



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY



Fiscal Year 2015

CONGRESSIONAL
BUDGET SUBMISSION

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

Fiscal Year 2015 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) 2015, ONDCP is requesting \$311,423,000 and 95 full-time equivalent (FTE). The FY 2015 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 2015 request for S&E is \$22,647,000 and 94 FTE.

The FY 2015 request for the Other Federal Drug Control Programs is \$95,376,000 and 1 FTE. This request includes funds for the Drug Free Communities Support Program, Anti-Doping Activities, and the World Anti-Doping Agency dues.

The FY 2015 request for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas 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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Salaries & Expenses:			
Operations	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
Subtotal, Salaries & Expenses	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
Other Federal Drug Control Programs:			
Drug Free Communities Support Program	\$87,455	\$92,000	\$85,676
Anti-Doping Activities	\$8,555	\$8,750	\$7,700
Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance	\$1,331	\$1,400	\$0
Section 1105 of P.L. 109-469	\$1,188	\$1,250	\$0
World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Membership Dues	\$1,806	\$1,994	\$2,000
Subtotal, Other Federal Drug Control Programs	\$100,335	\$105,394	\$95,376
HIDTAs:			
Grants and Federal Transfers	\$223,487	\$235,822	\$190,700
HIDTA Auditing Services and Associated Activities	\$2,559	\$2,700	\$2,700
Subtotal, HIDTAs	\$226,046	\$238,522	\$193,400
Total	\$349,600	\$366,666	\$311,423

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 to reduce 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); and

- 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.

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.

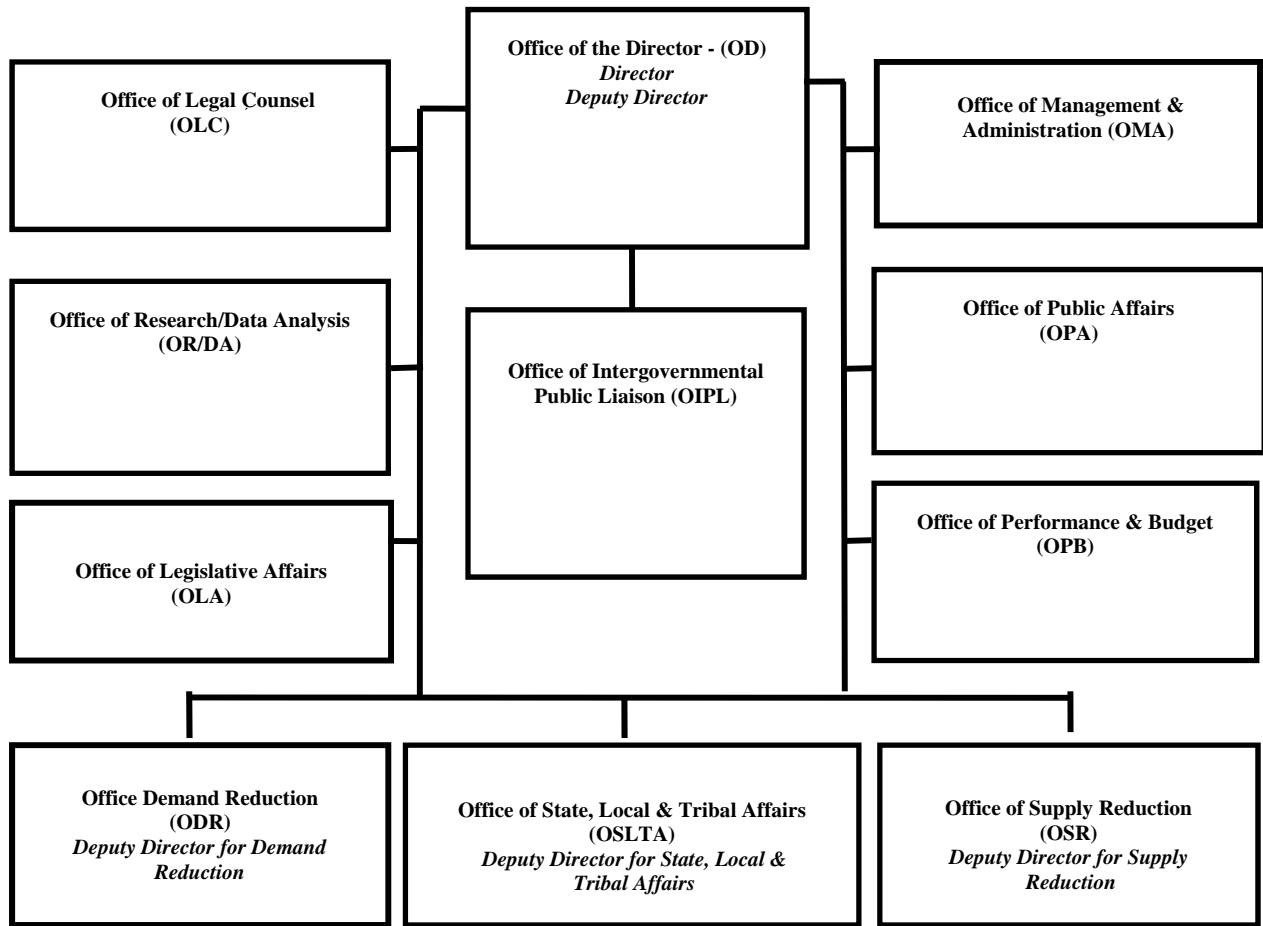
To be certified, agency budgets must support the priorities identified in the *Strategy*. The Director of National Drug Control Policy provides specific guidance to National Drug Control Program agencies on how best to support these priorities. National Drug Control Program agencies consider this guidance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

Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Strategy

Performance evaluation represents a key tool for ONDCP in its oversight of the National Drug Control Program agencies – it enables ONDCP to assess the extent to which the national *Strategy* achieves its goals and account for the contributions of drug control agencies. Two laws, the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (P.L. 109-469), and the Government Performance and Results Act Modernization Act of 2010 (GPRMA), set the framework for a range of performance requirements.

ONDCP tracks and reports performance measures and targets established for each goal and objective in the *Strategy*. ONDCP, in collaboration with its interagency partners, has developed a performance monitoring and assessment mechanism – the Performance Reporting System (PRS) – that monitors key performance measures to assess interagency progress towards the goals and objectives of the *Strategy*. The first PRS assessment will be released with the 2014 *Strategy*. This assessment, and follow-on assessments, will be used to inform prospective policymaking, planning, *Strategy* development and implementation, and budget formulation and resource allocation.

III. ORGANIZATION CHART



ONDCP is made up of 11 offices that address cross-cutting issues related to prevention, treatment, recovery, domestic law enforcement, international relations, and data and research analysis. The following are summary descriptions of the 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 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 provides financial management, human resources, administrative support and travel services, as well as security and information technology resources for ONDCP.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS (OPA)

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

OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE AND BUDGET (OPB)

This office coordinates policy and budget development by the National Drug Control Program agencies as well as related research and evaluation for the Federal Drug Control Program.

OFFICE OF DEMAND REDUCTION (ODR)

This office coordinates prevention, treatment, and recovery support policies for Federal agencies and supports state and local 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. OSR provides analytic support of international issues to the Director and senior ONDCP staff and coordinates drug-related Intelligence Community and law enforcement intelligence efforts.

IV. HISTORICAL FUNDING OVERVIEW

FY 2009 - FY 2015
(\$ in millions)

FISCAL YEAR

	2009 Enacted	2010 Enacted	2011 Enacted	2012 Enacted	2013 Operational	2014 Enacted	2015 Request
Salaries & Expenses							
Operations	\$25.9	\$28.3	\$25.8	\$24.5	\$23.2	\$22.8	\$22.6
Policy Research	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, Salaries & Expenses	27.2	29.6	27.1	24.5	23.2	22.8	22.6
CTAC	3.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CTAC – Cancellation of Prior Year Balances				[-5.2]			
HIDTA	234.0	239.0	238.5	238.5	226.0	238.5	193.4
Other Federal Drug Control Programs	174.7	154.4	140.6	105.6	100.3	105.4	95.4
OFDCP – Cancellation of Prior Year Balances 1/				[-6.1]			
Total ONDCP Resources	\$438.9	\$428.0	\$406.2	\$368.6	\$349.6	\$366.7	\$311.4

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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Operations	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
Total, Salaries & Expenses	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
Staffing	96	94	94

Funding requested for the S&E account provides personnel compensation and operational support for ONDCP. The funding and FTE resources enable the agency to perform varying activities between both drug policy work and the administration of ONDCP programs. S&E funds support ONDCP’s ability to meet its responsibilities, advise the President on drug control issues, and ensure the efficient and effective coordination and oversight of National Drug Control Program agencies’ programs and policies. ONDCP’s organization and mission include the following core beliefs:

- Illicit drug use is harmful.
- Drug availability can be reduced.
- Drug abuse can be prevented.
- Drug addiction can be treated.
- Recovery is sustainable.
- Illicit drug production, trafficking, and its associated violence at home and abroad can be reduced.
- Effective and emerging approaches are available to address these problems.

The President’s balanced National Drug Control 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. It is built upon the latest scientific research demonstrating that addiction is a chronic disease of the brain that can be successfully prevented and treated, and from which one can recover. The *Strategy* directs Federal agencies to expand community-based efforts to prevent drug use before it begins, empower healthcare workers to intervene early at the first signs of a substance use disorder, expand access to treatment for those who need it, support

the millions of Americans in recovery, and expand “smart on crime” approaches to drug enforcement. Given recent data from the 2012 National Survey on Drug Use and Health and the 2013 Monitoring the Future Survey, the current abuse of substances such as cocaine and methamphetamine remain at low levels compared to 2006. However, current misuse of opioids (both prescription pain killers and illicit heroin) is unacceptably high, which has resulted in increasing consequences such as mortality and admissions to treatment; therefore, pursuing the Presidents balanced *Strategy* is more critical now than ever before.

B. APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

General and special funds:

Office of National Drug Control Policy

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, [\$22,750,000] \$22,647,000: *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, 2014.*)

C. SALARIES & EXPENSES FY 2015 BUDGET REQUEST

ONDCP S&E Operations

The FY 2015 request for ONDCP Operations is \$22,647,000 and supports a full-time equivalent (FTE) level of 94. This funding level will allow ONDCP to continue to pursue the *Strategy's* goals of reducing drug use and its consequences and ensuring improvements in fostering healthier individuals and safe communities by sustaining and building upon significant accomplishments. Since the release of the *Strategy*, ONDCP has forged an unprecedented government-wide public health and public safety approach to reduce drug use and its consequences in the United States. This budget will support the focused coordination and oversight of interagency drug control programs and policies. 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.
- 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 for prescribing these medications.
- Worked with state leadership to establish and improve PDMPs, bringing the total to 49 states with laws authorizing PDMPs.

