement activities, as well as funding to train and recertify law enforcement officers to safely process and dismantle clandestine methamphetamine laboratories.

Midwest HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$11,504,065

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Densely populated urban areas in the region, as user hubs, continue to experience major problems with all drugs, including crack cocaine. Cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana continue to be popular in all areas of the Midwest HIDTA region. Heroin remains prevalent primarily in large urban inner city communities in St. Louis and Kansas City. Drugs such as MDMA, GHB and other dangerous drugs known as "club drugs" are also consistently present in most urban areas. PCP appears to be readily available in the Kansas City metro area with significant quantities being interdicted between California and Kansas City. In the Midwest HIDTA region, Mexican traffickers continue to dominate wholesale drug distribution and transportation.

Competing gangs and other DTOs use violence to solidify and maintain their hold on drug trafficking within their area of influence. Cooperative local, state, and Federal law enforcement efforts throughout the Midwest HIDTA region have met with noteworthy success in identifying, targeting, and prosecuting active DTOs and gang members involved in violent drug related activity. Drug trafficking trend analysis has long indicated that high level DTOs have become established and entrenched in the Midwest region. Many DTOs in the Midwest are poly-drug operations. As a result, Midwest HIDTA task forces continue to initiate significant OCDETF, Regional Priority Organizational Targets (RPOT), Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOT) (linked), Title III and financial investigations. In addition, crack cocaine distribution has historically been coupled with significant violent crime and gang activity in inner city neighborhoods of large metropolitan areas such as Kansas City, Omaha, and St. Louis. Abuse of CPD opioid pain killers has also fueled an uptick in the number of heroin users as trafficking groups' price heroin to compete with diverted CPDs. Heroin overdose deaths and emergency room mentions have also increased in some cities.

A significant problem in suburban areas and rural areas of the Midwest HIDTA is methamphetamine abuse and the violence and social costs related to its manufacture, distribution and use. A more pure form of methamphetamine known as "Ice" remains popular throughout the region and in some areas has surpassed traditional methamphetamine in availability. Methamphetamine is transported into the region by Mexican transportation organizations via traditional, well-established routes.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

The Midwest HIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive regional program focused on reducing and disrupting the importation, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal narcotics. Midwest HIDTA drug task forces maintain an aggressive posture toward enforcement activities. The Midwest HIDTA has identified primary and secondary threat areas, defined drug importation and transportation corridors, and identified areas of local

drug production. Investigators conduct complex, in-depth, multijurisdictional OCDETF, Priority Target Organization, Special Operations Division, RPOT, CPOT, and DTO investigations with an emphasis on dismantling organizations and reducing drug-related violence. Investigations target the highest-level of drug trafficking and MLOs using undercover operations and surveillance of command and control communications. These investigations are intelligence-driven and are conducted in a spirit of cooperation among Federal, state, and local counterparts in a task force environment.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The Midwest HIDTA contains 72 designated counties in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Midwest HIDTA has developed a cohesive and comprehensive regional program which is executed through the 55 initiatives in the HIDTA to reduce the transportation, distribution, and manufacturing of illegal narcotics, thereby disrupting the illicit drug market.

(3) Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine remains a significant enforcement problem in the Midwest region. While maintaining a focus on major investigations, local impact investigations, and interdiction, local and Federal law enforcement in the Midwest region continue to face the challenges of the significant public safety hazards involved with local production methamphetamine labs. These hazards include fires, explosions, violence, child abuse, hazardous waste disposal, and environmental contamination. In 2013, Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized over 366 kilograms of methamphetamine and 442 kilograms of ice methamphetamine, and dismantled 401 clandestine labs rated at less than 2 ounce capacity, 30 rated at 2-8 ounce capacity, 5 rated at 9-31 ounce capacity, and 2 rated at 32-159 ounce capacity.

Midwest HIDTA agencies interfaced with multiple state and local child services agencies to conduct dual track child abuse and endangerment investigations on those cases involving lab exposure and chemical injuries. Felony charges were brought and children were removed from dangerous environments on a number of those cases. The Midwest HIDTA is able to report on seizures of methamphetamine, but is unable to track funding specifically used to address the trafficking of methamphetamine.

Nevada HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,548,822

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Mexican methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in the Nevada (NV) HIDTA region is widespread and believed to still be growing. The rise in pricing seen in 2008 and 2009 that indicated a decline in supply is gone, and prices are what they were in 2006. In 2013, the methamphetamine seizures from NV HIDTA task forces were down to 2011 levels. This was to be expected with 2012 being a record year for methamphetamine seizures.

The NV HIDTA believes that there is still just as much methamphetamine coming through the NV HIDTA as there was in 2012 and that a large percentage is coming directly from cartels in Mexico rather than DTOs in Southern California or Arizona. Even with this trend there has not been any significant command and control efforts by the cartels to the DTOs in Las Vegas.

Heroin and pharmaceuticals are listed as the second and third drug threats, respectively. The two are being addressed together because they are so intertwined. Diverted pharmaceuticals have been the fastest growing problem for several years. However in 2013, there was a leveling out of the problem. The Clark County Coroner reported more overdose deaths from pharmaceuticals than meth, heroin and cocaine combined.

The NV HIDTA is continually examining their approach to the enforcement of pharmaceutical laws. NV HIDTA had significant success in 2013 with the dismantlement of a 12 person DTO. The cell head of this DTO was a local pain doctor.

The NV HIDTA pharmaceutical initiative will continue to focus on doctors and pharmacies that are diverting pharmaceuticals while also more aggressively dealing with prescription forgers and street dealers in 2014. Based on information from the state pharmacy board, the treatment community, and agents and detectives working narcotics, the explosion of heroin seizures from 5 kg in 2005 to 40 kg in 2013 is likely related to pharmaceutical abuse. The heroin trade in Nevada is controlled by Mexican Nationals and nearly all of the heroin seized is black tar and Mexican brown coming directly from Mexico.

The NV HIDTA Executive Board created a heroin initiative at the end of 2012 to address the growing concern with heroin. The enforcement initiatives of the NV HIDTA will continue to aggressively attack the heroin DTOs in the HIDTA region.

In 2013, the indoor grows in the NV HIDTA continued to remain stable with HIDTA task forces dismantling 102 indoor grows. All but one of these grows were in Southern Nevada. Even though the number of grows remained stable, 102 grows is a significant amount considering the population of Clark County is at 2 million people. The NV HIDTA expects the dispensary law passed by the legislature in 2013 to have the unintended consequence of increasing the number of illegal grows.

The NV HIDTA has two task forces to address gang problems: Safe Streets Gang Task Force (SSGTF) and Clark County Gang Task Force (CCGTF). The primary mission of the CCGTF is to disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations operating in the NV HIDTA area by utilizing numerous investigative techniques to target these gangs and DTOs that are responsible for the importation and distribution of illegal narcotics and/or engage in violent crimes in Southern Nevada. The CCGTF was involved in a community impact project during 2013. They targeted a particularly dangerous street gang, arrested 25 gang members on felony charges, and seized over 35 pounds of methamphetamine.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The NV HIDTA is working diligently to follow the National HIDTA Program Mission Statement and achieve the National HIDTA Goals. Since the establishment of the NV HIDTA in 2001, the Executive Board has emphasized the goal of targeting and disrupting the most significant DTOs operating within the region. Consistent with the elements that characterize the NV HIDTA, many of the organizations identified during 2013 are cells of more extensive international and regional networks. By targeting the largest DTOs - the methamphetamine DTOs in particular - for either disruption or dismantlement, the NV HIDTA should achieve maximum impact on both the regional and national drug markets.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The NV HIDTA supports the Strategy by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs, thereby disrupting the flow of illegal drugs into the NV HIDTA region and other areas of the country. NV HIDTA investigators conduct complex and in-depth, multi-jurisdictional DTO investigations with an emphasis on dismantling organizations and reducing drug related violence.

(3) Methamphetamine

Mexican methamphetamine trafficking and abuse in the NV HIDTA are widespread and continue to grow. During 2013, methamphetamine seizures decreased but 2013 was still the second largest seizure year for NV HIDTA, with several large cases tied in directly to Mexico. Specifically, of the methamphetamine DTOs the task forces were able to work numerous cases tied directly into Mexico. In 2013, the NV HIDTA seized 265 kilograms of methamphetamine with an estimated wholesale value of \$7.5 million.

New England HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for 2016: \$2,652,594

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The distribution and abuse of heroin and CPDs, specifically opioids, and cocaine are the most significant drug threats to the New England (NE) HIDTA region. The abuse of opioid-based and other CPDs will likely lead to the increased use of heroin as a less expensive alternative. The New York Metropolitan area remained a major source of supply with an increasing market presence from Newark and Jersey City, NJ based dealers. The northern border vulnerabilities will continue to be exploited, and the violent crime rate of the major metropolitan areas of New England will continue to be a major cause of concern for state and local law enforcement. This increased crime rate can largely be attributed to poly-DTOs and gangs.

Heroin trafficking and consumption remain a consistent threat to New England due to its widespread availability, low cost, high incidence of addiction, association to other criminal activities and negative economic impact. Opioid abuse, including heroin and controlled prescription opioid pain relievers, is associated with high levels of violent crime and property crime, and accounts for a high percentage of all illicit drug-related treatment admissions and poison center hotline calls, hospital visits, and drug-related deaths in the region.

The availability of cocaine and crack cocaine remains high throughout New England. Many of the DTOs involved in trafficking cocaine draw upon sources of supply in New York, Florida and the Southwest Border. Crack cocaine availability has expanded in many northern New England cities largely because criminal groups and street gangs from southern New England and the New York City metropolitan area have increased distribution in those areas. Violence between these street gangs is increasing as they compete for territory in a lucrative drug market area.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The NE HIDTA provides an agency-neutral program to balance regional law enforcement efforts and coordinates a strategy to address the regional threat and national priorities. It continues to foster effective working relationships among six U.S. Attorneys' Offices, nine Federal law enforcement agencies, and scores of state and local law enforcement agencies. NE HIDTA task force initiatives are staffed with co-located Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers. The NE HIDTA coordinates the integration of all initiatives to ensure a unified effort in achieving its goals and objectives.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

In addition to supporting the *Strategy* by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs, NE HIDTA has implemented a collaborative partnership with prominent professionals in the education, prevention, and treatment aspect of the *Strategy*. Additionally, through continued cooperation with these partners, the NE HIDTA has enhanced drug education and prevention

initiatives, by providing guidance and information to numerous state-sponsored prescription drug awareness programs, and partnering with the New England Drug Free Communities coalitions, the Massachusetts Prevention Alliance, and Boston University School of Medicine and the Safe and Competent Opioid Prescribing Education (SCOPE) of Pain training, providing prescribing physicians continuing medical education (CME) credits while creating awareness of the delicate balance of chronic pain management and the risks associated with opioid prescribing.

(3) Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine remains a relatively low threat and is therefore not specifically targeted by the NE HIDTA initiatives. Nevertheless, because of the recent increase of labs dismantled in the New England region, the NE HIDTA will continue to sponsor training in proper dismantlement of methamphetamine clandestine laboratories for law enforcement partners. Additionally, the NE HIDTA Executive Board will be apprised of these activities and potential threats, should it be determined that the mission of one or more task forces should be revised to include a focus on methamphetamine labs.

New York/New Jersey HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$10,691,558

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Each of the 24 counties within the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) HIDTA region confronts similar, but varying degrees of drug threats. The New York City metropolitan area, which includes the New York City counties as well as the New Jersey, Long Island, and lower Hudson Valley HIDTA counties, is an epicenter for diverse drug trafficking and MLOs and one of the country's largest drug consumption areas. NYC and surrounding areas serve as a hub for the importation and disbursement of narcotics from, and to, innumerable cities, states, and countries.

Availability and abuse of heroin remain problematic and are on the rise throughout the region. Traditionally, heroin purchased in New York City and Newark is of higher purity and lower cost than in other parts of the country. These two factors coupled with the availability of heroin, fuel the demand and significantly increase the threat. Albany, Erie, Monroe, and Onondaga counties have become increasingly vulnerable to New York City based heroin traffickers. The threat posed by the misuse of CPDs, particularly prescription opioids, increased substantially across the region in the past decade, as evidenced by increases in negative health outcomes resulting from abuse of these drugs and increased diversion and availability. However, recent indicators suggest that prescription-opioid abuse may be leveling off or decreasing in many NY/NJ HIDTA counties. Available law enforcement information and public health indicators suggest that cocaine remains a persistent threat in New York and New Jersey, and that crack cocaine is the drug most commonly associated with violent crime. These data also indicate that the availability and abuse of both powder and crack cocaine have declined in recent years. Availability and abuse of marijuana have remained stable in the NY/NJ HIDTA region in recent years.

The Northern Border counties of New York State are geographically conducive to a myriad of illegal smuggling activities. In particular, the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation, located within Franklin County, straddles the US-Canada border and is a significant transportation corridor for high-potency marijuana and MDMA as well as other illegal cross-border activities. MDMA has been encountered on a limited to moderate basis in New York. There is a fairly low presence of methamphetamine in New York and New Jersey, and it is largely concentrated in the southern and northwestern areas of New Jersey and in sections of upstate New York. The availability and abuse of bath salts and synthetic marijuana in New York State rose considerably in 2012, but appears to have decreased substantially in 2013.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The NY/NJ HIDTA accomplishes its mission by promoting cooperation among agencies through the creation of co-located, co-mingled task forces, providing technological capabilities to enhance and expedite investigations, and leveraging resources to ensure they are used in the most efficient way possible.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The NY/NJ HIDTA supports the Strategy by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs. The HIDTA also facilitates the timely and accurate sharing of criminal and drug intelligence among agencies, enabling them to more effectively target regional and international drug and MLOs.

Furthermore, the NY/NJ HIDTA will continue its prevention efforts by supporting several community based projects.

Through the Saturday Night Lights Initiative, the NY/NJ HIDTA offers quality sports programs to inner-city youth, providing a fun, safe haven for otherwise at-risk kids. They learn about teamwork, gain self-confidence and alternatives to drug use and crime. By stopping drug dependency and use before they begin, the initiative hopes to lower the crime rate associated with illegal drug activities in these communities and also prevent kids from becoming involved in gangs and gun violence.

The goal of the Public Housing Transformation Initiative is to transform high-rise public housing developments in urban centers to create safer, revitalized, and engaged communities. Using partnerships between local law enforcement agencies and community groups, the initiative will design and implement programs, coordinating and expanding upon preexisting resources, to address the root causes of the violence and crime that pervade these neighborhoods. These programs include reducing crime, particularly drug related violence, improving the physical infrastructure, and increasing community engagement and programming in the area.

(3) Methamphetamine

Generally, methamphetamine is not the principal drug being trafficked by DTOs in the NY/NJ HIDTA region. The HIDTA seized 15 small (less than 2 ounces) clandestine methamphetamine labs in 2013, mainly in rural upstate New York.

North Florida HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,665,435

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Historically, illegal drug activity gravitates to North Florida's key location and robust transportation infrastructure. That is true for both regional distribution and transshipment to markets in South Florida and the eastern U.S. Regionally, including southern Georgia, the market has changed markedly since 2011, but continues to be dominated by the metro-Jacksonville area. Diverted pharmaceuticals technically continue as the principal threat, but strictly HIDTA elements rank cocaine first. Significant shifts are underway or pending, including looming threats from imported Mexican methamphetamine, steady heroin growth, an extreme jump in synthetic cannabinoids and complexities from marijuana legalization.

Although not evident from statistics, respondents to the North Florida Annual Threat Assessment Survey believe the region to be the crossroads of major cocaine imports arriving via the Southwest Border, Mexico, South Florida and Puerto Rico. Other than local consumption, most either moves through or is repackaged for distribution in Eastern U.S. markets. Marijuana moves primarily from Mexico in bulk, via parcels from western medical marijuana States or from South Florida and regional grow sites. Although motor vehicles are likely a principal transport option, considerable drug shipments may be moving to this area via private aircraft, either from the West or Puerto Rico. As always, large amounts of cocaine and heroin are suspected to be sent in cargo and mail containers as domestic shipments from Puerto Rico.

Generally effective prescription monitoring has focused more attention on fraud and diverted pharmaceuticals by medical professionals. Considerable steroids, unscheduled drugs and reduced amounts of opioids and benzodiazepines were seized. All categories of marijuana grow seizures and parcel intercepts increased significantly. Anticipation of legalized medical marijuana likely attracted more grows and professional native Cuban DTOs. The tracks of ubiquitous cocaine powder crisscross the area. While some shipments may go direct to market cities, the majority is moved via a more secure cut-out system that shifts over time to use routes and stash areas perceived as more secure. Using this technique, bulk product is moved to an area outside the main distribution areas where it can be briefly stored and separated into smaller loads without being subject to discovery through low or mid-level counter-drug operations. Crack production remains prevalent in lower socio-economic areas and expanded with more multi-drug dealers and local violence. Locally cooked meth is widespread, but being challenged by an infusion of imported crystal. Versions of MDMA and Molly are in use primarily in university markets in Alachua and Duval Counties. Large synthetic cannabinoid seizures from manufacturers in St. Johns, Marion, and Duval Counties solidified its rank. Finally, increased presence and seizures imply heroin is an increasing and emerging threat.

DTOs use mostly lower-order illicit financial techniques to fund operations and launder proceeds. Even so, some \$12,472,140 in asset seizures was claimed in 2013, including

highway and parcel interdiction of \$373,000. Drug-related violent crimes such as robberies and shootings occur often, mostly in Duval County, where the murder rate stayed at the 2012 level. Agencies note a continued, mostly local, gang presence with tenuous national affiliation in some hybrids. Nationally recognized gangs such as Bloods, Crips, and Latin Kings are present, primarily in Jacksonville and Gainesville. Many gangs principally deal in crack or marijuana, however there is a serious Mexican cartel presence that transports, secures and distributes at least meth, cocaine and marijuana.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

Data sharing within the law enforcement community is a key component to the North Florida (NFL) HIDTA strategy. To maximize this effort, the HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint operations among 44 Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and 252 personnel who participate in its initiatives. The HIDTA will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among all its initiatives and law enforcement partners to achieve the HIDTA program goals to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs; and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the HIDTA initiatives.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The NFL HIDTA supports the Strategy by giving participating initiatives the tools (training, case and event deconfliction, and analytical support) to efficiently and effectively disrupt the market for illegal drugs through the disruption and dismantlement of drug trafficking and MLOs. Further, the HIDTA enhances drug control efforts by implementing programs and activities that improve the effectiveness and coordination of agencies participating in the HIDTA, and by increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives, all regional law enforcement agencies, and other HIDTAs. The HIDTA combines its efforts with HIDTAs facing similar threats, such as contraband smuggling via package/parcels and maritime smuggling, to affect these criminal enterprises by disrupting and dismantling such DTOs and criminal groups.

(3) Methamphetamine

Although the NFL HIDTA does not fund a specific methamphetamine initiative, several of its initiatives address the threat of methamphetamine production and DTOs operating in their areas, as certain HIDTA counties have noted an increase and sustained high levels of local production. In 2013 HIDTA initiatives seized 18.8 kilograms of methamphetamine, compared to 8 kilograms in 2012. The seizure trend shows a methamphetamine to be an increasing threat. During 2013, a total of 66 meth labs were dismantled, compared to 36 in 2012. Methamphetamine production continues to be a major concern for the HIDTA's AOR.

Northern California HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,548,822

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Due to the economic decline, the normalization of recreational drug abuse and state and local budgetary cuts to law enforcement resources, the overall drug and violence threat to the Northern California HIDTA (NCHIDTA) region has intensified in recent years, resulting in several growing areas of concern for law enforcement and public health officials. The NCHIDTA region continues as a national and regional-level production and distribution center for ice methamphetamine and marijuana. In 2014, marijuana and methamphetamine were assessed as the two greatest primary drug threats to the NCHIDTA region. Of the two, marijuana is the greatest drug threat. Hash oil extracted from marijuana is a potent form of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) that DTOs are trafficking with greater frequency.

Methamphetamine is assessed as the second greatest threat and is widespread, with ice conversion labs abundant in the South Bay Area and eastern counties. Cocaine is the third most seized drug. Heroin is on the rise and no longer a boutique, urban based narcotic. Heroin is now frequently encountered in rural and suburban parts of the NCHIDTA region. Diverted prescription drugs, namely oxycodone and hydrocodone, are widely abused and tied to the increased spread of heroin. Mexico-based DTOs that use the region as a primary corridor for illicit drugs moving between Mexico and Canada are the primary organizational drug threat in the region along with street gang/drug violence. In recent years, enforcement initiatives in the NCHIDTA region are finding that Mexico-based cartels have established footholds within the San Francisco Bay Area, creating a higher violence based threat to the region.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The NCHIDTA fosters a comprehensive response in combating illicit drug activity by bringing together all available law enforcement resources in a cohesive strategy to address the problem. NCHIDTA law enforcement initiatives focus on DTOs, MLOs, violent drug offenders, open-air drug markets, marijuana cultivation on public and private lands, and domestic drug movement. Newly emerging narco-terrorism trends are also monitored, and information is shared with the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation – Joint Terrorism Task Force, the California State Threat Assessment Center, the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation, and local law enforcement agencies.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the NCHIDTA and achieve the goals of the National Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale;
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies. The mission of the NCHIDTA BAYNIN, including its ISC, is to provide narcotic intelligence sharing, enhance officer safety, provide analytical case support, make available high technology surveillance equipment, provide forensic computer analytical support and telephone intercept equipment, and provide narcotics training to all law enforcement agencies in the 12-county NCHIDTA region; and,
- Creating a stronger relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations. The NCHIDTA is coordinating with the other California HIDTAs on a statewide prevention initiative.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, NCHIDTA initiatives seized 349.8 kilograms of ice methamphetamine, 2.3 kilograms of powdered methamphetamine, and 10 labs. The value of the seized methamphetamine exceeded \$658 million. California continues to be a source state for methamphetamine trafficking. Methamphetamine trafficking is primarily controlled by Mexico-based DTOs who utilize California as a corridor to access Mexico and Canada, and are willing to use violence and criminal acts to control turf and trade. Law enforcement in California is challenged by an up-tick in the methamphetamine trade due to state and local law enforcement budget reductions and diminished capabilities to manage and seize methamphetamine labs and superlabs. The threat to our communities continues to strengthen as law enforcement observes an increase in the violence and criminal behavior associated with methamphetamine use and trafficking.

Northwest HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$3,706,127

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

For nearly a decade, methamphetamine and marijuana shared the title of Washington's greatest drug threat. This year, the Northwest HIDTA ranked methamphetamine and heroin as the state's greatest drug threats. The changing climate of society's attitude toward marijuana and the increasing population of heroin abusers have changed responses made by task forces to the Northwest HIDTA Threat Assessment Survey (Northwest HIDTA TAS) and altered the rankings.

According to law enforcement officials, methamphetamine contributes more than any other drug to violent crimes in Washington State. Methamphetamine is also ranked as the drug most prevalent in the state, coinciding with a consistent increase in youth treatment admissions for the drug over the past 5 years. Methamphetamine distributors are known to transport the drug in liquid form for better concealment and then create the finished, solid product in conversion labs.

For the first time in Northwest HIDTA history, heroin is ranked as a greater drug threat to Washington than marijuana. Heroin is second only to methamphetamine for its prevalence and association with violent crime and property crimes, according to Northwest HIDTA initiatives. Heroin use and treatment admissions are climbing among adults and data from the Public Health-Seattle & King County indicates that the majority of needle-exchange participants reported the drug they used most was heroin.

Some of the increase in heroin use may be attributed to the reformulation of OxyContin in 2010, public awareness of prescription drug abuse, and health care officials being vigilant to prevent doctor-shopping. Many heroin users are former prescription drug addicts looking for a cheaper and easier alternative to get high.

Awareness of the opioid reversal drug naloxone, used to treat overdose victims, is increasing. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the use of Evzio, a device used to inject a single dose of naloxone in an opioid overdose victim.