- Worked with the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP) to align interstate data sharing between PDMPs.
- Partnered with the Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), on seven National Take-Back Day initiatives since September 2010. Through these events, DEA has collected and safely disposed of more than 3.4 million pounds (1,733 tons) of unneeded or expired medications.
- 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.
- Continued to fund the National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceutical Initiative (NMPI) through ONDCP's HIDTA program, providing training for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals on pharmaceutical crime investigations and prosecutions.
- Through the Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan, identified 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.

Drugged Driving:

- During 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013, the President declared the month of December National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, 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 an unprecedented 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.

Drug Prevention:

- In FY 2013, the DFC Program provided more than \$78 million to fund 147 new grants, 473 continuation grants, 19 new mentoring grants, and 4 continuation mentoring grants. These grants are provided to community-based coalitions to address youth substance use.
- ONDCP led the Nation in observing National Substance Abuse Prevention Month (October), raising awareness about the importance of prevention to improve the health, safety, and prosperity of our youth and communities.
- ONDCP has provided funding through the HIDTA Program to increase coordination between law enforcement and prevention communities, thereby helping to reduce drug use and its negative consequences.

Increased Transparency and Outreach:

- ONDCP spread its 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 ONDCP’s blog and Twitter accounts.

- Increased stakeholder outreach through more regular communication, including an e-newsletter distributed twice a month.

Improved International Relations and Reduced Drug Supply:

- According to U.S. Government estimates, there has been a 41 percent drop in potential pure cocaine production capacity in the Andes since 2001, from an estimated 1,055 metric tons potential pure cocaine production at its peak in 2001 to 620 metric tons in 2012. The latest estimate is a 10 percent reduction from the previous year. Between 2006 and 2012, the United States experienced a dramatic 32 percent decrease in the number of current users of cocaine.
- Developed, in partnership with the Government of Mexico, a resolution promoting alternatives to incarceration for drug offenders that was enacted by U.N. Member States at the 2012 Commission on Narcotics Drugs meeting in Vienna, Austria.
- Served as Chair of the Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD) Demand Reduction Experts Group and led efforts, in collaboration with OAS/CICAD staff, to develop policy papers on drugged driving, prescription drug abuse prevention, community-based prevention, and data collection.
- Built global support for strong and balanced drug strategies around the world through the development and dissemination of the *Principles of Modern Drug Policy* and intensified bilateral relationships with the United Kingdom, Sweden, Russia, Italy, the European Union, and China.
- Provided funding and support for a joint study regarding Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment in primary care clinics in Tijuana and Los Angeles.
- 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.
- Provided the latest drug-related information to prepare the President and Vice President for travel and meetings with key international drug control partners.
- Participated in a global drug conference in Lima, Peru, showcasing United States demand reduction efforts and support for alternative development initiatives by visiting sites in the Peruvian countryside with key government officials.

- Developed increased cooperation with the President of Peru on counternarcotic issues, including the development of higher illicit crop eradication goals.

Improved Interagency Communications:

- Maintained a formal interagency process to track the progress of all 112 Action Items in the *Strategy*.
- Of the 112 *Strategy* Action Items, 78% have been completed or are on track for completion.
- Drew together interagency partners and encouraged internal collaboration among ONDCP components, providing a platform for communication to support the development of the 2013 *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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
00.01	Salaries & Expenses	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
10.00	Total Obligations	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
	Financing:			
39.00	Budget Authority	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
	Budget Authority:			
40.00	Appropriation	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647
	Relation of Obligations to Outlay:			
90.00	Total Outlays	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647

(SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING, Continued)

Gifts and Donations
(\$ in thousands)

Line Number	Financing Schedule	FY 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Total Number of Appropriated Full-Time Permanent Positions	96	94	94

F. DETAIL OF PERMANENT POSITIONS

Permanent Positions	FY 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
EX 1	1	1	1
EX 2	1	1	1
EX 3	3	3	3
SES	11	11	11
GS-15	28	28	28
GS-14	23	22	22
GS-13	9	10	10
GS-12	8	8	8
GS-11	6	5	5
GS-10	3	2	2
GS-9	2	2	2
GS-8	1	1	1
Total Permanent Positions	96	94	94

G. SUMMARY TABLES OF BUDGET AUTHORITY BY OBJECT CLASS

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

Line Number	Salaries and Expenses Operations	FY 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
10.0	Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$15,100	\$15,435	\$15,435
21.0	Travel & Transportation of Persons	\$650	\$500	\$500
22.0	Transportation of Things	\$18	\$18	\$18
23.1	Rental Payments to GSA	\$3,025	\$3,332	\$3,345
23.3	Communications, Utilities, & Miscellaneous Charges	\$300	\$275	\$248
24.0	Printing & Reproduction	\$69	\$64	\$64
25.0	Other Contractual Services	\$3,760	\$2,832	\$2,743
26.0	Official Reception and Representation Funds	\$10	\$10	\$10
26.0	Supplies & Materials	\$267	\$274	\$274
31.0	Equipment	\$20	\$10	\$10
99.0	Total Obligations	\$23,219	\$22,750	\$22,647

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

Gifts and Donations
(\$ in thousands)

Line Number	Gifts and Donations	FY 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 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 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Personnel Compensation & Benefits	\$15,435	\$15,435

Funds in this object class provide full-year salaries and benefits for 94 FTE.

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Travel and Transportation	\$500	\$500

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

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Transportation of Things	\$18	\$18

This object class includes express mail and miscellaneous moving expenses.

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Rental Payments to GSA	\$3,332	\$3,345

This amount includes an estimated \$3,345,000 for the full year cost of office space at rates 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 rentable square feet of space and 13 structured/reserved parking spaces). The building includes office space, four conference rooms, video teleconferencing center, mapping center, and a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF). Note: The current lease agreement expires September 30, 2015. GSA will be working to recomplete the new lease for an additional five year period.

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Communications, Utilities, and Miscellaneous Charges	\$275	\$248

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 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Printing and Reproduction	\$64	\$64

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 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Other Services	\$2,832	\$2,743

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; Director's protection; copier labor support agreements; building maintenance; service and equipment maintenance renewal; travel service fees; website services; and foreign language translation services.

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Supplies and Materials	\$284	\$284

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 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Equipment	\$10	\$10

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

	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Total All Object Classes	\$22,750	\$22,647

VI. OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

A. APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

Federal Funds

General and special funds:

Other Federal Drug Control Programs

(including transfer of funds)

For other drug control activities authorized by the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–469), [~~\$105,394,000~~] *\$95,376,000*, to remain available until expended, which shall be available as follows: [~~\$92,000,000~~] *\$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; [~~\$8,750,000~~] *\$7,700,000* for anti-doping activities; [~~\$1,994,000~~] *and \$2,000,000* 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, 2014.*)

B. SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING

OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS
(\$ in thousands)

Line Number	Program by Activities	FY 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
00.01	Drug Free Communities Support Program	\$87,455	\$92,000	\$85,676
00.01	Anti-Doping Activities	\$8,555	\$8,750	\$7,700
00.01	Drug Court Training and Technical Institute	\$1,331	\$1,400	\$0
00.01	Section 1105 of Public Law 109-469	\$1,188	\$1,250	\$0
00.01	World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Membership Dues	\$1,806	\$1,994	\$2,000
10.00	Total Obligations	\$100,335	\$105,394	\$95,376
	Financing:			
39.00	Budget Authority	\$100,335	\$105,394	\$95,376
	Budget Authority:			
40.00	Appropriation	\$100,335	\$105,394	\$95,376
	Relation of Obligations to Outlay:			
90.00	Total Outlays	\$100,335	\$105,394	\$95,376

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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
Total Number of Appropriated Full-Time Permanent Positions	1	1	1

D. OTHER FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS

FY 2015 BUDGET REQUEST

The FY 2015 request for the Other Federal Drug Control Programs account is \$95,376,000. 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 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (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 2013, ONDCP awarded 147 new communities with a DFC grant and 19 new communities with a DFC mentoring grant. These new awards were in addition to the DFC continuation grants simultaneously released to 473 currently funded DFC coalitions and 4 DFC mentoring continuation coalitions. In FY 2013, there were 643 DFC communities across the country.

b. FY 2015 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 strategies¹ 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 2013, ONDCP awarded 147 new communities with a DFC grant and 19 new communities with a DFC mentoring grant. These new awards were in addition to the DFC continuation grants simultaneously released to 473 currently funded DFC coalitions and 4 DFC mentoring continuation coalitions. In FY 2013, there were 643 DFC communities across the country.

For FY 2015, \$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 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America’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.

¹ 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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$87,455	\$92,000	\$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 2015 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.

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 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. 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 2015 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 2012

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 - November 2011 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.

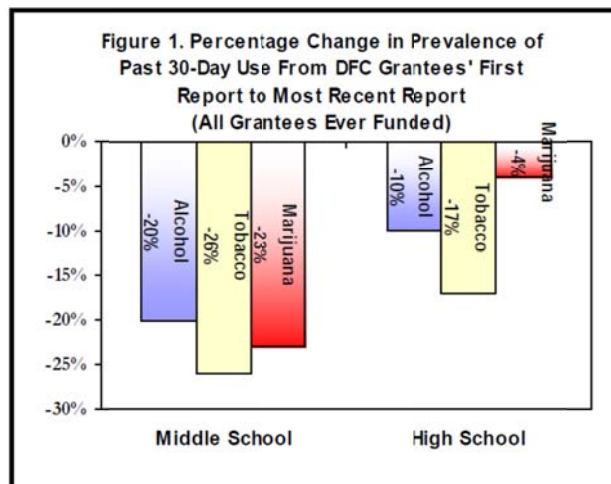


Figure 1

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).

- 20% reduction of middle school alcohol use;
- 26% reduction of middle school tobacco use;

- 23% reduction of middle school marijuana use;
- 10% reduction of high school alcohol use;
- 17% reduction of high school tobacco use; and
- 4% reduction of high school marijuana use.

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

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 2012 report, every DFC grantee (100%) indicated they had engaged in information dissemination activities. Virtually all (99%) provided services related to enhancing skills, (92 %) engaged in activities to promote access/reduce barriers to prevention and treatment services; (88%) engaged in supporting positive opportunities for positive activities reducing risk for substance use; (82%) carried out activities designed to increase incentives for non-use; (79%) promoted law or policy changes to decrease substance use and associated negative behaviors; and (75%) engaged in activities to change physical environments to decrease opportunities for and encouragement of substance use.

More DFC grantees provided 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. 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 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 National Outcome Measures (NOMs), which have been collected by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for many years.

FY 2015 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., Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, Drug Enforcement Administration, 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 2013 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 2015 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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$8,555	\$8,750	\$7,700

b. WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY DUES

The FY 2015 request level for United States membership dues to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is \$2,000,000. The additional funding in FY 2015 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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$1,806	\$1,994	\$2,000

VII. HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREAS PROGRAM

A. MISSION STATEMENT AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (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 HIDTAs located in 46 states, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The Southwest Border (SWB) HIDTA is divided into five regions (Arizona, California, New Mexico, South Texas, and West Texas Regions), 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 *National Drug Control 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 leaders. 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 that 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, each HIDTA prepares an annual report describing its 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, 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/subject²), 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 abuse 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 have historically

² 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.

been financed in large 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 on the Nation's highway system, thereby reducing criminal use on drug trafficking corridors identified by law enforcement agencies and increasing public safety. The El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) supports the DHE program through its National Seizure System (NSS), the DHE community website, the Tactical Incident Notification System (TINS), and its Predictive Intelligence Unit. The DHE is funded through the National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC).
- The National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative (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 2013, the initiative received \$500,000 in base funding and \$50,000 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 2013, the initiative received \$500,000 in base funding.

Currently, the NMI and the NMPI are housed at the SWB HIDTA/CA but their assets are deployed throughout the United States to areas that face the greatest threats relating to marijuana or methamphetamine/pharmaceuticals. These nationwide initiatives support intelligence sharing and law enforcement training to combat marijuana cultivation and methamphetamine and pharmaceutical drug crimes in the United States. Given the national focus of these two initiatives, ONDCP is in the process of proposing to relocate them to the NHAC. This will improve the oversight of these initiatives and bring them into alignment with another nationally focused HIDTA program, the Domestic Highway Enforcement initiative. Situating the NMI and the NMPI in the NHAC will facilitate and reinforce the national focus of their missions and make them more accessible to all 32 HIDTA Directors and to ONDCP.

The *National Drug Control Strategy* emphasizes a balanced approach to drug control 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 programs.

Prevention and treatment initiatives continue to be an integral part of the HIDTA program, in support of the critical role of law enforcement in preventing young people from using drugs. Currently, 22 regional HIDTA programs support prevention initiatives across the country, including all 5 SWB HIDTA regions. The HIDTA members work with community-based coalitions and adhere to evidence-based prevention practices, such as community mobilization and organizational change.

In addition to supporting a number of prevention initiatives through regular baseline funding, ONDCP provides discretionary funds to support prevention initiatives. One such initiative involves the collaboration of the four California HIDTAs and incorporates a balanced approach to reducing drug use and its consequences. Member agencies participate in drug awareness and education in order to strengthen their prevention efforts.

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. This web-based application developed by the NHAC is used for budgeting and grant administration. The center also provides training and multi-media support to the HIDTAs. As previously mentioned, the center also sponsors the DHE program.

B. APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

FEDERAL DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS Federal Funds

General and special funds:

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program

(including transfer of funds)

For necessary expenses of the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program, [~~\$238,522,000~~] *\$193,400,000*, to remain available until September 30, [~~2015~~] *2016*, 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 [~~2012~~] *2013* 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, 2013, shall be funded at not less than the fiscal year 2013 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 2014 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] *upon a determination that all or part of the funds so transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation. (Executive Office of the President Appropriations Act, 2014.)*

C. SUMMARY TABLES OF PROGRAM AND FINANCING

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

Line Number		FY 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
	Program by activities:			
00.01	Grants and Federal Transfers	\$223,487	\$235,822	\$190,700
00.01	HIDTA Auditing Services and Associated Activities	\$2,559	\$2,700	\$2,700
10.00	Total Obligations	\$226,046	\$238,522	\$193,400
	Financing:			
39.00	Budget Authority	\$226,046	\$238,522	\$193,400
	Budget Authority:			
40.00	Appropriation	\$226,046	\$238,522	\$193,400
41.00	Transferred to Other Accounts	(\$20,000)	(\$23,000)	(\$20,000)
43.00	Appropriation (adjusted)	\$206,046	\$215,522	\$173,400
	Relation of Obligations to Outlay:			
90.00	Total Outlays	\$206,046	\$215,522	\$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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
25.00	High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas – Obligations	\$206,046	\$215,522	\$173,400
99.00	Transfer to Federal Accounts	\$20,000	\$23,000	\$20,000
99.00	Total Budget Authority	\$226,046	\$238,522	\$193,400

F. FY 2015 BUDGET REQUEST

The FY 2015 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 to keep communities safe, and supports a place-based 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. However, in line with the President's *Strategy*, individual HIDTAs are also increasingly involved in prevention initiatives at the local or regional level.

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 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area;
 - (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 2015 Request
Appalachia	\$5,967,393
Atlanta/Carolinas ³	\$5,331,890
Central Florida	\$2,607,726
Central Valley California	\$2,565,801
Chicago	\$4,720,046
Gulf Coast	\$6,643,269
Hawaii	\$2,565,801
Houston	\$8,484,677
Lake County	\$2,639,169
Los Angeles	\$12,276,335
Michigan	\$2,871,179
Midwest	\$11,580,698
Nevada	\$2,565,801
New England	\$2,619,954
New York/New Jersey	\$10,578,309
North Florida	\$2,565,801
Northern California	\$2,683,190
Northwest	\$3,730,815
Ohio	\$2,819,955
Oregon	\$2,649,651
Philadelphia/Camden	\$3,587,891
Puerto Rico/Virgin Islands	\$7,933,655
Rocky Mountain	\$8,025,468
South Florida	\$10,655,229
Southwest Border	\$40,843,963
Texoma ⁴	\$2,565,801
Washington/Baltimore	\$11,469,932
Wisconsin ⁵	\$4,392,959
National HIDTA Assistance Center	\$2,757,642
Total Base Allocation	\$190,700,000
Auditing Services Funds	\$2,700,000
Total	\$193,400,000

³ To more accurately reflect the impact of its initiatives and operations following the designation of HIDTA counties in North Carolina and South Carolina, the Executive Board of the Atlanta HIDTA has opted to rename it the Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA.

⁴ To more accurately reflect the impact of its initiatives and operations in Oklahoma, the Executive Board of the North Texas HIDTA has opted to rename it the Texoma HIDTA.

⁵ To more accurately reflect the impact of its initiatives and operations beyond the boundaries of the city of Milwaukee, the Executive Board of the Milwaukee HIDTA has opted to rename it the Wisconsin HIDTA.

Appalachia HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$5,967,393

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Appalachia HIDTA (AHIDTA) region is one of the predominant marijuana production and trafficking areas in the United States. The diversion and abuse of prescription drugs is also a grave threat to the AHIDTA area. The increased rate of heroin abuse and trafficking has evolved into a significant threat as a direct result of the pervasive diversion of prescription opioid pain killers.

Despite controls on the purchase of products with pseudoephedrine, the illicit production and abuse of methamphetamine continues to burden the populace and law enforcement. Cocaine and crack cocaine pose a significant threat to the AHIDTA, particularly in its Tennessee and West Virginia counties.

(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 abuse. 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, 13 state agencies, and 82 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 money laundering organizations that distribute marijuana, pharmaceutical drugs, methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2012, the Appalachia HIDTA continued to battle a significant methamphetamine threat. While the threat primarily consists of small, unsophisticated, one-step method laboratories, eight larger labs were encountered and dismantled. 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 fewer glassware/equipment sites and roughly the same number of dumpsites in 2012 as in 2011. The number of children found by AHIDTA task forces to be living

at, or endangered by, clandestine labs decreased to 35 in 2012 from 79 in 2011. These children were turned over to child welfare professionals in accordance with each agency's requirements.

In 2012, AHIDTA task forces processed 26 glassware/equipment sites only compared to 56 in 2011. Other clandestine laboratory-related indicators remain relatively unchanged. AHIDTA task force personnel processed slightly fewer dumpsites, 101 during 2012 compared to 110 in 2011.

Atlanta/Carolinas HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$5,331,890

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Atlanta/Carolinas (A/C) HIDTA region is a major distribution center for drug trafficking organizations (DTOs), particularly Mexico-based DTOs, and their associated money laundering organizations (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 money laundering organizations. The A/C HIDTA employs state-of-the-art intelligence and telecommunications technology in addition to more traditional techniques to target investigations and foster collaborative working relationships with over 80 Federal, state, and local investigative and prosecuting agencies conducting intelligence-driven operations against major DTOs/MLOs.

(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
- Creating a stronger relationship between law enforcement and prevention and treatment organizations. The HIDTA has established a Pharmaceutical Advisory Committee and plans to continue to publish an annual survey of data obtained from regional treatment providers.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2012, 455 kg of methamphetamine and ice (or crystal) methamphetamine with an estimated wholesale value of \$18.3 million and 1 clandestine meth lab were seized by A/C HIDTA initiatives. A Regional Coordinator for the NMPI was added to the HIDTA in 2008 and, working with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF), and the HIDTA, has established a precursor tracking system in the HIDTA. This system mirrors the Tennessee Methamphetamine Information System (TMIS) and serves the

Southeastern OCDETF region. There is a resurgence of small, “one-pot”⁶ local manufacturing of methamphetamine attributed to disruptions in the quality and delivery of Mexican sources of methamphetamine. Investigators also identified a new variation of the “one pot” method using PVC pipe fitted with pressure gauge and brass valve assembly. Although the A/C 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 as most investigations target multi-drug trafficking organizations.

⁶ The “one-pot” method allows methamphetamine cooks to combine anhydrous ammonia, pseudoephedrine, or ephedrine tablets, and the reactive metal (i.e. Lithium) into a single container from the beginning of the process. The method reduces the amount of time needed for the process. The one-pot method produces a minimal amount of methamphetamine (usually gram quantities or less).

Central Florida HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,607,726

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

In 2010 and 2011, the prevalent drug threat to the Central Florida Region was Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPDs). Early 2012 showed signs that this trend would continue. However, by the latter half of the year, the region realized a noticeable downturn in the market and availability of CPDs. Central Florida was showing signs of waning as a source of CPDs to the Southeastern United States. Vigilant enforcement efforts, coupled with an established year old State Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and local legislation, severely restricted Central Florida and, the state as a whole, as a sought after source of CPDs. Six Central Florida HIDTA (CFHIDTA) initiatives did however continue to provide full-time personnel to the CPD threat seizing over 377,000 dosage units of CPDs and \$4 million in prescription drug trafficking assets. State of Florida Medical Examiner data for the first 6 months of 2012 show death occurrences related to Oxycodone (-29.1 percent) and Hydrocodone (-16.4 percent) decreased compared with the last 6 months of 2011.

A majority of 2013 CFHIDTA Drug Threat Survey respondents view cocaine as the second greatest threat, followed very closely by methamphetamine. Mexican DTOs dominate the CFHIDTA region as the primary wholesale suppliers of most cocaine, Mexican ice methamphetamine, and Mexican marijuana. 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 continued. As in previous years, marijuana is widely available in the Central Florida region and DTOs continue shipping high grade marijuana from California via UPS and FedEx.

Seizures of indoor marijuana grow sites in CFHIDTA counties were down 25 percent compared to 2011. Indoor marijuana cultivation DTOs continue to employ strategies to make the detection of grow operations more difficult for law enforcement. Also, some initiatives report prioritizing CPDs and other drug investigations ahead of indoor marijuana cases.