Although no longer considered one of the state's greatest drug threats, marijuana is still the most widely abused, Federally illicit substance in Washington. Domestic marijuana is the most prevalent type of cannabis available as local growers continually produce a product high in THC. Based on data from the University of Mississippi, THC levels continue to climb, with the average being more than 13 percent THC in 2012, while the average in 1975 was less than 1 percent. The increase in THC is one of many concerns regarding marijuana edibles. While the THC content is required to be labeled on the packaging, the serving size is often only a small portion of the package.

Extracted-THC products (sometimes called butane hash oil, butane honey oil, or BHO) will

be available for sale in retail marijuana stores, and have already grown in popularity. The extraction of THC from bits of marijuana plants generally yields a wax-like substance that users inhale using a vaporizer, resulting in an instant high. The THC extraction process involves the use of a solvent, usually butane, which is highly flammable. There has been an increase in butane-related explosions in Washington in the past year, resulting in property damage and injuries.

Treatment admissions for cocaine continue to decline, but use of the drug remains widespread throughout the region. Washington continues to be a known transshipment point for cocaine to Alaska and Canada.

Diverted pharmaceuticals and other opiates continue to pose a significant risk. Despite the precautions taken to keep opiates such as OxyContin out of the hands of prescription drug abusers, the FDA gave the approval for the production of Zohydro ER. Made by Zogenix, Zohydro ER is a timed-release, pure hydrocodone product, with no tampering safeguards, making it a risk for abuse.

Other dangerous drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones have gained nationwide attention in recent years. Several of the synthetic cannabinoids found in Spice and K2 were temporarily labeled as Schedule I in the Controlled Substances Act. In April 2013, the DEA permanently placed 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylcathinone (methylone) as a Schedule I drug. Methylone is often found in synthetic cathinones sold as bath salts.

According to Northwest HIDTA initiatives, MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, commonly known as ecstasy) is still the most abused of all other dangerous drugs. The majority of MDMA is smuggled into Washington from Canada.

The most common methods of money laundering used by DTOs in the Northwest HIDTA region continue to be bulk cash smuggling, the use of money service businesses and the double exchange. Several DTOs with Washington connections used Bitcoins in the past year as another means to launder money. Bitcoins are an anonymous and decentralized digital monetary system, making it easy for DTOs to operate unidentified.

One of law enforcement's greatest challenges in regard to street gangs is keeping track of which gangs are in their jurisdiction, as well as the number and names of members. Allegiance to a particular neighborhood is no longer a steadfast rule, making it difficult to prevent gang violence and crime. Gangs in Washington have expanded their profit margins by diversifying their ways of making money. In addition to drug trafficking, gangs are known to promote prostitution and are often involved in fraud.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The Northwest HIDTA comprises 13 law enforcement initiatives composed of Federal, state, and local enforcement personnel; an ISC initiative; administrative initiatives that include management and coordination and training; and a prevention and treatment initiative. The enforcement initiatives target major illicit DTOs through aggressive investigations and enforcement actions that focus on sources of supply, distribution, drug interdiction and drug-related financial and violent crimes within the HIDTA's area of responsibility. The ISC

initiative provides analytical case support to Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement while the management and coordination initiative supports management and oversight of the HIDTA program, and brokers training for the HIDTA community. The treatment and prevention initiative brings together prevention and treatment specialists and law enforcement personnel to reduce the impact of harmful drug abuse on individuals and communities within Washington State.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the Northwest HIDTA and achieve the goals of the Strategy, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to the following:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale. During 2013, Northwest HIDTA initiatives investigated complex cases involving larger DTOs. Specifically, 36 percent of the DTOs investigated by Northwest HIDTA initiatives were international or multi-state in scope;
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies. The primary task of the ISC is to provide analytical support and intelligence information services to the HIDTA task forces and participating agencies in the HIDTA region; and,
- Funding a prevention/treatment manager at the HIDTA to focus on outreach and education.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, \$1.6 million was allocated to Northwest HIDTA's enforcement initiatives, contributing to the dismantling of 13 clandestine laboratories, and the seizure of 2 laboratory dump sites, and 1 chemical/glassware. The total value of labs dismantled in 2013 was \$496,600. Methamphetamine seizures totaled 252 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine in 2013, with an estimated wholesale value of \$7.7 million.

Ohio HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,801,295

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Heroin by far is the major drug of concern in the Ohio HIDTA region. All of the operational initiatives funded by the Ohio HIDTA list heroin as the number one drug problem and have made heroin investigations their top priority. With the reduction of pill mills in Ohio and the low cost of heroin, the number of heroin users has increased dramatically. Initiatives are partnering with education, prevention and treatment professionals to combat this epidemic. Ten of the 16 operational initiatives have seen an increase in heroin seizures over the last 3 years. The most dramatic was the Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative which seized more than 47 kilograms of heroin in 2013 as compared to a 3 year average of 19 kilograms. All initiatives will continue to address the heroin problem within Ohio.

Prescription opioid diversion and abuse remains high and seizures continue to grow. Seizures for 2013 increased 58 percent over 2012, and a staggering 325 percent since 2009. The majority of the pills entering Ohio appear to be coming from Michigan. The Ohio HIDTA has centered its interdiction efforts with the Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative and DHE Program to stem the flow of pills into Ohio. During 2013, the Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative seized more than 71,200 illicit pills, of the total of approximately 217,000 pills seized by all Ohio HIDTA initiatives.

The Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative remains the primary enforcement effort of the Ohio HIDTA in combating the presence of illegal prescription drugs in the Ohio HIDTA region. There are two DEA Tactical Diversion Teams that became fully operational in Ohio during 2013. Based on the success of the Ohio Highway Interdiction Initiative and the presence of two DEA Tactical Diversion Teams, Ohio HIDTA initiatives are not specifically investigating the distribution of pharmaceuticals, but do so in the course of interdiction efforts or part of another investigation.

Although the availability and use of cocaine and crack cocaine have decreased, cocaine continues to be a drug of concern within the Ohio HIDTA region. It remains second only to heroin in its impact on our communities and the number of DTOs/MLOs under investigation. All of the initiatives of the Ohio HIDTA continue to address these drugs as part of their mission and strategy. In fact, the seizure of cocaine in both forms has remained consistent over the last two years. In particular, initiatives located in the major cities continue to investigate DTOs supplying crack cocaine due to its association with violence in those cities.

Previously, bath salts and K2/Spice were seen as an emerging trend. However, swift action by legislatures in Ohio and strong enforcement efforts during the last two years have led to a reduction in the amount of both drugs. The amount of bath salts seized in 2012 was 278.245 kilograms and 5.542 in 2013. However, this could explain why there was an increase in the number of methamphetamine seizures during the year. Bath salts are a synthetic cathinone, a man-made chemical related to amphetamines. K2/Spice also appears to have topped out in

2012 as smaller quantities were seized by HIDTA initiatives in 2013. The recreational use of K2/Spice is still of a potential concern in that it is a synthetic cannabinoid. According to a study by the University of Michigan,⁷ in 2012, synthetic marijuana was the second-most widely used illicit drug among 10th and 12th graders (after marijuana), and the third-most widely used among 8th graders (after marijuana and inhalants).

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

As a coordinating body, the Ohio HIDTA stresses equal partnerships and a balance of efforts among regional Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Through co-location, interagency cooperation, and consolidation of strategic, operational, and tactical information, the Ohio HIDTA fosters a comprehensive response for targeting DTOs and other illicit drug activity. The Ohio HIDTA brings together 229 Federal, state, and local agencies and 1,546 personnel in a comprehensive, coordinated, and effective manner to counter the devastating effects of drug distribution, drug related violence, and money laundering. The Ohio HIDTA's success is measured in large part by its ability to facilitate greater efficiency, effectiveness, and cooperation among and between external participating agencies at the local, state, and Federal levels, thus yielding tangible, measurable results.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The Ohio HIDTA supports the *Strategy* by facilitating information sharing in intelligence-led investigations, training, and coordination of drug-trafficking control activities among Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in an effort to disrupt the market for illegal drugs in the U.S. The Ohio HIDTA also supports the *Strategy* in such areas as pharmaceutical diversion, highway enforcement, parcel interdiction, and prevention awareness.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, Ohio HIDTA initiatives dismantled 132 clandestine labs. The dismantlement of these labs resulted in denied revenue of \$660,000 for the traffickers. Additionally, the Ohio HIDTA removed 49 kilograms of methamphetamine from the marketplace in 2013 with a wholesale value of almost \$1.5 million. The Ohio HIDTA does not track initiative expenditures by types of investigations.

⁷ <http://www.ns.umich.edu/new/releases/21880-teens-more-cautious-about-using-synthetic-drugs>

Oregon HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,848,684

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Illicit drug use in Oregon continues to exceed the national per capita average. The latest Federal reporting shows that Oregon ranked fourth in the United States for reported rates of past month illicit drug use by people ages 12 or older in 2011 and 2012.⁸ A 2012 study of arrestees revealed that 73 percent of adult males charged for offenses ranging from misdemeanors to felonies in Portland tested positive for at least one drug in 2011.⁹ Moreover, of the 10 cities studied,¹⁰ Portland had the highest percentage of arrestees who reported past 30 day use for marijuana (56%), heroin (17%), powder cocaine (10%), and with methamphetamine ranking second (25%) to Sacramento, California (36%).¹¹

Drug-related deaths recorded in 2013 (222) decreased by one statewide from 2012 (223).¹² Fatalities related to methamphetamine use reflected the highest number recorded since 2000, rising nearly a third from 2012 (93) to 2013 (123). The second highest number of deaths was related to heroin, which dropped from a high of 147 deaths in 2012 to 111 deaths in 2013. Cocaine-related deaths decreased 35 percent from 2012 (19) to 2013 (12), the fewest recorded since 2000.¹³

Methamphetamine continues to be widely used and trafficked throughout the HIDTA region and statewide. Reported seizures of methamphetamine labs in the state remain low primarily due to Oregon legislation eliminating the ability to obtain pseudoephedrine without a physician's prescription along with sustained law enforcement pressure. However, crystal methamphetamine, or "ice," continues to be highly available as Mexican drug traffickers import methamphetamine powder, liquid, and finished product from laboratories outside the state and from Mexico.

Heroin use and trafficking have increased in Oregon and reflect the state's greatest drug threat, followed by methamphetamine, marijuana, controlled prescription drugs, cocaine and designer drugs. In Oregon, the use of CPDs has continued to expand. The most recent

⁸ *Table 1. Illicit Drug Use in Past Month, by Age Group and State: Annual Averages Based on 2011 and 2012 NSDUHs*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, downloaded April 2014.

⁹ "Nearly Three out of Every Four Adult Males Arrested in Portland Test Positive for Illegal Drugs at Time of Arrest", Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, May 17, 2012.

¹⁰ Includes Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; Indianapolis, IN; Minneapolis, MN; New York, NY; Portland, OR; Sacramento, CA; and Washington, D.C.

¹¹ ADAM II, 2011 Annual Report, Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program II, Office of National Drug Control Policy, May 2012.

¹² Total number of drug-related deaths reflects the number of actual people who died in a given year. Individual drug categories (i.e., methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, combination) are based on their frequency of use in the total number of deaths reported. Fatalities may be a result of misuse of one or more drugs and can also be due to overdose.

¹³ Drug Related Deaths 2013, Oregon State Medical Examiner, Oregon State Police.

national survey data revealed that Oregon ranked second in the United States during 2011 and 2012 for reported rates of past year use of non-medical pain relievers by people ages 12 or older.¹⁴ Law enforcement reporting indicates some users of prescription opiates are switching to heroin because it is seen as more available, less expensive, and provides a more intense high than diverted prescription opiates.