The number of heroin DTOs identified in the CFHIDTA in 2012 remains low (7 percent of all DTOs identified), but did increase from 2011 (from 4 to 5).

Orlando metropolitan street level heroin purity reported by the DEA Domestic Monitoring Program for 2012 was 25 percent and comparable to 2011 data (26 percent). According to the 2012 Medical Examiners Commission Interim Drug Report for the first half of 2012 (January-June), heroin continued to be the most lethal drug. Occurrences of heroin decreased by 16.7 percent and deaths caused by heroin decreased by 13.2 percent when compared to the last 6 months of 2011. Contrary to the death statistics, seizures of heroin by CFHIDTA initiatives in 2012 increased 66 percent from 2011. Reporting through the 2013 CFHIDTA Drug Threat Survey suggests an increase in individuals turning to heroin as a drug of choice from the CPD opioids.

In 2012, clandestine methamphetamine laboratory seizures (845) in the state of Florida increased 64 percent compared to 2011. CFHIDTA counties accounted for 24 percent of the state's lab seizures (194). Ninety-seven percent of methamphetamine labs seized were smaller than the 2-ounce type, and the "one pot" method continues to be the preferred method for manufacturing methamphetamine in Central Florida. Methamphetamine abuse appears to be on the rise. State of Florida Medical Examiner data for the first 6 months of 2012 indicate a 26 percent increase in occurrences of methamphetamine compared with the last 6 months of 2011.

(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 Investigative Support Center 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 2012, the number of clandestine methamphetamine labs seized and dismantled totaled 194 in the Central Florida HIDTA's 8 county region. Of the labs encountered, 97 percent were "one-pot" reduction labs. During 2012, 98 kilograms of methamphetamine were seized of which 79 kilograms were ice methamphetamine.

Central Valley California HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding requested for FY 2015: \$2,565,801

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Central Valley California (CVC) HIDTA's greatest drug problems are related to marijuana, methamphetamine cocaine, and heroin. The 10-county region is a leading producer of methamphetamine and outdoor- and indoor-grown sinsemilla marijuana. Outdoor marijuana growing takes place in national forests and on remote public lands as well as on private property. Large cannabis plots frequently are tended by undocumented individuals, many of whom are armed. They pose a grave danger to hikers, campers, and forest workers. In 2012, approximately 1.9 million outdoor-grown marijuana plants were eradicated in the state of California; this amounts to 53 percent of the 3.6 million outdoor-grown marijuana plants eradicated nationwide, as reported by the DEA, Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program.

Methamphetamine, likewise, poses a serious threat to the region. DTOs and other criminal groups conduct well-organized, large-scale operations to acquire the necessary pseudoephedrine to sustain major methamphetamine production efforts in the region. These organized bands of individuals (known as "smurfers") roam the region purchasing thousands of pseudoephedrine tablets from pharmacies to sell to methamphetamine laboratory operators.⁷ The CVC HIDTA dismantled five superlabs⁸ in 2012.

The CVC HIDTA region is a national drug production and transshipment hub. According to intelligence reports, Mexico-based DTOs produce and/or smuggle into the Central Valley of California heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine for transportation to domestic drug markets. HIDTA initiatives report that many of the DTOs operating in the CVC HIDTA counties include foreign nationals. DTO members of Hispanic and Southeast Asian origin operate commercial-sized marijuana "farms" and indoor marijuana grow houses throughout the region.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The CVC HIDTA applies traditional law enforcement methodologies and techniques that have proven effective against DTOs. Nearly 170 Federal, state, county, and city law enforcement members representing 40 agencies support the CVC HIDTA initiatives. The integration and coordination of task force efforts are supported by a network of criminal intelligence analysts and integrated intelligence centers.

(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 and focus the CVC HIDTA resources on initiatives that have a

⁷ These groups are composed of numerous individuals who visit multiple stores to purchase the maximum limit of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products at each store; they then pool their purchases.

⁸ By definition, a superlab is capable of producing more than 10 pounds of methamphetamine in a single cycle.

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 2012, the CVC HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 64 DTOs and MLOs;
- Improving investigative effectiveness through an Intelligence Subsystem and ISC that provides tactical and strategic intelligence services to CVC HIDTA participating agencies. This is accomplished under the leadership of a DEA Intelligence Group Supervisor; and
- Strengthening the relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations. The CVC HIDTA is collaborating with the other California HIDTAs on a state-wide prevention initiative.

Methamphetamine

The 2012 CVC HIDTA enforcement initiatives directed a significant portion of their resources toward dismantling methamphetamine laboratories. A total of 962 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine were seized. There were 20 methamphetamine laboratories dismantled; of those, 5 were classified as “superlabs,” i.e., having the capacity to yield more than 10 pounds during a single production cycle. Although the Central Valley region leads the state in the number of chemical dumpsites found, there has been a continuing decline in the number of methamphetamine laboratories located for the past 4 years. Finally, while this HIDTA is able to report on seizures of methamphetamine, it is not possible to track funds specifically used for methamphetamine enforcement because investigations have shown that the region’s DTOs are nearly all poly-drug traffickers.

Chicago HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$4,720,046

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Chicago is not only one of the largest consumer markets for cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and other illicit drugs, it also serves as a national-level transshipment hub and distribution center for these drugs to other areas of the country. The distribution and abuse of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and increasing amounts of high potency marijuana are the primary drug threats in the Chicago HIDTA region.

Intelligence and ongoing cases indicate that large quantities of these drugs are transported to the area by Mexico-based DTOs and criminal groups, principally from locations along the Southwest border. Mexico-based DTOs and criminal groups dominate the wholesale transportation and distribution of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. Typically, they obtain these drugs directly from DTOs operating in Mexico and provide them to street gang leaders in the region for retail-level distribution. 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 chronic 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 2015: \$6,643,269

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Gulf Coast (GC) HIDTA is a geographically diverse area consisting of 26 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 Arkansas, however, methamphetamine 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.

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. Overdose deaths and injuries from oxycodone, methadone, and their combination with other drugs, such as Soma, remain high and, in some cases, surpass those of drugs such as heroin. Violent crime continues to impact 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 2012 survey found that over 30 percent of the 25 most dangerous metropolitan areas of the United States were located in the GC HIDTA region.⁹

(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 relationship to:

⁹ http://os.cqpress.com/citycrime/2012/CityCrime2013_MetroCrimeRateRankings.pdf

- 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 27 enforcement initiatives to target regional DTOs; and
- Increasing intelligence sharing and coordination among the initiatives and all regional law enforcement agencies. The GC HIDTA Investigative Support Center 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 2012, 142 methamphetamine labs were dismantled. GC HIDTA initiatives also removed 1,951 kg of methamphetamine from the marketplace with an estimated wholesale value of \$58,541,970. 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 2015: \$2,565,801

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The trafficking and abuse of ice methamphetamine and diverted pharmaceuticals, and the production and cultivation of marijuana pose the greatest illicit drug threats to the state. Prescription drug-related deaths have overtaken methamphetamine-related deaths. Cocaine, heroin, MDMA, and steroids, available in lesser quantities, also pose a threat to the region and are often present alongside ice methamphetamine and marijuana during police raids and autopsies in drug-related deaths. Violence associated with illicit drug trafficking exacts an expensive toll on Hawaii's resources, families, and neighborhoods. Drug abuse contributes to domestic violence, child endangerment, and hospital emergency room visits, adding pressure and higher price tags upon social and healthcare services. Property crimes rise exponentially with increases in Hawaii's drug abuse. Turf wars between rival DTOs/gangs result in confrontation and eruptions of violence. Criminal groups and DTOs are usually international or multi-state in scope, 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. Hawaii is ranked among the highest in the Nation for methamphetamine abuse per capita and consistently ranks high in annual marijuana production.

(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 embodied in the co-located and commingled law enforcement personnel who are strategically aligned into task forces that focus on both long-term and short-term multijurisdictional investigations, complex money laundering investigations, violent offender and fugitive apprehensions, border interdiction, and marijuana eradication. Additionally, the Hawaii HIDTA invests heavily in a robust ISC. The Hawaii HIDTA intelligence-led policing approach pulls together targeted information into an analytical intelligence cycle so priorities can be established and the most pressing law enforcement threats can be dealt with 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 a merging trend of prescription drugs and pharmaceutical abuse.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2012, the Hawaii HIDTA used \$1,290,401 of its budget to remove \$7,274,953 (wholesale value) worth of ice methamphetamine and seize \$4,098,145 in cash proceeds from the illicit drug market. In doing so, the Hawaii HIDTA disrupted and/or dismantled 35 methamphetamine-related DTOs. As a result of coordination and continued law enforcement pressure on DTOs, the Hawaii HIDTA was able to meet their enforcement goals.

Houston HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$8,484,677

(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

The Houston HIDTA will 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 2012, 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 9 methamphetamine labs. Houston HIDTA initiatives seized 446 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine in 2012, valued at over \$10.8 million.

Lake County HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,639,169

(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, marijuana, CPDs, and the availability of 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 SWB. 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 methamphetamine is being brought to the area from the SWB, 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 28 state and local jurisdictions, 9 law enforcement initiatives, and several 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; and
- 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 noted 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 0.001 kilograms in 2011 to 2.357 kilograms in 2012. Ice methamphetamine seizures increased from 7.400 kilograms in 2011 to 17.298 kilograms in 2012. 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 2015: \$12,276,335

(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 2012 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 (12th largest economy in the world) 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. 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. In 2010, the JRIC merged with the Los Angeles Joint Drug Intelligence Group (previously known as LAJDIG), expanding available expertise and promoting synergistic data sharing and analysis. The JRIC serves as one of the components of the national fusion center system; 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 2012, LA-HIDTA initiatives used approximately \$1,200,000 to dismantle 28 clandestine labs, including 3 super labs. At a regional selling price of \$1,000 per ounce, the LA-HIDTA prevented the production of an estimated \$1,369,000 worth of methamphetamine. While the numbers of reported meth labs has been relatively stable in our region for the past several years, 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 2012, the enforcement initiatives of the LA-HIDTA seized a total of 1,316.618 kilograms of methamphetamine valued at \$12,773,827 and 3,461.285 kilograms of ice methamphetamine valued at \$83,953,467. The total weight of all methamphetamine seized in the Los Angeles HIDTA in 2012 was in excess of 5.3 tons and had a combined value of \$96,727,294.

The enforcement initiatives of the LA-HIDTA were responsible for seizing 75 percent of the super labs seized in California in 2012. Further, it is of interest to note that, in 2012, 33.3 percent of the total of 12 super lab seizures reported nationwide occurred in the state of California.

Even more striking this year were the numbers of Cartel related methamphetamine conversion “superlabs” (10 pounds or greater) seizures where, enforcement elements in California seized 22 (96 percent) out of the 23 reported nationwide. It is interesting to note that 17 (77%) out of the 22 superlabs seized in California were from within the Los Angeles HIDTA.

Michigan HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,871,179

(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.

The distribution and abuse of controlled prescription drugs, heroin, marijuana, cocaine and methamphetamine are the principal drug threats in the region. Controlled prescription drug diversion has grown to epidemic proportions and may constitute the region's most serious threat. Detroit has become a source city for opioids, which are smuggled south to Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. Heroin remains a significant threat in the region, and its availability and use have steadily increased over the past year. Marijuana is the most frequently abused drug in the region. The increased availability of marijuana, its widespread distribution, and increased local production are in part due to the exploitation of the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act. The cocaine market in the region has remained stable or has slightly decreased in the past year. Local methamphetamine production and abuse continue to be a major concern in western and rural Michigan. Methamphetamine production has recently been discovered in northern and eastern Michigan counties. Close cooperation between methamphetamine users and producers helps sustain high production levels. 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 is an integral component of a new effort called Detroit One. Spearheaded by the U.S. Attorney General's office for the Eastern District of Michigan, in cooperation with the Detroit Police Department and other Federal agencies, the mission of this ongoing campaign is to identify, arrest, and Federally prosecute the 100 most violent and dangerous offenders in the City of Detroit. The Michigan HIDTA has provided intelligence and deconfliction products in support of this campaign, which has already yielded numerous felony arrests.

(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 money laundering organizations identified in the HIDTA's threat assessment (Level 3).

The HIDTA accomplishes its mission and attacks 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 in the state's western counties. Production has been discovered recently in northern and eastern Michigan counties. In 2012, Michigan HIDTA initiatives dismantled 206 methamphetamine laboratories in Michigan HIDTA counties, conservatively preventing more than \$500,000 worth of methamphetamine from reaching the marketplace. In 2013, the Michigan HIDTA will continue 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 2015: \$11,580,698

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Midwest HIDTA region continues to be a fertile environment for the importation, manufacturing, and distribution of narcotics. Overall, methamphetamine trafficking is the greatest problem faced by the HIDTA. Additionally, densely populated urban areas in the region continue to experience major problems with all drugs, especially crack cocaine. Cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana continue to be popular in the large urban cities of St. Louis and Kansas City, MO; Des Moines, IA; and Omaha, NE. Heroin is prevalent in large urban communities and surrounding suburbs of St. Louis and Kansas City. The diversion of prescription drugs and medications through “pill mills” and fraudulent internet transactions is an emerging and dangerous threat. MDMA, GHB, and other dangerous drugs known as “club drugs” are also present in most urban areas.

Law enforcement agencies indicate that Mexico-based DTOs dominate wholesale drug distribution and transportation. All areas continue to see methamphetamine supplied through local production by small clandestine laboratories, facilitated by precursor chemical dealers and pseudoephedrine smurfing operations.¹⁰

Competing gangs and other DTOs continue to use violence to solidify and maintain their hold on drug trafficking within their areas 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 analysis indicates that high level DTOs have been taking root in the region. Many DTOs in the Midwest region are poly-drug operations. The larger urban areas of St. Louis, Kansas City, Des Moines, and Omaha continue to be drug transportation and distribution hubs for the region. These cities are also in the crossroads of the Nation’s highways and are important transit points for movement of DTOs’ financial profits returning to the western United States and Mexico.

(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, Regional Priority Organization Target, Consolidated Priority Organization Target, and DTO investigations with an emphasis on dismantling organizations and reducing drug-related violence. Investigations target the

¹⁰ “Smurfing” refers to the action of going from store-to-store purchasing the maximum amount allowable under the law of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine products and then pooling these products, which will then be provided to a meth producer.

highest-level of drug trafficking and money laundering organizations 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, which contains 73 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 2012, Midwest HIDTA initiatives seized over 142 kilograms of methamphetamine and 223 kilograms of ice methamphetamine, and dismantled 563 clandestine labs rated at less than 2 ounce capacity, 79 rated at 2-8 ounce capacity, 9 rated at 9-31 ounce capacity, and 4 rated at 32-159 ounce capacity. There were 277 dumpsites uncovered in the Midwest HIDTA region in 2012.

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 2015: \$2,565,801

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Methamphetamine, predominantly coming from Mexico, has seen a rise in trafficking and use in the Nevada (NV) HIDTA region. Task forces report in the HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) database a significant increase in seizures and the decline of prices to 2006 levels. The methamphetamine coming into the NV HIDTA is coming from Mexico through Arizona and California, with California being the primary source area. The NV HIDTA task forces have seen significant increases in the DTOs that get their drug directly from Mexican cartels without going through middlemen in Arizona or California.

In last year's NV HIDTA Threat Assessment, it was anticipated that methamphetamine would remain the number one drug threat in Nevada. This evaluation has proven to be true with the methamphetamine seizures nearly doubling during 2012. In 2011, the task forces of the NV HIDTA seized 254 kilograms of methamphetamine and seized 403 kilograms in 2012.

The NV HIDTA has seen a stabilization in the number of indoor grows in Southern Nevada with 108 grows in 2009, 134 grows in 2010, 151 grows in 2011, and 120 grows in 2012. What may be driving the market in Southern Nevada is the demand for high-potency marijuana or the establishment of numerous indoor grow operations that are producing this high-potency marijuana. The Nevada legislature legalized marijuana dispensaries in 2013. This move will create 40 legal dispensaries just in Clark County. The Nevada HIDTA estimates the number of indoor grows in the state will double.

To help the NV HIDTA deal with the sharp increase of indoor grows, the Southern Nevada Cannabis Operations and Regional Enforcement task force (SCORE) was formed by the NV HIDTA Executive Board. This group is responsible for the discovery and enforcement action taken against indoor marijuana grows. It was estimated that Nevada was 5th in the Nation for the number of indoor grows. This is even more concerning when you consider every indoor marijuana grow seized was found in Clark County, which has a population of only 2 million. Northern Nevada has not seen the indoor grows or the violence connected to them that southern Nevada has seen. For northern Nevada, the marijuana drug threat comes from Central Valley California.

Diverted pharmaceuticals continue to be one of the fastest growing areas of concern for narcotics enforcement in the NV HIDTA. The Clark County coroner reports there are more pharmaceutical related deaths in Clark County than meth, heroin, and cocaine deaths combined. We expect pharmaceuticals to continue to have a significant impact in the communities.

The Pharm-Net task force is targeting doctors, pain management clinics, and pharmacies that are not complying with Federal and state laws. During 2012, the Pharm-Net task force was

able to put together four investigations targeting the most egregious violators, resulting in the arrest of two doctors on State charges and one doctor on Federal charges.

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 CCGTF primary mission is to disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations operating in the NV HIDTA area by utilizing a myriad of 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 and around Southern Nevada. The CCGTF was involved in a community impact project during 2012. They targeted a particularly dangerous street gang, arrested 25 gang members on felony charges, and seized over 15 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 attain 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 2012 are cells of more extensive international and regional networks. By targeting the largest DTOs, and more specifically, the methamphetamine DTOs 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 Nevada HIDTA supports the *Strategy* by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations, thereby disrupting the flow of illegal drugs into the Nevada HIDTA region and other areas of the country. Nevada 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. Intelligence estimates indicate that methamphetamine will continue as the number one drug threat in Nevada in 2013. During 2012, methamphetamine seizures nearly doubled, with several large cases tied in directly to Mexico. Specifically, of the methamphetamine DTOs the task forces were able to work numerous cases that tied directly into Mexico. In 2012, the NV HIDTA seized 404 kilograms of methamphetamine with an estimated wholesale value of \$9.4 million.

New England HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for 2014: \$2,619,954

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The distribution and abuse of heroin and CPDs, specifically opioids, are the most significant drug threats to the New England (NE) HIDTA region. The abuse of opioid-based and other CPDs has led to the increased use of heroin as a less expensive alternative. 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.

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.

Cocaine, particularly crack cocaine, is commonly abused in some parts of the New England region, mainly inner-city neighborhoods of major cities. 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 *National Drug Control Strategy* by disrupting and dismantling DTOs and MLOs, NE HIDTA has fostered a collaborative partnership with professionals in the education, prevention and treatment aspects of the *Strategy*. Additionally, through continued cooperation with these partners, the NE HIDTA has enhanced drug education and prevention initiatives, partnered with the New England Drug Free Communities coalitions and the Massachusetts Prevention Alliance, and provided guidance and information to numerous state-sponsored prescription drug awareness programs.

(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.

New York/New Jersey HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$10,578,309

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Each of the 24 counties within the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) HIDTA region presents similar, but varying degrees of drug threats. The New York City metropolitan area, which consists of the New Jersey, Long Island, and lower Hudson Valley HIDTA counties in addition to the New York City counties, is one of the largest transportation/distribution centers and the most ethnically diverse urban area in the United States. This diversity allows Colombian, Dominican, Mexican, and other DTOs to easily assimilate in this region and operate with anonymity. These groups are responsible for the large scale transportation and distribution of multi-ton quantities of cocaine, South American heroin, and marijuana. They continue to pose the greatest organizational drug threats to the region. Heroin sold in New York City and Newark is comparatively higher in purity and lower in cost than in other parts of the country. Albany, Erie, Monroe and, Onondaga counties face an increasing drug threat from New York City-based DTOs interested in expanding their markets and are fast becoming transshipment points for other counties and adjoining states. The northern border counties 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.

CPDs are widely abused across the region, particularly among youth. Prescription opioids abuse has increased in every NY/NJ HIDTA county since 2007 as evidenced by available emergency room data, treatment admissions and overdoses. Law enforcement agencies in the region have also observed increases in violence, fraud, and property crimes associated with CPDs.

Designer drugs such as synthetic cannabinoids, which have been sold under the K2 and Spice brands or as incense and air freshener, have increased in popularity and are considered an emerging threat in several parts of the NY/NJ HIDTA region. Synthetic cathinones referred to as and sold under the term “bath salts,” have also surfaced in emergency departments and are being closely monitored. Ice methamphetamine remains available to a limited degree with a lower threat level.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The strategy of the NY/NJ HIDTA is to build partnerships to reduce drug-related crime by enhancing and coordinating drug enforcement efforts. The NY/NJ HIDTA accomplishes this mission by promoting cooperation between 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 money laundering organizations, 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 money laundering organizations.

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

Through the Cops and Kids Initiative, projects such as Saturday Night Lights and Game Changers offer 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 13 small (less than 2 ounces) clandestine methamphetamine labs in 2012, mainly in rural upstate New York.

North Florida HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,565,801

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Criminal use of North Florida's robust transportation infrastructure and key geographic location are the greatest threat within the region as traffickers exploit the means to move drugs into the region and along the East Coast. Within the area, trafficking in diverted pharmaceuticals remains the principal threat, although some agencies are heavily engaged in pursuit of locally produced methamphetamine. During the past year, there have been significant interdictions of cocaine, Xanax, and MDMA, dismantling of numerous meth labs, high levels of parcel interdiction and increased synthetics manufacture and distribution.