Marijuana use, cultivation, and trafficking are pervasive in Oregon. Outdoor marijuana cultivation sites have been discovered on public and private lands in Oregon since 2006 - primarily operated by Mexico-based DTOs. Additionally, Federal authorities report that Asian crime groups are involved in marijuana trafficking and have established large coordinated indoor grow operations in Oregon, Washington, and Northern California. Oregon's Medical Marijuana Act,¹⁵ which allows for quantities of marijuana to be grown and used for qualifying medical conditions, continues to be exploited by local producers who use it to facilitate illegal cultivation for commercial purposes.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The Oregon HIDTA will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among the 7 Federal agencies, 3 state agencies, 35 local agencies, 2 tribal agencies, and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Oregon to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking and MLOs and reducing the demand for, and availability of, illegal drugs.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

To accomplish the mission of the Oregon HIDTA and achieve the goals of the *Strategy*, the Executive Board will allocate and focus the HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a direct relationship to:

- Disrupting the market for illegal drugs by disrupting and/or dismantling the DTOs that transport and distribute drugs and the illicit proceeds from their sale. In 2013, the Oregon HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 37 DTOs;
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies. The mission of the ISC is to provide accurate, detailed, and timely tactical, investigative, and strategic drug intelligence to Oregon HIDTA initiatives, HIDTA participating agencies, and other law enforcement agencies as appropriate, enabling a more effective and efficient use of drug investigative resources; and,
- Strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations. For example, the Oregon HIDTA supports an Oregon Partnership/Lines for Life-led initiative titled "Cops Mentoring Youth" that pairs members of the Portland Police Bureau with students in three Portland high schools to create a peer-based anti-drug campaign.

¹⁴ Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers in the Past Year, by Age Group and State: Percentages, Annual Averages Based on 2011 and 2012 NSDUHs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

¹⁵ Oregon Revised Statutes 475.300 - 475.346.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, the Oregon HIDTA provided \$1.1 million to initiatives that focused (fully or partially) on investigating and disrupting or dismantling DTOs engaged in producing, transporting, and distributing methamphetamine. Those initiatives seized over 245 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine with a wholesale value in excess of \$7.7 million. Those funds were also used to dismantle three clandestine laboratories that were capable of producing methamphetamine worth more than \$85,000.

Philadelphia-Camden HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$3,564,149

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The four-county Philadelphia-Camden (PC) HIDTA is contained within the fifth largest metropolitan area in the United States (5.1 million people); and approximately 100 million people live within a one day drive of the Philadelphia/Camden region, making it a key drug transshipment zone along the I-95 Northeast Corridor.

Heroin, cocaine, prescription drugs, and marijuana are the primary drug threats to the PC HIDTA. Mexico-based DTOs, with direct connections to cartel-level syndicates or cells, remain the dominant heroin, cocaine, and marijuana suppliers within the PC HIDTA region. Mexico-based DTOs have established the region as a central location to temporarily store large quantities of illicit drugs and cash proceeds transiting between the Northeastern U.S. and the Southwest border region. Drugs arrive in the PC HIDTA through various means, including vehicles, commercial air, rail, or bus transit, and among postal, commercial parcel, and maritime cargo shipments.

These conveyances are also utilized to transport bulk currency to domestic consolidation points, across the Southwest border to Mexico, or through the Caribbean to Central and South America. Other money movement techniques used by traffickers in the PC HIDTA include bank deposit structuring to avoid Bank Secrecy Act reporting requirements, cash-based and money service businesses to wire proceeds, prepaid stored value cards, purchases of high-priced assets, and laundering through legitimate or front businesses.

Violent crime is virtually synonymous with drug trafficking and distribution in the PC HIDTA region, as various distribution groups exploit inner city neighborhoods and suburban housing developments to violently intimidate residents and competitors to protect profitable drug enterprises and markets. While not a traditional center of large-scale, well-organized, and/or nationally affiliated street gangs, intelligence reporting and law enforcement activity suggests increasing influence in the Lower Delaware Valley of street gangs (such as the Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, MS-13, Ñetas, and Sureños), particularly in suburban areas.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The PC HIDTA's Strategy is designed to support the goals of the HIDTA program overall.

Through interdiction and investigative initiatives, the PC HIDTA takes a comprehensive approach to thwarting the flow and distribution of drugs into the four-county region.

PC HIDTA's initiatives will identify, disrupt, and dismantle violent DTOs; locate and apprehend violent fugitives wanted in connection with drug offenses; and gather evidence linking drug traffickers to major national and international criminal organizations.

The initiatives will be poised to respond to acute episodes of violence in our most seriously

impacted localities – Philadelphia, Camden, Chester, and Coatesville.

Our support initiatives will enhance the operating environments, professional skillsets, information-sharing capabilities, and intelligence assessments and case support services our law enforcement initiatives rely upon to succeed.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The PC HIDTA supports the Strategy through the disruption and dismantlement of drug trafficking and MLOs; stopping illegal drugs from reaching regional markets; denying drug proceeds from being expatriated to source countries; curtailing the diversion of prescription drugs of abuse; collecting, coordinating, collating, analyzing, and disseminating criminal intelligence that relates to drug trafficking, violent drug gangs, and money laundering.

(3) Methamphetamine

The PC HIDTA’s initiatives and participant agencies investigate the trafficking of methamphetamine, encountering multi-ounce to pound quantities of powdered and crystal methamphetamine (“ice”) originating from Mexico or California. Methamphetamine found in the PC HIDTA region is believed to be predominantly transported into the region by couriers for Mexican DTOs. In 2013, PC HIDTA initiatives seized 19 kilograms of methamphetamine and 9 kilograms of “ice” methamphetamine. In 2013, PC HIDTA and its agencies did not report discovering or dismantling any methamphetamine production labs in the four-county area.

Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$7,881,156

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The following threats are the primary focus of the Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands (PR/USVI) HIDTA funded initiatives listed in priority order:

- Violence and violent crimes stemming from DTOs operating in the region, predominantly in the public housing projects;
- Money laundering schemes (including assets) generated by DTOs;
- International DTOs using the region as their transshipment point and as an illegal business hub;
- Prescription drug diversion and abuse; and,
- Drug and firearms smuggling through the US Postal Service, private courier services, private and commercial vessels, maritime containers and airports.

Puerto Rico Police Department statistics indicate that 2013 closed with 883 murders, a reduction if compared with 2012. The U.S. Virgin Islands also experienced a reduction in its homicide rate for 2013, bringing the total down to 31 from 50 in 2012.

Regional DTOs are highly mobile and oftentimes gather their own intelligence and change trends and patterns to avoid law enforcement detection. Cocaine continues to be the primary drug threat in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is readily available in large quantities and widely used throughout the region. Dominican Republic-based and Puerto Rico-based DTOs are the primary wholesale and retail distributors of the drug, which is transported primarily in maritime vessels from Colombia, Venezuela, and the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic remains the main Caribbean transit point of South American cocaine, although at lower levels. This is due to a significant disruption of air transportation activity into Hispaniola; however, an increase in suspect activity in the eastern Caribbean corridor has been noted.

Heroin poses a significant threat to Puerto Rico and a lower-level threat to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Heroin use in the U.S. Virgin Islands is relatively low and occurs predominantly on the island of St. Croix.

The abuse and diversion of prescription drugs is showing an increase in Puerto Rico, especially among youth. DEA investigated several diversion schemes involving thousands of prescriptions for controlled substances that were issued by doctors on the island with the aid of fraudulent clinics and patients. The controlled medications are at times sold to users or sold to dealers by individuals who obtained them fraudulently.

In response to this emerging threat, the PR/USVI HIDTA held the Pharmaceutical Drug Summit in December 2013. The event included speakers from DEA, Puerto Rico and US

Virgin Islands law enforcement agencies and local substance control organizations.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The PR/USVI HIDTA's strategy focuses on regional threats and includes prevention as part of its plan to assist in the reduction of illegal activities and violent crimes. The HIDTA, through continued cooperation and effective relationships established with Federal, Commonwealth, territorial, and local agencies, has joint task forces positioned throughout the region to counter drug trafficking and related criminal activity.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The PR/USVI HIDTA fully supports the Strategy by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs, with emphasis on violent organizations; and conducting interdiction of drug shipments. The HIDTA also helps strengthen the local law enforcement establishment through training and sound inter-operational strategies.

(3) Methamphetamine

There is no known methamphetamine threat in the PR/USVI HIDTA region.

Rocky Mountain HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY2016: \$8,014,009

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Methamphetamine distribution and use pose the greatest overall drug threat to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA (RMHIDTA) region, while marijuana is the most widely available and used illicit drug in the region. Mexico-based DTOs are the principal suppliers of wholesale quantities of methamphetamine, marijuana, cocaine, and black tar heroin to the region from locations along the Southwest border, while West Coast-based DTOs supply high-potency marijuana and MDMA to the region from sources in Canada. These DTOs exploit the region's centralized location and extensive transportation infrastructure to distribute wholesale quantities of ice methamphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine, marijuana, and heroin. The region is transected by interstate highways I-15, I-25, I-70, I-80, I-90, and I-94. These major interstate routes are used by DTOs to transport illicit drugs from California, Arizona, and Texas to markets in Denver, CO, and major Midwest cities such as Omaha, NE; Kansas City, MO; and, Chicago, IL.

Similar to other areas of the country, prescription drug abuse has increased significantly in the RMHIDTA area, particularly in areas such as Salt Lake City, UT, and Denver, CO, as illustrated by the number of opiate prescriptions issued, and the prescription overdose deaths when compared to prior years.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The RMHIDTA has a strong management team that stresses cooperation and collaboration among the initiatives to address current drug threats at Federal, state, and local levels, while impacting the availability and use of all drugs throughout the country.

The Executive Board's ongoing efforts are dedicated to facilitating coordination and cooperation among the 17 Federal agencies and 117 state/local agencies that partner to reduce drug availability by eliminating or disrupting DTOs and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law enforcement efforts within the HIDTA. The Board's efforts help achieve common goals and respond to current drug threats effectively and efficiently. HIDTA initiatives facilitate collaboration, coordination, and information sharing among all task forces and drug units both within the HIDTA and those outside the HIDTA.

The HIDTA's Strategy is supported by an extensive training program, an intelligence initiative, aggressive enforcement initiatives, and a criminal interdiction program. Enforcement initiatives focus on targeting and trying to dismantle or disrupt major DTOs. Criminal interdiction initiatives have been established in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana to address DTOs that transport illicit drugs into and through the region. A drug prevention initiative has also been added to the RMHIDTA Strategy. Enforcement initiatives coupled with drug prevention give the HIDTA multiple tools to address drug trafficking and use.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The RMHIDTA supports the Strategy by targeting, investigating, and dismantling or disrupting deeply entrenched and extensively networked DTOs in Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Wyoming, including DTOs (international, multistate, local in scope), MLOs, and drug trafficking gangs. In doing so, RMHIDTA initiatives disrupt the market for illicit drugs and reduce the quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, MDMA, and heroin supplied to the area and to other U.S. drug markets in the Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast.

(3) Methamphetamine

The vast majority of the DTOs and gangs investigated by RMHIDTA initiatives are poly-drug in nature. In 2013, the HIDTA-funded task forces, and the Rocky Mountain Highway Patrol Network seized over 211 pounds of methamphetamine and over 154 pounds of ice methamphetamine with an estimated total wholesale value of over \$6 million. During the same timeframe, RMHIDTA task forces seized 23 clandestine methamphetamine labs. Twenty-one of the labs had less than 2 ounces in production capacity, one had 2 to 8 ounces in production capacity; and one had 9 to 31 ounces in production capacity. Although the HIDTA is able to report on seizures of methamphetamine, it is unable to track funding specifically used to address methamphetamine trafficking.

South Florida HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$10,584,720

(2) Justification.

(A) Threat Assessment

The South Florida HIDTA (SFLHIDTA) region is one of the most active drug trafficking and money laundering areas in the United States. It encompasses the contiguous areas of Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties and has a diverse population of approximately 5.8 million with ties to Latin America, the Bahamas, and other Caribbean nations. As a gateway to the United States, South Florida offers optimal transportation connections to and from drug source countries and key transit zone locations. The region has an economy that relies strongly on tourism and trade industries that influence the flow of illicit drugs into the United States and support money laundering activity on a routine basis.