Drug traffickers continue to exploit North Florida's highway system principally moving cocaine and marijuana to transshipment areas and local markets from the Southwest Border, California, Houston, Atlanta, and Miami. Shipments in motor vehicles are presumed to remain the most common transport method for illegal drugs and proceeds. Package delivery services provide a significant method used by DTOs and individuals to transport cocaine, synthetics and cumulatively significant amounts of marijuana into the region from distribution hubs, such as California, Arizona, Colorado, and Texas. Major shipments of principally cocaine and heroin are suspected to be concealed in ship containers, vessels, or private aircraft from Puerto Rico that enter the U.S. mainland through North Florida.

With prescription monitoring in effect, enforcement attention on pharmaceutical diversion remains focused on medical professionals. As usual, crack cocaine concentrated in lower socio-economic areas within each jurisdiction is the basis of poly-drug dealers and local violence. In North Florida, the biggest threat from cocaine powder is its transport into and through the area as it and marijuana are processed at sites in Marion, Alachua, and Putnam Counties. Local marijuana cultivation competes with imports, especially via parcels, and is ubiquitous. Almost exclusively, methamphetamine is cooked locally for consumption, vice profit, and produces small seizures. Perhaps the true extent of MDMA's select role in college communities was revealed with unusual seizures in Gainesville and increased amounts of Molly throughout the area. The revolving legality of synthetic cannabinoids continued as local manufacture and sales now exceed heroin in perceived threat. Heroin remains an unrealized threat, but small increases in seizures and deaths in the Jacksonville area and intelligence reporting indicate it is poised to replace pharmaceuticals.

North Florida DTOs utilize a variety of mostly lower order illicit financial techniques to fund operations and launder drug proceeds. Asset seizure claimed over \$8,000,000 while highway and parcel interdiction gathered another \$737,000. Drug-related violent crimes such as robberies and home invasions occur often and the murder rate increased in Jacksonville. A new recycling law in mid-year helped reduce the metal thefts that fueled drug buys. North Florida law enforcement agencies note a continued gang presence, most of which are local with tenuous national affiliation. Some nationally recognized gangs, such as Bloods, Crips, Gangster Disciples and Latin Kings are present and principally deal crack in Jacksonville and

Gainesville.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

Data sharing within the law enforcement community is a key component to the North Florida HIDTA (NFHIDTA) strategy. To maximize this effort, the HIDTA facilitates cooperation and joint operations among 43 Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and 261 personnel who participate in its initiatives. The HIDTA will continue to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among the 11 enforcement initiatives to achieve the HIDTA program goals to disrupt the market for illegal drugs by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations; and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the HIDTA initiatives.

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

The NFHIDTA 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 money laundering organizations. Further, the NFHIDTA 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 HDTAs. The NFHIDTA combines its efforts with HDTAs 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 NFHIDTA 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 NFHIDTA counties have noted an increase and sustained high levels of local production. In 2012 NFHIDTA initiatives seized 8 kilograms of methamphetamine, compared to 20.4 kilograms in 2011 and 11.6 kilograms in 2010. The seizure trend shows a constant threat, although somewhat fluctuating. During 2012, a total of 36 meth labs were dismantled, compared to the same number in 2011 and 15 in 2010. Methamphetamine production continues to be a major concern for the NFHIDTA AOR. It is anticipated that with a focused emphasis by law enforcement to combat the meth production problem in the area, the NFHIDTA may experience a shift from local production to importation from Mexican DTOs as cooks may seek simplification and security.

Northern California HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,683,190

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Due to the economic decline, the normalization of recreational drug abuse, and radical budgetary cuts to law enforcement resources, the overall drug and violence threat to the Northern California (NC) HIDTA region has intensified in recent years resulting in several growing areas of concern for law enforcement and public health officials. The NC HIDTA region continues as a national and regional-level production and distribution center for ice methamphetamine and marijuana. However, the threat posed by methamphetamine has been compounded by a growing number of methamphetamine conversion laboratories and widespread trafficking and abuse of the drug. Additionally, local criminals are exploiting medical marijuana laws by increasing their indoor cannabis cultivation efforts in the region. Secondary drug threats of cocaine, heroin, and other dangerous drug (ODD) distribution and abuse continue to be persistent problems to the region. 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.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

NC HIDTA 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 (NCRIC), the FBI- JTTF, the California State Threat Assessment Center (STAC), the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Investigation (BI), and local law enforcement agencies.

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

To accomplish the mission of the NC 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 regional law enforcement agencies. The mission of the NC HIDTA Bay Area Narcotics Information Network (BAYNIN), including its ISC, is to provide narcotic intelligence sharing, enhance officer safety, provide analytical case support, make available high technology surveillance, provide forensic computer analytical support and telephone intercept equipment, and provide narcotics training to all law enforcement agencies in the 11 county NC HIDTA region; and
- Creating a stronger relationship between law enforcement and prevention organizations. The NC HIDTA is coordinating with the other California HIDTAs on a statewide

prevention initiative.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2012, NC HIDTA initiatives seized 1,344 kilograms of ice methamphetamine, 3 kilograms of powdered methamphetamine, and one lab. The value of the seized methamphetamine exceeded \$58,893,847. 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 dwindling budgets and capabilities to manage and seize methamphetamine labs and super-labs. The threats to these communities continue 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 2015: \$3,730,815

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Both methamphetamine and marijuana are considered by the Northwest HIDTA to be Washington State's greatest threats because of their availability and their association with crime.

Methamphetamine production, distribution and use contribute to a wide range of criminal activities. According to law enforcement officials, methamphetamine contributes more than any other drug to violent crimes in the state.

Marijuana remains the most prevalent drug of abuse in Washington based on information from the Northwest HIDTA threat assessment survey (TAS). Cannabis cultivation in both indoor and outdoor grows throughout Washington and to a lesser extent, Canada-produced marijuana, commonly known as British Columbia (BC) Bud, supply the drug market.

Meanwhile, heroin treatment admissions continue to increase, likely due to prescription-type drug users looking for a less expensive alternative. Although heroin seizure amounts fluctuate, treatment admissions for heroin users are rising. Mexican criminal groups continue to dominate the heroin market.

Cocaine persists as a significant threat as use and addiction to the drug are widespread throughout the region. Washington is known to be a transshipment point for cocaine to Alaska and Canada.

Diverted pharmaceuticals and "other opiates" pose a significant and increasing risk and may be a contributing factor in the rise of heroin abuse. In April 2013, the Food and Drug Administration denied the approval of generic oxycodone to be sold in the United States to prevent non-tamper resistant forms of the drug to be available. However, Canada has given permission to drug companies to produce a generic form of the highly addictive oxycodone, though it is not yet known when it will be available to the public. Northwest HIDTA continues to cooperate with University of Washington (UW) researchers to determine the effectiveness of the 911 Good Samaritan Law which went into effect in the summer of 2010. The law provides immunity from criminal charges of drug possession to anyone who calls 911 to report an overdose. The law also creates access to Narcan (generic name naloxone), a drug used to reverse the effects of an opiate overdose.

Other dangerous drugs, such as synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones, have gained nationwide attention in recent years. Prior to the emergency designation of these drugs as Schedule I by the DEA, Spice, K2 and bath salts as these synthetics are sometimes marketed, were viewed as legal highs. In April of 2013, the DEA permanently scheduled 3,4-methylenedioxy-N-methylcathinone (methylone) as a Schedule I drug. Methylone is often found in synthetic cathinones sold as bath salts. President Obama signed the Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012 (SDAPA), temporarily making 26 types of synthetic cannabinoids, or synthetic marijuana, a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act.

MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, commonly known as ecstasy) is also a significant problem, although most seizures appear destined for other markets.

The Washington and British Columbia portions of the U.S.-Canada border serve as a major transshipment point for drugs, illicit proceeds, and precursors. Mexican national poly-drug organizations are responsible for most large-scale drug distribution in Washington and use the state as a platform to expand their illicit operations into Canada.

DTOs in the Northwest HIDTA region utilize novel money laundering techniques and emerging technologies to launder illicit drug proceeds. Bulk cash smuggling, the use of money service businesses, and the double exchange continue to be the primary methods of money laundering in the state. The double exchange usually involves the smuggling of cocaine and marijuana across the U.S.-Canada border while decreasing the need to smuggle the proceeds of the drugs by instead wiring money. While no investigations have been reported, the use of Bitcoins, an anonymous and decentralized digital monetary system, is likely to emerge as a major money laundering tool for traffickers.

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

Northwest HIDTA law enforcement initiatives have established priorities that focus on immobilizing DTOs and MLOs, especially those involved with drug-related violent crime, and targeting those DTOs/MLOs that have the greatest adverse impact on the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities. A concentration on firearm use to perpetrate crime is another substantial commitment by all Northwest HIDTA investigative initiatives. There is a determined effort to counter drug movement into and through the region and to arrest those who conceal the proceeds from illegal drug sales within the region. This is exemplified by the continuing enhancements to regional interdiction initiatives.

(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 2011, Northwest HIDTA initiatives investigated complex cases involving larger DTOs. Specifically, 58 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 2012, \$1,612,015 was allocated to Northwest HIDTA's enforcement initiatives, contributing to the dismantling of 10 clandestine laboratories, 5 lab dump sites, and 1 chemical/glassware seizures. The total value of labs dismantled in 2012 was \$148,350. Methamphetamine seizures totaled 216 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine in 2012, with an estimated wholesale value of \$8.2 million.

Ohio HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,819,955

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The leading drug threat in the Ohio HIDTA region continues to be heroin and prescription opioids. Heroin has surpassed cocaine as the greatest drug threat, as the availability of heroin continues to grow. In response to the Ohio HIDTA Drug Threat Survey 2012, most law enforcement officials identified heroin as the greatest drug threat in their areas along with prescription opioid diversion and abuse.

Heroin availability continues to increase in the Ohio HIDTA region because of an increased supply of black tar heroin originating from Mexico. The high demand for heroin is a result of the rise in prescription opioids abuse, the rising cost of CPDs, and the reduced availability of CPDs due to recently enacted state laws that reduced the number of pain clinics operating in Ohio. Recent years have seen illicit prescription drug (IPD) availability and abuse increasing in the Ohio HIDTA region. The abuse of prescription opioids has contributed to an increase in drug overdose deaths in Ohio.

Cocaine, especially crack cocaine, remains widely available and continues to pose a significant threat to society because of the drug's association with violent crime.

Current levels of methamphetamine availability and local methamphetamine production are low. In the Ohio HIDTA regions, the One-Pot method of production is most common and increasing in use.

One emerging trend is the trafficking of designer drugs, Bath Salts, K2, and Spice. Two of Ohio's largest metropolitan areas, Cleveland and Cincinnati, saw an alarming increase in the recent appearance and use of Bath Salts and K2/Spice.