Cocaine dominated South Florida drug trafficking activity in 2013, surpassing all other drug threats, according to the SFLHIDTA 2014 Annual Threat Assessment Survey (herein referred to as Threat Survey) data and SFLHIDTA task force initiative seizure activity. A prior period comparison shows a 29 percent increase in seizure activity reported by SFLHIDTA task force initiatives as well as a 9 percent increase in regional cocaine seizures. An analysis of SFLHIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) system data indicates that, out of 337 DTOs and MLOs actively operating in the SFLHIDTA region during 2013, 75 percent were involved in cocaine trafficking. Cubans emerged as the largest ethnic group involved in cocaine trafficking, followed by Colombians and other Caribbean drug traffickers. Intelligence sources observed an increase of cocaine entering the United States via Caribbean routes to various South Florida ports of entry. All imply that cocaine is readily available throughout the SFLHIDTA region, which supplies local, regional, and national markets. It is expected that cocaine will remain the most significant illicit drug threat for the region.

Marijuana remains a primary threat to the region and is still the most readily available of all illicit drugs. The SFLHIDTA region continues to account for almost one-half of the 571 marijuana grow houses seized within the state of Florida with Miami-Dade County leading the state with 180 grow houses seized during 2013. Bulk marijuana is also available, as poly-drug transportation groups bring marijuana into South Florida from Caribbean locations via parcel delivery services, go-fast vessels, cargo containers, and other maritime conveyances.

Emerging marijuana threats include the diversion of legal marijuana from Colorado and California via parcel delivery services and private vehicle, and a popular method of making Hash Oil by using butane, known as “blasting.” Blasting produces a purer form of THC that is virtually odorless and reportedly as potent as the THC derived from smoking two to three marijuana joints.

CPDs are still the number one cause of drug related deaths in the South Florida region and remain a significant threat. Law enforcement crackdowns, combined with legislative restrictions and the implementation of the PDMP, are credited for stemming the flow of

CPDs to the SFLHIDTA region. Diverted CPDs illegally acquired via street level distributors, pain clinics, and doctor shopping are expected to continue throughout the near term.

As projected, efforts to control the supply of diverted prescription opioids may have led to an increase in heroin use during 2013. Substance abuse professionals fear that a rapid rise in heroin abuse may reach epidemic levels in Miami-Dade County; however, a recent assessment conducted by DEA Miami with state and local law enforcement found that while purity levels have increased, availability remains unchanged. With fewer diverted prescription opioids available, substance abuse professionals report that addicts are turning to heroin as the cheaper opiate.

The emergence of so-called designer drugs such as synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones have created an alternative illicit market. Seizure activity for synthetic cannabinoids decreased between 2012 and 2013, but treatment admissions for both Broward and Miami-Dade Counties increased. As local ordinances suppress retail sales, distributors have turned to the Internet to conduct wholesale purchases directly from sources of supply. The high potency of these substances present life-threatening health risks to abusers and merits national concern.

Molly trafficking was the most frequently reported trend in the SFLHIDTA region. Distributors tout that capsules are pure MDMA powder, but drug lab tests have confirmed that most submissions are methylone, a type of synthetic cathinone or bath salt. Because of the life-threatening risks associated with these hallucinogens, this drug threat remains a serious concern to the SFLHIDTA for the near term.

Violent gangs continue to plague the SFLHIDTA community with criminal activity linked to drug trafficking, which includes wholesale and retail distribution of illicit drugs and diversion of controlled prescription drugs. Identity theft is increasingly associated with violent gangs as they become more involved in white collar crimes.

The SFLHIDTA region remains a primary hub for domestic and international money laundering activity, particularly the integration phase, where illicit dollars are placed in South Florida businesses under the guise of clean money. A total value of \$52,817,024 in cash and assets were seized by SFLHIDTA task force initiatives during 2013, almost doubling seizure activity from 2012. In addition to bulk cash smuggling activity, DTOs use a spectrum of money laundering schemes to exploit the South Florida trade-based economy. These include the Black Market Peso Exchange, the Black Market Bolivar Exchange, and various invoicing schemes. Electronic forms of currency, such as prepaid access and Bitcoin, continue to emerge as a new money laundering threat due to the level of anonymity associated with them.

(B) Strategy for achieving goals and objectives

The SFLHIDTA continues to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, that contribute over 648 full-time personnel, co-located and united to achieve the common goal of disrupting and dismantling DTOs through long-term multi-agency investigations and operations. The HIDTA's Strategy consists of 24

initiatives focused on the multiple regional drug threats identified in the SFLHIDTA Threat Assessment. The initiatives are designed to dismantle major DTOs and simultaneously disrupt their flow of drugs and monetary assets. The initiatives are structured to apply the collective expertise of Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies.

The expansion of multi-HIDTA approaches to identifying, disrupting, and dismantling traditional threats and emerging threats such as the diversion of controlled prescription drugs and indoor marijuana cultivation is a critical feature of the HIDTA's short- and long-term strategy. Significant progress has been achieved on these fronts and SFLHIDTA intends to build on this progress.

Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The SFLHIDTA supports the Strategy by disrupting and/or dismantling significant drug trafficking and MLOs, thereby disrupting the illicit drug market. Further, the SFLHIDTA enhances drug control efforts by implementing programs and activities that improve the effectiveness and coordination of agencies participating in the HIDTA, and by increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies. The HIDTA also seeks to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and prevention and treatment organizations.

(3) Methamphetamine

According to the DEA Miami Field Division, Florida, clandestine laboratory seizures have continued to increase throughout the state. Most of the methamphetamine that is produced in the state of Florida is produced within rural areas beyond the SFLHIDTA region. However, South Florida law enforcement officials continue to observe an increase in the One-Pot or Shake 'n' Bake method. While there were no clandestine labs dismantled by SFLHIDTA initiatives during 2013, there were seven clan labs reported by other agencies within the SFLHIDTA region.

Palm Beach County reported four clandestine lab seizures, while Broward reported two and Monroe County reported one. Of the four labs reported in Palm Beach County, three were One-Pot or Shake 'n' Bake labs and one utilized a conversion method. According to law enforcement officials, the conversion lab suspect lit himself on fire while handling liquid meth during the process of converting it to its crystal form. In Broward County, police found a One-Pot meth lab in a Fort Lauderdale motel room while answering a domestic disturbance call.

A distinction is drawn between "super-labs," which require more sophistication and One-Pot labs, which consist of a plastic soda-type bottle that yields small quantities for personal use by hardcore consumers. Despite the simplicity of the One-Pot lab, it is very dangerous. Containers often fail and they are highly explosive. Only clan lab response teams are permitted to respond to these labs. Because they are easily concealable and disposable, it is difficult to accurately assess this threat.

Southwest Border HIDTA – Arizona Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$10,041,388

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Southwest Border HIDTA – Arizona Region (SWB HIDTA/AZ) is a major arrival zone for multi-ton quantities of marijuana, methamphetamine, and, to a lesser extent, cocaine and heroin entering the United States from Mexico. Sharing more than 370 miles of border with Mexico, most of which is uninhabited desert and mountains, the southern border of Arizona presents a variety of challenges for law enforcement agencies in their efforts to stem the tide of both illegal drugs and proceeds.

The Sinaloa Cartel presents the primary operational threat to Arizona, possessing vast resources to distribute, transport, and smuggle large amounts of cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine in and through Arizona. The Sinaloa Cartel exploits well-established routes in Arizona and perfected smuggling methods to supply drug distribution networks located throughout the United States. The Mexican State of Sonora is home to key drug trafficking plazas controlled by the Sinaloa Cartel. The plazas are used for off-loading, stashing, and staging drugs, money, and weapons. Furthermore, the Sinaloa Cartel's influence in Arizona is growing stronger as the cartel continues to gain control of additional drug trafficking corridors and routes in Sonora, Mexico, and neighboring Baja California, Mexico.

Drug seizures clearly indicate that Arizona is a significant drug trafficking corridor for Mexico-based DTOs. Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement in the region proactively target the transportation and distribution cells of these DTOs to disrupt the flow of drugs through and from Arizona, directly affecting drug markets throughout the United States. Drug seizures indicate that Mexico-based traffickers are increasing marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine smuggling from Mexico into the region. The amount of methamphetamine seized in Arizona has increased 244 percent, from 691 kilograms in 2007 to 2,378 kilograms in 2013. The amount of heroin seized increased 425 percent, from 75 kilograms in 2007 to 394 kilograms in 2013. In 2013, approximately 39 percent of the marijuana seized along the Southwest border was seized in Arizona. Marijuana seizures in Arizona have remained at a very high level, with 665,783 kilograms seized in 2013, compared to 603,222 kilograms in 2007.

Arizona is also a southbound entry point for bulk currency and weapons to Mexico. From 2009 through 2013, over \$161 million in illicit drug profits were seized in Arizona from DTOs. Moreover, over \$22 million were seized at Phoenix International Airport between 2009 and 2013. Arizona is also a major source of weapons traced to crimes committed in Mexico. For example, seizures of weapons at Arizona ports of entry (POEs) by CBP have increased 22 percent, from 9 in 2007 to 11 in 2013. Outbound ammunition seizures at the POEs increased 1,506 percent, from 760 rounds of ammunition in 2007 to 12,208 in 2013.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

The SWB HIDTA/AZ uses an intelligence-driven, threat-focused strategy to target the most significant DTOs and MLOs affecting Arizona. The SWB HIDTA/AZ is organized into four initiative functions: (1) enforcement (interdiction, investigation, fugitive arrests, and prosecution); (2) intelligence (coordination, deconfliction, targeting, investigative case support, and threat assessment); (3) support (training); and (4) management. The SWB HIDTA/AZ continues to coordinate and support the efforts of more than 636 sworn law enforcement officials from over 70 Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies.

The SWB HIDTA/AZ supports the National Drug Control Strategy by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs, thereby disrupting the flow of illicit drugs to drug markets in Arizona and the United States. Specifically, the SWB HIDTA/AZ: (1) facilitates a coordinated threat-focused, intelligence-led strategy against the most significant DTOs and MLOs affecting Arizona and the United States; (2) collects, analyzes, and disseminates actionable intelligence enabling HIDTA initiatives to identify and investigate current and emerging drug threats; and, (3) enhances tribal, regional, local, and cross-border demand reduction efforts by working with established community coalitions.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The SWB HIDTA/AZ Region supports the *Strategy* by disrupting and dismantling drug trafficking and/or MLOs, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs. Specifically, the Arizona Region:

- Facilitates a coordinated threat-focused, initiative-led strategy against the most significant DTOs impacting Arizona;
- Collects, analyzes, and disseminates actionable intelligence enabling HIDTA Initiatives to identify and investigate current and emerging drug threats; and,
- Enhances tribal, regional, local, and cross-border demand reduction efforts by working with established community coalitions.

(3) *Methamphetamine*

Methamphetamine poses a very significant drug threat to Arizona. Methamphetamine seizures in Arizona have increased by 244 percent from 2007 to 2013. Seizure statistics indicate 691 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized during 2007; 420 kilograms in 2008; 414 kilograms in 2009; 847 kilograms in 2010; 1,785 kilograms in 2011; 2,022 kilograms in 2012; and 2,378 kilograms in 2013.

Southwest Border HIDTA - California Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$8,948,420

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

San Diego and Imperial counties are national distribution centers for illicit drugs entering the United States from Mexico and Central and South America, including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. In 2013, over 191,000 kilograms of drugs valued at almost \$1.6 billion and proceeds worth over \$29 million were permanently removed from the profit sheets of regional DTOs. As mandated by the National HIDTA Program, Southwest Border HIDTA - California Region (SWB HIDTA/CA) initiatives are focusing their efforts on major DTOs, and investigated 110 DTOs, resulting in 48 open OCDETF cases. Twenty-four DTOs were CPOTs or RPOTs. In addition, 89 DTOs were international in scope. Investigations indicate that traffickers operating within the region continue to supply major markets throughout the United States, including Las Vegas, Portland, Atlanta, Boston, Detroit, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Chicago, Tampa, and Charlotte.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

The SWB HIDTA/CA assists in the coordination of joint operational and supporting initiatives to disrupt and dismantle the most significant DTOs and their supporting transportation and MLOs. The SWB HIDTA/CA also emphasizes efforts against methamphetamine manufacturing, precursor chemical supply, and use through innovative enforcement operations and demand reduction programs using a multi-agency, joint concept of operations. The SWB HIDTA/CA continues to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among 700 Federal, state, and local full-time and part-time personnel from 50 agencies, who participate in initiatives to disrupt and dismantle DTOs and reduce the demand for drugs.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The SWB HIDTA/CA Region supports the Strategy by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs, specifically by:

- Fostering long-term investigations targeting high-level DTOs that impact the two counties of the region as well as other parts of the country;
- Promulgating and participating as an active partner in the combined ISC/Fusion Center with all intelligence and information gathering units operating from a single site; and,
- Supporting and implementing a balanced approach to reducing drug abuse by funding and integrating where possible a robust Drug Demand Reduction (prevention) initiative, which fosters the interface between community anti-drug coalitions and HIDTA enforcement initiatives and partner agencies.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, the SWB HIDTA/CA Region initiatives seized 2,131 kilograms of Mexican methamphetamine, preventing \$63.9 million worth of methamphetamine from reaching the market. The NMPI convened a national training and strategy conference that included over 400 law enforcement participants from U.S. Federal, state, and local jurisdictions and representatives from Canada, Mexico, and China. In addition, the NMPI trained 6,599 law enforcement and other personnel in methamphetamine precursor investigations and controls, and pharmaceutical drug crimes.

Southwest Border HIDTA – New Mexico Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$7,066,892

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Illicit drug smuggling and transshipment are the major drug threats in the State of New Mexico. The quantity of illegal drugs transported through New Mexico far outweighs the consumption rate within the State. However, the distribution and use of methamphetamine pose a serious threat to the Southwest Border HIDTA – New Mexico Region (SWB HIDTA/NM). The distribution and use of heroin continue to grow and are a serious threat statewide, but are more prevalent in the northern part of New Mexico. Prescription drug abuse, primarily opiates, is continuing to emerge as a very serious threat statewide and has a direct connection to the expanding heroin use problem. Additionally, cocaine appears to be more widely available throughout the region.

The State's proximity to Mexico, its geography along the sparsely populated 180 mile border, the presence of well-established DTOs with direct ties to Mexico-based cartels, and its transportation infrastructure make it a principal drug smuggling area and transshipment and distribution center for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and prescription drugs. Illicit drugs transshipped through the region are destined for several domestic drug markets throughout the country. The State's topography along the shared border with Mexico continues to be one of the most significant factors contributing to the smuggling drug threat in New Mexico. The open border areas between POEs, mostly a mixture of farmlands and mountainous terrain in the "Boot Heel" area of southwest New Mexico, coupled with limited law enforcement presence, easy access to the State's transportation infrastructure, and the lack of radio interoperability between agencies make this area vulnerable for exploitation by DTOs. Criminal groups, street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle gangs, and local independent dealers exacerbate the drug problem in New Mexico as retail-level distributors.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

The SWB HIDTA/NM's integrated systems approach uses coordination, information sharing, and intelligence to synchronize the efforts of enforcement, prosecution, information sharing, and support initiatives. There are 19 initiatives that include 16 multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces, 8 prosecution sub-initiatives, and 4 support initiatives. The support initiatives include training, IT, prevention, and forensic laboratory support. The number of participating agencies includes 6 tribal, 46 local, 10 state, and 13 Federal law enforcement agencies. These initiatives focus on interdiction, investigation, prosecution, intelligence/information sharing, and support. SWB HIDTA/NM initiatives focus efforts to reduce the transshipment/distribution of illicit drugs, including the diversion of controlled prescription drugs, into and through New Mexico and the transshipment of bulk cash and weapons south across the Southwest border. The region emphasizes the development of CPOTs, RPOTs, and OCDETF-level cases initiated through interdiction and investigative efforts. Additionally, the NM Region is also focusing on coordinating drug enforcement efforts on Native American lands. Currently, the Indian Country HIDTA Drug Task Force

works joint operations with the tribal police departments of Isleta, Pojoaque, and Zuni Pueblos, the Jicarilla Apache and Navajo Nations, and the Mescalero Apache Reservation.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The SWB HIDTA/NM Region supports the *Strategy* by incorporating its key elements into its own strategy, including:

- Outlining a plan to disrupt/dismantle drug trafficking/MLOs, reducing the smuggling, transshipment, and distribution of illicit drugs into and through New Mexico;
- A prevention component to reduce illicit drug abuse, including pharmaceutical drug abuse and diversion. All funding assigned to the prevention initiative is focused on the successful completion of these efforts. This is part of a border-wide prevention effort which includes the other four regions of the SWB HIDTA; and,
- Partnering with tribal law enforcement agencies to target illegal drug activities within or impacting Indian Country.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, approximately 254.3 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine were seized with an estimated wholesale value of \$7.4 million, which equates to approximately 10.2 percent of all drugs seized by the SWB HIDTA/NM Region. During 2013, the SWB HIDTA/NM Region seized 9 clandestine labs, 3 laboratory dump sites, and 2 chemical/glassware/equipment sites.

Southwest Border HIDTA - South Texas Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$7,604,170

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Southwest Border HIDTA – South Texas Region (SWB HIDTA/STX) is a principal high-transit smuggling corridor for illicit drugs and undocumented individuals along the Southwest border. The region continues to be a major transshipment corridor for marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and other illegal narcotics. The region consists of 15 counties, with 13 situated along the Southwest border. These counties represent 50 percent of the Texas-Mexico border. Seventeen of the 25 ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico border are within the SWB HIDTA/STX. The POEs, coupled with the region’s interstate highways, make the region one of the most strategically important drug smuggling corridors in use by both domestic and Mexico-based DTOs. Despite the low population in some areas, the region greatly influences drug trafficking and availability at the national level. Gang activity with associations to the Gulf Cartel, Zetas, and other DTOs and cartels continues to be a threat in the area.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies combine their efforts with multi-jurisdictional co-located/co-mingled drug task forces and intelligence initiatives. These intelligence-driven drug task forces pursue coordinated efforts to reduce the smuggling, transshipment, and distribution of drugs into and through the state of Texas. In focusing on the disruption and dismantlement of DTOs in accordance with the National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy, the SWB HIDTA/STX employs intelligence-driven investigations and interdiction activities targeted at drug transshipments, including extensive systematic follow-up investigations involving intelligence analysis and sharing of information, and an aggressive prosecution structure. SWB HIDTA/STX initiatives are organized seamlessly into four types: 1) enforcement (interdiction, investigation, and prosecution), 2) intelligence and information sharing, 3) support, and 4) management and coordination. Through an intensive initiative and task force review and inspection process, along with statistical information gathered through the HIDTA PMP system, the Executive Board holds initiatives accountable for their productivity.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The SWB HIDTA/STX Region will continue to focus on dismantling and disrupting drug trafficking and MLOs active within its area of responsibility. The SWB HIDTA/STX Region is committed to continue interdiction efforts in seizing illegal narcotics as well as disrupting the illegal southbound flow of weapons and currency intended for drug cartels. The SWB HIDTA/STX Region continues to support the *Strategy* through these efforts and the exchange of intelligence and information among law enforcement agencies wherever they may be. The SWB HIDTA/STX Region will continue to foster partnerships in furtherance of drug prevention programs with law enforcement agencies, young people, educational institutions and the public.

(3) Methamphetamine

Mexican DTOs continue to dominate the methamphetamine trade in South Texas. In 2013, SWB HIDTA/STX Region initiatives did not report the seizure of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories nor were reports by other non-HIDTA LEAs received within the region.

Enforcement initiatives remain vigilant and will act on information received to mitigate the threat of toxic labs within the region. In 2013, approximately 1,257 kilograms of methamphetamine and 81 kilograms of ice methamphetamine were seized by HIDTA initiatives, a significant increase from 2012. The SWB HIDTA/STX Region is committed to a continued effort against the threat of methamphetamine production and distribution in Texas. Although the SWB HIDTA/STX Region has not dedicated specific funding to attack methamphetamine production, all its enforcement initiatives target methamphetamine trafficking organizations and producers.

Southwest Border HIDTA – West Texas Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$6,912,817

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Southwest Border HIDTA – West Texas Region (SWB HIDTA/WTX) region continues to be a major smuggling and transshipment area, supplying illicit drugs of all kinds to most of the major cities in the U.S. Mexico-based DTOs are the primary organizational threat to the SWB HIDTA/WTX. They maintain sophisticated command-and-control centers in Mexico, where they exert nearly total control over all drug smuggling operations in the region. The control of drug trafficking in the El Paso, Texas/Juarez, Mexico plaza remains primarily dominated and contested by two major organizations, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Juarez Cartel. Multiple Mexico-based drug trafficking cartels have been battling for control of the region, leading to extreme levels of violence in the Mexican border State of Chihuahua (which includes Ciudad Juarez). None of these organizations have been able to establish dominance. Seizures of heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine are now higher than in 2008. That year preceded the significant violence in Mexico, which had an effect of reducing drug importation in this area for three years. Seizure levels still indicate the West Texas corridor is a major source for all illicit drugs trafficked throughout the United States. In 2009, approximately 2,284 murders in Juarez, Mexico were attributed to the drug violence that has gripped the city. Although there has been a downward trend over the past 3 years, there are still pockets of contention that fuel the violence in Juarez.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The SWB HIDTA/WTX continues to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among 1 U.S. Attorneys' Office, 10 Federal agencies, 7 state agencies, and 19 local agencies to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs, and securing the SWB HIDTA/WTX 12-county area of the Southwest border by preventing multi-ton quantities of illicit drugs from reaching their intended market.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The SWB HIDTA/WTX Region supports the *Strategy* by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs. As the keystone region for the *National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, the SWB HIDTA/WTX Region will support all efforts to contain and reduce the impact of DTOs on the region, and will continue to:

- Provide a broad range of drug intelligence/information to all participating and non-participating law enforcement agencies that it could potentially impact. For example, information regarding levels of violence south of the border that might have a spillover effect is shared with all task forces, particularly along the border counties;
- Work with the area's prevention partners to foster prevention coalitions; and
- Use its training capabilities to provide drugged driving recognition expert training using

the curriculum prepared by the NHTSA and the Department of Transportation.

(3) Methamphetamine

All its initiatives target methamphetamine DTOs; however, the SWB HIDTA/WTX Region dedicates no funds specifically for methamphetamine investigations. Methamphetamine is smuggled and transported through the region, much like all other forms of illicit drugs. DTOs involved in trafficking methamphetamine are likely also involved in trafficking larger quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. SWB HIDTA/WTX Region initiatives did not detect clandestine labs in 2013, but did interdict and seize 99.77 kilograms of methamphetamine.

Texoma HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,665,435

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The drug and drug trafficking threats to the Texoma HIDTA region remain stable compared to 2011 and 2012. This finding is based on law enforcement intelligence, information, and data indicating a lack of new developments or significant trends relating to regional drug availability, drug pricing, drug treatment needs, drug-related violence and terrorism, and trafficking/money laundering methods. The most notable threat-related reports include the continued use of the Texoma HIDTA region as a significant transshipment hub for drugs heading north and bulk currency heading south, the continued threat of Los Zetas, La Familia Michoacana, the Juarez Cartel, and the Sinaloa Cartel to the region, continuing domestic marijuana production (hydroponically, indoor, and outdoor), the increasing organization of firearms straw purchasing and the breakdown of racial boundaries in drug distribution. Methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin are reported as the most significant drug threats in the region. Mexican/Hispanic DTOs and Caucasian DTOs are reported as the most significant trafficking threats in the region.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives:

The Texoma HIDTA Executive Board oversees the HIDTA Director, who implements the HIDTA strategy in cooperation with the Texoma HIDTA staff, participating Federal, state, and local officers, and support personnel. The Executive Board extends its oversight by governing four subcommittees: Intelligence, Budget, DHE, and Initiative Review. The Executive Board evaluates the initiatives through the Initiative Review Subcommittee. This Subcommittee ensures that the initiatives adhere to ONDCP and Texoma HIDTA goals. The Executive Board also determines if new initiatives should be implemented to address identified emerging drug threats.