(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 collocation, interagency cooperation, and consolidation of strategic, operational, and tactical information, the Ohio HIDTA fosters a comprehensive response for targeting drug trafficking organizations and other illicit drug activity. The Ohio HIDTA brings together 224 Federal, state, and local agencies and 1,129 personnel in a comprehensive, coordinated and effective merger 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 level, 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, marihuana eradication, highway enforcement, parcel interdiction, and prevention awareness.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2012, Ohio HIDTA initiatives dismantled 164 clandestine labs. The dismantlement of these labs resulted in denied revenue of \$2,845,000. Additionally, the Ohio HIDTA removed 8.6 kilograms of methamphetamine from the marketplace in 2012 with a wholesale value of \$231,822. The Ohio HIDTA does not track initiative expenditures by types of investigations.

Oregon HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,649,651

(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 fifth in the United States for reported rates of past month illicit drug use by people ages 12 or older in 2009 and 2010.¹¹ More recently, 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 2011.¹² Moreover, of the 10 cities studied,¹³ 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%).¹⁴

Drug-related deaths dropped slightly statewide in 2012, decreasing 7 percent from 2011 (240) to 2012 (223).¹⁵ Deaths related to heroin use reflected the highest number of fatalities, rising 3 percent from 2011 (143) to 2012 (147). The second highest number of deaths was related to methamphetamine, which dropped 13 percent between 2011 (107) and 2012 (93). Cocaine-related deaths also fell in the last year, decreasing 43 percent from 2011 (33) to 2012 (19).¹⁶

Methamphetamine continues to be readily available and widely used throughout the HIDTA region and remains the state's most significant drug threat. The number of methamphetamine labs discovered and dismantled has decreased by 98 percent since 2004, due largely to strict pseudoephedrine control legislation enacted by the Oregon legislature, as well as the enactment of the Federal Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005. Despite additional controls, methamphetamine continues to flow into the United States and Oregon in the form of ice methamphetamine.

Heroin use and availability have increased in Oregon. Additionally, use of CPDs has continued to expand. The most recent Federal data shows that Oregon ranked first in the United States during 2010 and 2011 for reported rates of past year use of non-medical pain

¹¹ Table B.1. Illicit Drug Use in Past Month, by Age Group and State: Annual Averages Based on 2009 and 2010 NSDUHs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, downloaded May 2013

¹² "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

¹³ Includes Atlanta, GA; Charlotte, NC; Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; Indianapolis, IN; Minneapolis, MN; New York, NY; Portland, OR; Sacramento, CA; and Washington, D.C.

¹⁴ ADAM II, 2011 Annual Report, Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program II, Office of National Drug Control Policy, May 2012

¹⁵ 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

¹⁶ "Drug Related Deaths 2012", Oregon State Medical Examiner, Oregon State Police

relievers by people ages 12 or older.¹⁷ Law enforcement reporting indicates users of prescription opiates are increasingly switching to heroin because it is 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 Mexican national drug trafficking organizations (MNDTOs). 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,¹⁸ 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 money laundering organizations 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 2012, the Oregon HIDTA disrupted or dismantled 39 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.

¹⁷ State Estimates of Nonmedical Use of Prescription Pain Relievers, the NSDUH Report, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, January 8, 2013.

¹⁸ Oregon Revised Statutes 475.300 - 475.346.

(3) Methamphetamine

In 2012, 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 241 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine with a wholesale value in excess of \$6.7 million. Those funds were also used to dismantle two clandestine laboratories that were capable of producing methamphetamine worth more than \$5,900.

Philadelphia-Camden HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$3,587,891

(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). 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. The PC HIDTA is also situated within one of the most dangerous and violent regions in the Nation; in 2012, both Philadelphia and Camden reported substantial increases in violent crime, particularly homicides and shooting incidents.

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.

While not a traditional center of large-scale, well-organized, and/or nationally affiliated street gangs, recent 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 2013 Strategy is designed to support the goals of reducing drug trafficking and related violent crime in the PC HIDTA region, as well as 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 skill sets, 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 money laundering organizations; 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 ice methamphetamine 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 2012, PC HIDTA initiatives seized 2.3 kilograms of methamphetamine and 5.9 kilograms of ice methamphetamine. An estimated \$7,500 in HIDTA funds were used in furtherance of these investigations. Although several more rural sections of Pennsylvania, particularly north and west of the PC HIDTA region, have been impacted by the influx of small, “one-pot method” meth labs, these do not significantly impact the availability of methamphetamine in the PC HIDTA region. In 2012, 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 2015: \$7,933,655

(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 drug trafficking organizations operating in the region, predominantly in the public housing projects;
- Money laundering schemes (including assets) generated by DTOs;
- International drug trafficking organizations 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.

PRPD statistics indicate that 2012 closed with 978 murders, a slight reduction if compared with 2011. The USVI experienced a slight increase in its homicide rate for 2012, bringing the total up to 50 from 42 in 2011.

Regional DTOs are highly mobile and oftentimes gather their own Intel and change trends and patterns to avoid law enforcement detection. Cocaine is the primary drug threat in PR and the USVI. It is readily available in large quantities and widely abused 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 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 PR and a lower-level threat to the USVI. Heroin is widely abused in PR. Heroin abuse in the USVI is relatively low and occurs predominantly on the island of St. Croix.

Drug seizures continue to happen in airports such as the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport in Carolina and the Rafael Hernández Airport in Aguadilla. DTOs at these airports take advantage of periods of the night or early morning hours where there is no law enforcement or K9 units present.

The abuse and diversion of prescription drugs is showing an increase in abuse in PR, especially amongst the youth. DEA investigated several diversion schemes of thousands of controlled substances prescriptions that were issued by doctors in the island with the aid of fraudulent clinics and patients. The controlled medications are at times sold at the drug points to users or sold to the drug point owners by individuals who obtained them fraudulently.

(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 the continued cooperation and effective relationships established with Federal, state, 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 money laundering organizations, with emphasis on violent organizations; and conducting interdiction of drug shipments. The PR/USVI 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 FY2014: \$8,025,468

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Methamphetamine distribution and abuse pose the greatest overall drug threat to the Rocky Mountain HIDTA (RMHIDTA) region, while marijuana is the most widely available and abused 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, 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 Rocky Mountain HIDTA 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 amongst the initiatives to address current drug threats at Federal, state, and local levels, while impacting the availability and abuse 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 (1) reduce drug availability by eliminating or disrupting DTOs, and (2) 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 drug trafficking organizations. 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 combat drug trafficking and drug abuse.

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

The RM HIDTA 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, RM HIDTA 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 RM HIDTA initiatives are poly-drug in nature. In 2012, the HIDTA-funded task forces, and the Rocky Mountain Highway Patrol Network seized over 369 pounds of methamphetamine and over 154 pounds of ice methamphetamine with an estimated total wholesale value of over \$13.4 million. During the same timeframe, RM HIDTA task forces seized 20 clandestine methamphetamine labs. Seventeen of the labs were less than 2 ounces, and three of the labs were 2 to 8 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 2015: \$10,655,229

(2) Justification.

(A) Threat Assessment

The South Florida HIDTA (SFLHIDTA) region is recognized as one of the most prolific drug trafficking and money laundering areas in the United States. The region encompasses the contiguous areas of Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties. With a population of over 5.8 million, it is highly diverse in its composition with deep-rooted cultural and financial ties to Latin America, the Bahamas, and other Caribbean nations. As a premier gateway to the United States, South Florida offers optimal maritime, air, and land transportation to and from drug source countries and key transit areas. The region is also distinguished by strong tourism and trade industries – both seamless venues for DTOs and MLOs to co-mingle within legitimate business communities and carry out their illicit operations. These synergetic influences aid the continuous funneling of illicit drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and methamphetamine into the United States and support drug traffic and money laundering activity on a routine basis.

An analysis of SFLHIDTA seizure data indicated there were 354 DTOs and MLOs identified in the SFLHIDTA region during 2012; that is a 10 percent increase over the 317 DTOs and MLOs identified in 2011. Approximately 75 percent of DTOs are involved in cocaine trafficking. Colombians have maintained a stronghold in the region, still accounting for the largest segment of the cocaine drug trafficking community, which is mostly international in scope.

Two indicators of the cocaine threat are the SFLHIDTA initiative seizure activity and the SFLHIDTA 2013 Annual Threat Assessment Survey (herein referred to as Threat Survey) data. Both indicate that cocaine is readily available and the region continues to be a major source of supply to local, regional, and national markets. Intelligence sources have advised there may be an increase of cocaine entering the United States via Caribbean routes at various South Florida ports of entry. As anticipated, cocaine outranked all other illicit drugs according to Threat Survey data. It remains the most significant primary threat and will likely continue as the highest illicit drug threat for the region.

Despite regulatory reform, Controlled Prescription Drugs (CPDs) are still the number one cause of drug related deaths in the South Florida region. Although the number of users is declining, consequences of CPDs remain stable. Law enforcement crackdowns, combined with legislative restrictions and the implementation of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program in 2011, may be credited for the moderate decline of seizure activity by SFLHIDTA initiatives during 2012. Diverted CPDs illegally acquired via doctor shopping, forged prescriptions, theft, and the Internet are expected to continue throughout the near term.

Marijuana remains a primary threat to the region. A prior period comparison of SFLHIDTA seizure data indicates that indoor and outdoor marijuana seizures exceeded the prior year's activity by 30 percent. Threat Survey data also indicates that marijuana is still the most

readily available of all illicit drugs. Indoor marijuana continues to be the most serious variety of regional marijuana threats due to more proficient indoor cultivation processes yielding higher contents of the psychoactive ingredient, THC.

As projected, efforts to control the supply and misuse of prescription opioids have instigated an increase in heroin use and associated problems during recent months across South Florida. With fewer diverted prescription opioids available, subject matter experts argue that addicts have turned to heroin as the cheaper opiate. A 16 percent increase in heroin seizure activity by SFLHIDTA initiatives during 2012 supports this assertion. As such, the heroin threat is being closely monitored by law enforcement officials.

Even though Federal and statewide legislation illegalized so-called designer drugs such as synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones during 2012, law enforcement officials report that they are easily obtained under the counter from unscrupulous vendors at convenience stores and gas stations. The seizure activity of 1,788 kilograms of synthetic marijuana by SFLHIDTA initiatives during 2012 highlights the significance of this new illicit market. The high potency of these substances – which varies due to the inconsistent chemical spraying techniques used during the production process – and the life-threatening health risks they impose, make these substances an ongoing threat that merits national concern.

Like synthetic marijuana, synthetic cathinones or bath salts are similarly packaged and sold. The numerous calls to the Florida Poison Center with life-threatening reactions underscore the severity of these threats which are further aggravated by deceptive marketing ploys that prey on the youth. One emerging trend that arrived on the South Florida recreational drug scene in 2012 was the phenomenon of the clear white powder filled capsules known as “Molly.” Although Molly has been touted among distributors as pure MDMA powder, drug lab tests confirmed that most submissions were methylone, a type of bath salt. Since Molly is still sold by distributors as MDMA or Ecstasy, Molly seizure data has been combined with MDMA and Ecstasy seizure data. Combined MDMA and Ecstasy seizures increased by 37 percent, going from 16,901 dosage units seized in 2011 to 27,070 dosage units seized in 2012. Since intelligence sources and drug labs report a decrease in MDMA tablets, this increase in MDMA seizure data by SFLHIDTA initiatives is more than likely a reflection of this sweeping trend known as Molly. Because of the numerous life-threatening risks associated with these hallucinogenic substances, this drug threat remains a serious concern to the South Florida HIDTA for the near term.