Texoma HIDTA initiatives are designed and implemented to identify, investigate, and dismantle or disrupt the area's most dangerous DTOs and MLOs. Each investigative initiative is anchored by a Federal agency and addresses a primary aspect of the HIDTA strategy. Five initiatives focus on large scale DTOs operating in their respective geographical areas. Two initiatives were formed to address narcotics organizations that use violence as a means to advance their drug trafficking activities. An initiative in central Oklahoma was established to reduce violent crime in that region. A commercial smuggling initiative focuses on international DTOs, and two money laundering initiatives, a new one in Oklahoma and an existing one in the Dallas area, address MLOs operating in the region. The DHE Initiative supports the National DHE program and coordinates area activities. Additionally, the Texoma HIDTA collaborates with drug demand reduction programs within the region to provide added value with a law enforcement perspective and expanded information sharing.

The Texoma HIDTA Intelligence Subcommittee reviews the HIDTA intelligence plan and

collaborates with the regional intelligence community to ensure that the HIDTA intelligence initiative stays in the forefront on intelligence developments. This subcommittee is composed of members of the HIDTA Executive Board. However, representatives from the North Central Texas Fusion Center and the Metro Operations Support Analysis and Intelligence Center are included in the subcommittee to increase collaboration and engagement with the state fusion centers.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The Texoma HIDTA supports the *Strategy* by identifying, investigating, and dismantling or disrupting DTOs that use the Dallas/Fort Worth and Oklahoma City areas to transport, store, and distribute illicit drugs throughout the United States and MLOs that smuggle drug proceeds into Mexico. Texoma HIDTA initiatives reduce the amounts of cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin supplied to the area and to other U.S. drug markets in the Midwest, Northeast, and Southeast, as well as the amount of money going to criminal activities.

(3) Methamphetamine

The vast majority of the DTOs investigated by Texoma HIDTA initiatives are multi-drug organizations. Texoma HIDTA allocates approximately 85 percent (\$2,580,000) of the HIDTA funding to initiatives targeting Mexican DTOs distributing methamphetamine. In 2013, Texoma HIDTA initiatives seized over 692 kilograms of methamphetamine and 16 kilograms of ice methamphetamine, with a total estimated value of over \$17.2 million.

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$11,677,235

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The primary drug threats to the Washington/Baltimore (W/B) HIDTA region are crack cocaine, heroin, powder cocaine, marijuana, PCP, and pharmaceutical diversion and abuse. Methamphetamine is readily available in the region; however, the level of production in the HIDTA region has never been significant. Historically, the W/B HIDTA region has been a consumer market; drugs entering the area are first shipped to another area and then repackaged and brought to the W/B HIDTA area. Methamphetamine is usually obtained from contacts on the West Coast, primarily California, Oregon and Arizona. Mexican traffickers also transport methamphetamine from Mexico to locations in the Southeast United States and from there into the W/B HIDTA region. Besides the continuing threats posed by the DTOs and MLOs and the ready availability of illegal drugs, criminal street gangs also pose a significant threat. Throughout the W/B HIDTA region, membership in criminal street gangs has been increasing, and the violence associated with these gangs and their role in the illegal drug trafficking pose a serious threat.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The W/B HIDTA will continue to foster cooperation and effective working relationships with the 97 participating Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. Information and intelligence sharing are becoming a routine practice due to the efforts of participating agencies. The implementation of the Gang Intelligence System (used to track criminal gangs) and the use of Case Explorer (W/B HIDTA's case management system) will continue to facilitate information and intelligence sharing. These systems will aid the HIDTA's intelligence-driven initiatives to dismantle and disrupt DTOs, while treatment and prevention initiatives will continue to reduce the demand for drugs in the region.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The W/B HIDTA supports the *Strategy* in several ways. Fundamentally, it contributes to the disruption of domestic drug trafficking and production. The W/B HIDTA also provides significant support to the demand side of the *Strategy* by funding drug treatment providers in 10 different communities in the HIDTA region and through the 3 prevention initiatives designed to help break the cycle of drug use, crime, delinquency, and incarceration.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2013, the advent of the "single bottle method" of producing methamphetamine has resulted in more labs producing small amounts (2 ounces or less per cook) for personal use or modest sales. Although no methamphetamine labs were discovered in the W/B HIDTA area, this method of producing methamphetamine contributed to an almost fourteen-fold increase in the number of methamphetamine lab incidents in other areas of Virginia between 2009 and 2012. The W/B HIDTA initiatives did seize 39.62 kilograms of methamphetamine worth approximately \$1,429,694 (wholesale value). An estimated \$50,000 in HIDTA funds were used in these efforts.

Wisconsin HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$4,363,889

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Wisconsin, specifically the metropolitan areas of Milwaukee and Madison, are prone to serving as a midpoint and a destination area for drug trafficking operations. These metropolitan areas are positioned along the I-90/I-94 corridor and are in close proximity to the major drug markets of Minneapolis and Chicago. Because of these factors, the Wisconsin HIDTA region is vulnerable to DTOs that establish their presence for drug trafficking activities.

Heroin presents the greatest threat to the Wisconsin HIDTA seven-county region. Overdose deaths and other harmful effects resulting from the use of heroin continue to pose significant problems for the community. Closely associated with the heroin threat is the abuse of prescription medications, especially synthetic opiate such as OxyContin. Reports from law enforcement officials and substance abuse treatment providers clearly demonstrate a strong correlation between pharmaceutical abuse and heroin use.

Marijuana continues to remain the most commonly used illicit drug in the Wisconsin HIDTA region. The demand for higher potency marijuana products has increased significantly over the last couple years and continues to present as a serious issue within the region. Much of this demand is met by source suppliers and DTOs from the West Coast and Pacific Northwest. In addition, outdoor local growing operations from around the state and elaborate indoor hydroponic sites are increasingly being encountered by law enforcement. An additional concern related to the distribution of high grade marijuana is the increase of violent criminal activity and use of firearms by traffickers and users. Much of the violence can be traced to the large profits that are associated with distribution of this drug.

Cocaine powder and crack cocaine continue to have a presence in the Wisconsin HIDTA region and a slight increase in the threat has been observed in 2014. An increase in cocaine related overdose deaths have occurred within the last year and law enforcement continues to report that violent criminal activities are often tied to cocaine distribution.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The Wisconsin HIDTA's Strategy will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among the 25 Federal, state, and local participating member agencies to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs and reducing the demand for drugs. Through Wisconsin HIDTA's enforcement initiatives, working within the seven member counties, investigative emphasis is placed upon the targeting of DTOs that pose the most significant threats, primarily those with ties to the Southwest and Northern borders (multi-state and international in scope). In addition, particular emphasis is placed on violent DTOs and drug traffickers that pose significant risk to the community, especially those engaged in violent criminal acts, firearm offenses, or those that traffic significant supplies of heroin to the region. In line with the HIDTA goals, the initiatives work cooperatively and share

information with other HIDTAs and law enforcement agencies throughout the country to further enhance effective investigations. As described below, and in assessing the threats that face the Wisconsin HIDTA region, the Executive Board directs and adjusts its Strategy to reduce the most significant threats and create safer communities.

The Wisconsin HIDTA Strategy also recognizes the need for strong demand reduction efforts in the community. The Safe & Sound Prevention initiative is an integral part of the Wisconsin HIDTA's strategy of prevention. The mission is to reduce violent crime through targeted law enforcement, community-building, and proactive engagement of youth in activities that increase pro-social skills and behaviors, and teach resistance to drug, gang, gun, and other criminal activities.

(C) Support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*

The Wisconsin HIDTA supports the Strategy by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or MLOs, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs. This is accomplished through coordinated investigative efforts among Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. In addition, all investigative efforts are supported with active intelligence gathering and information sharing strategies to ensure that the most efficient and effective means are used to accomplish the mission. The key to the *Strategy* is breaking the cycle of drug use, crime, delinquency, and incarceration. Part of the Wisconsin HIDTA strategy is to support activities that emphasize community-based partnerships incorporating the efforts of prevention, prosecution, and enforcement to reduce the threats drugs can pose to the community. The Wisconsin HIDTA will continue to enhance and support its long relationship with the HIDTA Safe & Sound Prevention Initiative, a community-based organization engaged in drug education and prevention activities.

(3) Methamphetamine

The Wisconsin HIDTA used no funds to specifically investigate or prosecute organizations and individuals trafficking in methamphetamine in 2013. According to the most recent Wisconsin HIDTA Threat Assessment, there is no significant methamphetamine production or use in the HIDTA region of Wisconsin. In 2013, only 1/10th of a kilogram of methamphetamine was seized by the combined enforcement initiatives at the Wisconsin HIDTA. However, there appears to be a methamphetamine threat within close proximity to Wisconsin from the western border state of Minnesota and from Mexican DTOs based in the Chicago, Illinois area. Area law enforcement remains vigilant to assess and respond to any potential increase in demand or distribution of methamphetamine in the Wisconsin HIDTA region.

National HIDTA Assistance Center

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2016: \$2,751,887

(2) Justification

(A) Administrative Support Program and Coordination of National Programs

The NHAC, located in Miami, Florida provides critical contracted financial services that assist ONDCP in the administration of the HIDTA program that include a desk audit of each request for reimbursement submitted by the regional HIDTAs. The center also hosts the HIDTA Financial Management System, a database used for budgeting and grant administration for all state and local awards. The NHAC provides HIDTA-related training to the entire program and technology support through its HIDTA Resource Management System, a national HIDTA library and collaboration work space.

The NHAC addresses the need to continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all the designated HIDTAs through seven distinct initiatives which are: the Management and Coordination Unit, the Training Unit, the Media and Technology Unit, the Financial Assistance Unit, the DHE program, the NMI, and the NMPI. The DHE, NMI, and NMPI directly focus on emerging drug threats.

(B) Strategy for achieving the goals and objectives:

The NHAC's mission and vision are defined by our key stakeholders, ONDCP and the 28 regional HIDTA programs. The NHAC provides consistent, indispensable services which meet the needs of the HIDTA program. The NHAC's core services include: tracking of all grant activity for ONDCP, developing and delivering HIDTA-specific training, organizing national conferences and meetings, as well as serving as facilitator for three national emerging threat initiatives: the NMI, NMPI, and DHE. Through these services, the NHAC supports the strategies of all HIDTA regions as they respond to the unique threats facing their respective areas of operation.

(C) Support of the National Drug Control Strategy

The NHAC proudly supports the *Strategy* by providing indirect service to the HIDTA program. The NHAC does not maintain a direct law enforcement function but supports disrupting the illicit drug market by improving the capabilities of the HIDTA supervisors and assisting with the electronic connectivity and fiscal accountability of all thirty-two HIDTA offices. Thus, our unique strategy focuses on the business practices required to most efficiently coordinate the overall program.

Auditing Services and Associated Activities

Auditing services and associated activities cover:

- **Financial Audits** - The objective of the financial-related audits is to provide assurance of the accuracy and integrity of claims for HIDTA funds for selected grantees. Financial audits conducted by a Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm provide independent reporting and assurance of whether a HIDTA grantee's financial information is presented fairly, its internal controls are adequate, and the grantee complies with laws and regulations.
- **Performance Audits** – ONDCP has developed an evaluation strategy to assess the effectiveness of the program. This evaluation strategy employs the services of a consulting firm to perform an independent program and performance audit of each HIDTA program. These audits focus on key aspects of each program and assess each program's performance against its objectives considering the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the resources employed.
- **Financial and Programmatic Audits** – HIDTA program oversight includes HIDTA site visits by ONDCP staff to ensure the effective operation, performance, and integrity of the HIDTA program.
- **Financial Management System (FMS) Database** - Funding will cover the ongoing development and maintenance of the HIDTA financial database, and training for its users.
- **Desk Audits** - Given the large number of ONDCP grant payments processed and the significant dollars involved, ONDCP has awarded a contract for the review of HIDTA grant expenditures. This helps prevent payment and billing errors and provide ONDCP better internal controls.
- **Performance Management Process (PMP) Database** - Funding will cover:
 - salaries for the ongoing development and maintenance of the PMP program and database (Program Manager, Senior Programmer, Programmer, Network Engineer, Web Designer, and Help Desk staff) and the analysis and evaluation of the PMP data;
 - maintenance and upgrade of the PMP hardware and software;
 - continued training of PMP users; and,
 - travel costs for PMP staff participation in User Group and PMP Committee meetings.

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Enacted	FY 2016 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$238,522	\$245,000	\$193,400

Funding for the HIDTA program is requested in the “Other Independent Agencies, Federal Drug Control Programs” Chapter of the Budget. However, program operational and policy responsibilities reside with the Director of ONDCP.

G. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HIDTA Initiatives

Program achievements for 2014 will be available once data have been fully collected and analyzed in summer 2015. For 2013, the most recent year for which complete data are available, HIDTA reports indicate there were 737 initiatives in the 28 HIDTAs distributed among the following categories: intelligence, enforcement, prosecution, interdiction, support, prevention, treatment, and management.¹⁶ These initiatives were staffed by approximately 7,400 Federal agents and criminal and intelligence analysts; 15,700 state, local, and tribal officers, criminal and intelligence analysts; and other representatives, including U.S. Attorneys, District Attorneys, and drug prevention specialists.

In 2013, HIDTA initiatives identified 9,035 DTOs operating in their areas of responsibility and reported disrupting or dismantling 3,136, of which 524 were linked to OCDETF cases. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of the disrupted or dismantled DTOs were determined to be part of multi-state or international operations. In the process, HIDTA initiatives removed significant quantities of drugs from the market (see table below) and seized over \$780.0 million in cash and \$349.3 million in non-cash assets from drug traffickers (\$1.1 billion total). HIDTA criminal and intelligence analysts provided analytical support to 27,575 investigations. PMP data further indicate that 44 percent of HIDTAs achieved an average cost per DTO disruption or dismantlement below the program average of approximately \$69,000.

Quantities of Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTA Initiatives in 2013	
Drugs Seized	Kilograms
Marijuana	1,499,840
Marijuana Plants-Outdoors ¹⁷	1,305,711
Marijuana Plants- Indoors	108,188
Cocaine Powder	50,161
Crack Cocaine	172
Methamphetamine	7,575
Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice)	7,464
Heroin	3,187
<i>Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Database, data retrieved November 13, 2014</i>	

HIDTA Program Highlights

Training

HIDTA Executive Boards allocate significant amounts of funding towards training and related activities that contribute to accomplishing the HIDTA program's goal of improving the

¹⁶ Initiatives are activities that implement aspects of an individual HIDTA's Strategy to address the national and regional drug threats in the designated HIDTA region.

¹⁷ As reported in the HIDTA PMP database, 1 marijuana plant is equivalent to 0.45 kilogram.

efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives, thereby enhancing the ability of participating agencies to disrupt and dismantle DTOs. HDTAs regularly make training available to area drug unit personnel, to include non-HIDTA participating agencies to improve investigative capability and promote communication, cooperation, and a strong cohesion among investigators who train together.

In 2013, 741,188 training hours were provided to 68,144 students across the 28 HDTAs. Results of 6 month follow-up surveys indicate that 97 percent of respondents found that the course they followed improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities; and 90 percent have applied course material since completing the training.

Intelligence and Information Sharing

Since the sharing of intelligence and information is essential to coordinated and effective operations, each HIDTA must have at least one intelligence and information sharing initiative, the ISC. HIDTA ISCs are designed to develop intelligence, share information, and provide deconfliction and technical support to enforcement initiatives. They are managed and staffed by representatives of participating agencies with direct on-site access to their agencies' information databases.

In 2013, HDTAs budgeted a total of \$45.5 million dollars to support 59 operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives (32 primary ISCs and 27 ancillary information sharing initiatives). Each ISC capitalizes on the combined resources of the Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement communities associated with its HIDTA.

Using both formal and informal methods of coordination among drug enforcement task forces, the HDTAs act as neutral centers to manage, deconflict, analyze, and report on drug enforcement activities in their respective regions.

In 2013, HIDTA ISCs processed a total of 254,303 event deconfliction¹⁸ requests submitted by law enforcement agencies. More than 1.2 million case/subject/target deconfliction¹⁹ requests were processed and 58,849 investigative leads were referred to other HIDTA ISCs and law enforcement agencies. A total of 27,575 cases were provided analytical support by the HIDTA program. ISCs distributed 369 intelligence products (threat assessments and information bulletins) to other law enforcement agencies.

National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative (NMPI)

In 2013, the NMPI continued to sponsor and manage meetings bringing together Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and international partners such as Mexico and Canada.

¹⁸ Event deconfliction is the process of determining whether multiple law enforcement agencies are conducting an enforcement action (e.g., a raid, undercover operation, surveillance, or other high risk activity) in close proximity to one another during a specified time period. When certain elements are matched, it is referred to as a positive hit. The process includes notifying each agency of the conflict.

¹⁹ Case/subject/target deconfliction is the process of determining when multiple law enforcement agencies are investigating the same person, place, or thing. Elements of an investigation are compared and the number of matches is reported as a positive hit to verify the deconfliction. The deconfliction process includes notifying each agency of the potential conflict.

The purpose of these meetings was to create a uniform strategy aimed at restricting the availability of essential chemicals and other raw materials and equipment used in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine, and disrupting DTOs involved in the distribution of methamphetamine or the diversion of prescription drugs. These meetings also helped to promote the sharing of information and best practices among law enforcement (at all levels), prosecutors, and the various intelligence agencies.

Additionally, the NMPI continued to monitor programs that impact the diversion of pharmaceutical products and, working with state and local leaders, continued to explore policy, regulatory, and enforcement options to reduce domestic methamphetamine production in support of the *Strategy*.

National Marijuana Initiative (NMI)

In 2013, the NMI continued to support the *Strategy*, in particular the effort led by the Public Lands Drug Control Committee to eliminate marijuana production on our public lands. The NMI supported Operation Safe Counties, a joint effort led by the Central Valley California HIDTA, DEA, and the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California. The operation concentrated marijuana eradication and investigative efforts in three California counties (Humboldt, Shasta, and Trinity) to deter, disrupt, and dismantle trafficking organizations running large-scale marijuana grows on public and private lands.

National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy

The HIDTA program continued to support the National Southwest Border Counternarcotics Strategy (SWB CN Strategy). In particular, the SWB HIDTA played an important role in the implementation of the SWB CN Strategy. SWB HIDTA multi-agency task forces operating along the border work to address the strategic objectives outlined in the SWB CN Strategy. Improved and enhanced cooperation, communications, and coordination are an integral part of the SWB HIDTA as it assists in the implementation of the SWB CN Strategy and all five Regions of the SWB HIDTA have access to secure communication through the Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) within their ISCs or through a participating Federal agency.

In 2013, SWB HIDTA initiatives, all 5 Regions combined, dismantled or disrupted 417 DTOs and MLOs, of which 61 percent were determined to be part of an international or multi-state operation and 22 percent were part of an OCADETF designated investigation. Seizures of drugs and cash and other drug-related assets in 2013 resulted in a total return on investment of \$88.95 for each HIDTA dollar invested in SWB HIDTA initiatives other than prevention initiatives. Cash seizures in 2013 totaled more than \$85.7 million and the combined value of illegal drugs, cash, and other assets exceeded \$4.2 billion. In addition, the SWB HIDTA provided training to 12,050 Federal, state, and local participants and analytical support to 1,810 investigations.

National Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy

The Obama Administration's inaugural *National Northern Border Counternarcotics*

Strategy (NNB CN Strategy), published in 2012, provided a blueprint for preventing the illegal trafficking of drugs across the U.S.–Canada border. The *NNB CN Strategy* further outlined the complexity of transnational criminal organizations operating on both sides of the U.S.–Canada border exploiting the international boundary to smuggle proceeds from illegal drugs sold in the United States and Canada and to transport drugs such as marijuana, MDMA (ecstasy), methamphetamine, and cocaine between the two countries.

The 2014 *NNB CN Strategy*, released in August 2014, provides an overview of current counternarcotics efforts and identifies strategic objectives and specific actions that support the goal to substantially reduce the flow of illicit drugs and drug proceeds along the Northern border. The 2014 *NNB CN Strategy* also incorporates some significant changes and additions, such as the inclusion of sections addressing drug trafficking in the Bakken oil field region and the emerging threat posed by synthetic drugs; enhancements to the financial investigations section, including the addition of three new action items focusing on partnering with the private sector, targeting virtual currency and electronic payment devices, and targeting trade-based money laundering schemes; the addition of two new action items focused on eliminating public corruption; and significant enhancements to the section detailing our cooperative efforts with Canadian counterparts.

Prevention Efforts

ONDCP and HIDTA seek a balanced and comprehensive approach to effectively solving drug-related threats. This balanced approach entails implementing problem-oriented policing strategies as well as actively promoting and participating in regional drug prevention programs. In 2013, there were 20 regional HIDTA programs supporting prevention initiatives across the country, including all five SWB HIDTA regions.

Tribal Affairs Initiatives

Drug trafficking is a significant problem in Indian Country, and ONDCP has made it a priority to collaborate with tribal leadership and enhance law enforcement and prevention responses. HIDTAs are uniquely positioned to work with local and tribal communities to promote and participate in community-based drug prevention programs. There are currently seven HIDTA programs collaborating in enforcement operations and training with Tribal Nations located in the states of Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Washington.

Created in the summer of 2013 as a new initiative of the SWB HIDTA/AZ, the Native American Targeted Investigation of Violent Enterprises (NATIVE) Task Force is now a fully funded operation in the SWB HIDTA/AZ. NATIVE is a cooperative Federal and Tribal task force operating under a force multiplier concept to combat smuggling operations of individuals and organizations throughout the Tohono O’odham Nation. NATIVE includes law enforcement personnel from the Tohono O’odham Police Department, HSI, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Drug Enforcement Division.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

The safe, environmentally sound disposal of prescription drugs is one of the four pillars outlined in the *2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan* to reduce prescription drug misuse, and is critical to curbing the national opioid epidemic. HIDTAs across the country assisted with National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days sponsored by the DEA. In 2013, law enforcement agencies throughout the Nation collected 371 tons of prescription medications on April 27th and 324 tons on Oct 26th for a total of 695 tons. Take-Back Days provided a safe and convenient method of safe and proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications. On October 9, 2014, DEA implemented regulations to allow authorized manufacturers, distributors, reverse distributors, narcotic treatment programs, hospitals/clinics with an on-site pharmacy, and retail pharmacies to collect pharmaceutical controlled substances from ultimate users by voluntarily administering mail-back programs and maintaining collection receptacles. In addition, the regulations allow authorized hospitals/clinics and retail pharmacies to voluntarily maintain collection receptacles at long-term care facilities. HIDTAs plan to work with regions to support these new regulations.

Discretionary Funding

In 2013, ONDCP allocated over \$2.9 million in discretionary funding to projects designed to further support the *Strategy*, including:

- Strengthening the HIDTA program infrastructure, including the development of a database to track Rx robberies and burglaries in New York and New Jersey; the redesign of the PMP system and the development of related training; and the support of national coordinators for domestic highway enforcement and the National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative.
- Addressing emergent drug threats, including the Rx to heroin uptick in Appalachia; synthetic drugs in Florida; the diversion of controlled prescription drugs in multiple HIDTAs; drug related violent crime in the USVI, and drug trafficking on Native American lands.
- Advancing *Strategy* priorities, including law enforcement prevention initiatives and the investigation and related intelligence sharing of marijuana trafficking and production on public lands.
- New county and emergent threat initiatives to support the designation of new HIDTA counties and initiatives that address emergent threats.

FY 2016 Strategies

In 2016, the HIDTA program will continue to allocate budget resources among the individual HIDTAs to fund targeted law enforcement initiatives based on the unique drug threats facing each area as indicated in the budget request section of this document. While the PMP documents each HIDTA's performance, each HIDTA's annual budget request to ONDCP describes the nature of the threats and the initiatives planned to address the threat. This approach,

consistent with ONDCP's 2006 Reauthorization Act, is reflected in the budget section of this document. It will continue to be refined in 2016.

ONDCP requires that, as part of their annual assessment of the regional drug threat and their strategy development, HIDTA Executive Boards review the designated counties in their region to ensure each continues to meet the statutory requirements for such designation. This review is essential to prioritize resources to meet the constantly changing drug trafficking threat.

In 2016, the HIDTA program will continue to support national initiatives that provide resources to carry out coordinated multi-state activities intended to address specific drug trafficking threats.

The HIDTA program will continue to be a key component of our national effort to reduce drug trafficking and drug production in the United States in support of the *Strategy*.