An analysis of Threat Survey data and on-going investigative activity indicates that violent gangs continue to plague the SFLHIDTA community with an array of criminal activity linked to drug trafficking, which includes the intermediate wholesale and retail distribution of illicit drugs and diversion of controlled prescription drugs. Identity theft is often associated with violent gangs which continue to become more involved in white collar crimes.

The SFLHIDTA region remains a premier hub for high profile 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. In addition to massive bulk cash smuggling activity, drug trafficking organizations use a myriad of classic money laundering schemes that exploit the infrastructure of the South Florida import/export industry. These

include, but are not limited to, the Black Market Peso Exchange, the Black Market Bolivar Exchange, invoicing schemes and various gold schemes. A total value of \$27.1 million in cash and assets were seized by SFLHIDTA task force initiatives during 2012.

(B) Strategy for achieving goals and objectives

The SFL HIDTA continues to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among Federal, state, and local agencies, contributing over 654 full-time personnel, co-located and united to achieve the common goal of disrupting and dismantling DTOs through long-term multiagency investigations and operations. The HIDTA's strategy consists of 26 initiatives focused on the multiple regional drug threats identified in the SFL HIDTA Threat Assessment. Structured to apply the collective expertise of local, state, and Federal agencies, the initiatives are designed to dismantle major DTOs and simultaneously disrupt their flow of drugs and monetary assets.

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 made on these fronts in 2010/2011. SFL HIDTA intends to build on this progress in future years.

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

The SFLHIDTA supports the Strategy by disrupting and/or dismantling significant drug trafficking and money laundering organizations, 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 law enforcement sources, there has been a resurgence of methamphetamine within the region. SFLHIDTA seizure data indicates there was an increase in the amount of methamphetamine seized over the last 3 years, going from 1 kilogram in 2010, to 2 kilograms 2011, and climbing to 29 kilograms in 2012. Despite one particularly large seizure, there was still an overall increase of methamphetamine seizure activity. Threat Survey data combined with SFLHIDTA survey data and anecdotal information provided by law enforcement suggests that a resurgence of methamphetamine within the SFLHIDTA region may be on the horizon.

Methamphetamine is typically not produced in the SFLHIDTA region. Most of the methamphetamine trafficked in South Florida is manufactured in Mexican Super Labs via the "P2P" production method. While there was a large increase in the number of occurrences of "One-Pot" labs in the state of Florida during 2012, there was only one seized in Broward County.

Southwest Border HIDTA – Arizona Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$10,108,277

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Southwest Border HIDTA – Arizona Region (SWB HIDTA/AZ Region) 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 the Republic of 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 cells of these DTOs to disrupt the flow of drugs through Arizona, directly impacting 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 180 percent, from 691 kilograms in 2007 to 1,935 kilograms in 2012. The amount of heroin seized increased 627 percent, from 75 kilograms in 2007 to 545 kilograms in 2012. In 2012, approximately 36 percent of the marijuana seized along the SWB was seized in Arizona. Marijuana seizures in Arizona have remained at a very high level, with 603,222 kilograms seized in 2007, compared to 601,680 kilograms in 2012.

Arizona is also a southbound entry point for bulk currency and weapons to Mexico. From 2009 through 2012, over \$127.0 million in illicit drug profits was seized in Arizona from DTOs. Moreover, over \$18.0 million was seized at Phoenix International Airport between 2009 and 2012. Arizona is also a major source of weapons traced to crimes committed in Mexico. For example, the DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seizures of weapons at Arizona ports of entry (POEs) increased 378 percent, from 9 in 2007 to 43 in 2012. Outbound ammunition seizures at the POEs increased 6,247 percent, from 760 rounds of ammunition in 2007 to 48,236 in 2012.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

The SWB HIDTA/AZ Region uses an intelligence-driven, threat-focused strategy to target the most significant DTOs and MLOs impacting Arizona. The SWB HIDTA/AZ Region 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 Region continues to coordinate and support the efforts of more than 575 sworn law enforcement officials from over 70 Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies.

The SWB HIDTA/AZ Region 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 Region: (1) facilitates a coordinated threat-focused, intelligence-led strategy against the most significant DTOs and MLOs impacting 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 money laundering organizations, 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 180 percent from 2007 to 2012. 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; and 1,935 kilograms in 2012.

Southwest Border HIDTA - California Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$9,008,029

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

San Diego and Imperial counties are national distribution centers for illicit drugs entering the United States from Mexico and from Central and South America, including heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana. In 2012, over 182,000 kilograms of drugs valued at almost \$1.9 billion and proceeds worth over \$17.5 million were permanently removed from the profit sheets of regional DTOs. As mandated by the National HIDTA Program, SD/I HIDTA initiatives are focusing their efforts on major DTOs, resulting in 17 OCDETF cases, of which 9 were Consolidated Priority Organization Targets (CPOTs) or Regional Priority Organizational Targets (RPOTs) for a total of 79 that 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, Boston, Detroit, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Chicago, Tampa, and Charlotte.

(B) Strategy for Achieving HIDTA Goals and Objectives

The Southwest Border HIDTA – California Region (SWB HIDTA/CA Region) assists in the coordination of joint operational and supporting initiatives to deter, disrupt, dismantle, and ultimately destroy the most significant DTOs and their supporting transportation and money laundering organizations. The SWB HIDTA/CA Region also emphasizes efforts against methamphetamine manufacturing, precursor supply, and abuse through innovative enforcement operations and demand reduction programs using a multi-agency, joint concept of operations. The Region 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 money laundering organizations, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs, specifically by:

- Fostering long-term investigations (including 17 OCDETF 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 Investigative Support Center/Fusion Center with all intelligence and information gathering units operating from a single site;
- Managing two initiatives that are national in scope (dealing with methamphetamine / Rx drugs and domestic marijuana, respectively) and provide training and support across the Nation; 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 2012, the SWB HIDTA/CA Region initiatives seized 1,457 kg of Mexican methamphetamine, preventing \$52.5 million worth of methamphetamine from reaching the market. The National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative (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 2015: \$7,113,967

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

Illicit drug smuggling and transshipments 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 abuse of methamphetamine pose a serious threat to the Southwest Border HIDTA – New Mexico Region (SWB HIDTA/NM Region). The distribution and abuse of heroin is a growing and serious threat statewide, but is 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 abuse problem.

The state's proximity to Mexico, its geography along the 180 mile sparsely populated, shared 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 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 a limited law enforcement presence and access to the state's transportation infrastructure, make this area vulnerable for exploitation by DTOs. Criminal groups, street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle gangs as well as 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 Region's integrated systems approach uses coordination, information sharing, and intelligence to synchronize the efforts of enforcement, prosecution, and support initiatives. There are 18 initiatives that include 16 multi-jurisdictional law enforcement task forces, 8 prosecution sub-initiatives, and 3 support initiatives. The support initiatives include training, IT, and forensic laboratory support. The number of participating agencies includes 5 tribal, 49 local, 11 state, and 12 Federal law enforcement agencies. These initiatives focus on interdiction, investigation, prosecution, intelligence sharing, and support. SWB HIDTA/NM Region 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 Pueblos of Santa Clara, Ohkay Owingeh, Mescalero Reservation, Pojoaque and the Navajo Reservation all participate in discretionary funding projects.

(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/money laundering organizations, 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 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 2012, approximately 266.7 kilograms of methamphetamine and ice methamphetamine were seized with an estimated wholesale value of \$7.7 million, which equates to approximately 5.4 percent of all drugs seized by the SWB HIDTA/NM Region. During 2012, the SWB HIDTA/NM Region used approximately \$393,100 to investigate, disrupt/dismantle and/or prosecute methamphetamine DTOs and seized 1 clandestine lab.

Southwest Border HIDTA - South Texas Region

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$7,654,825

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The Southwest Border HIDTA – South Texas Region (SWB HIDTA/STX Region) is a principal high-transit smuggling corridor for illicit drugs and undocumented individuals along the Southwest border. It 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 Region. 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 Counternarcotic Strategy*, the SWB HIDTA/STX Region 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 Region 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 Committee 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 money laundering organizations 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 2012, 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 2012, approximately 917 kilograms of methamphetamine and 16 kilograms of ice methamphetamine were seized by HIDTA initiatives, an increase from 2011. 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 2015: \$6,958,865

(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 Nation. Mexico-based DTOs are the primary organizational threat to the SWB HIDTA/WTX Region. They maintain sophisticated command-and-control centers in Mexico, where they exert nearly total control over 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 they were in 2008. The year 2008 preceded the significant violence in Mexico, which had an effect of reducing drug importation in the region 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 30 months, there are still pockets of contention that will fuel the violence in Juarez.

(B) Strategy for Achieving Goals and Objectives

The SWB HIDTA/WTX Region continues to foster cooperative and effective working relationships among 10 Federal agencies, 1 U.S. Attorneys' Office, 7 state agencies, and 19 local agencies to achieve the common goals of disrupting and dismantling DTOs, and securing the SWB HIDTA/WTX Region 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 money laundering organizations, thereby disrupting the market for illegal drugs. As the keystone region for the *National Southwest Border Counternarcotic 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 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 2012, but did interdict and seize 46.6 kilograms of methamphetamine.

Texoma HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$2,565,801

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The significant drug and drug trafficking threats to the Texoma HIDTA's area of responsibility (AOR) remain consistent. This finding is based on law enforcement intelligence, information, data, and 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 Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex (DFW) as a command and control center for international drug trafficking networks. In this regard, it is clear that the DFW has become a "constructive" border city to Mexico. There are a number of Mexico-based cartels; however, among the most significant are La Familia Michoacana/Los Caballeros Templarios, Los Zetas, Gulf, Juarez, Sinaloa (headed by Joaquin Guzman-Loera aka "Chapo" Guzman), Beltran-Leyva, and Tijuana Cartels. Almost all of these have, or have had, command and control elements in the Texoma HIDTA AOR, with the exception of perhaps the Tijuana Cartel. Of these, command and control elements affiliated with La Familia Michoacana/Los Caballeros Templarios (LFM/LCT) and Los Zetas Cartels currently exert the most influence on trafficking operations into and through the Texoma HIDTA AOR, while historically, the Juarez and Sinaloa Cartels have also been very active, particularly in the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma areas. Methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin have been reported by Texoma HIDTA partner agencies as the most significant drug threats in the Texoma HIDTA AOR. Manufacturing, transportation, and distribution by Mexico-based DTOs and domestic distribution DTOs have been reported by Texoma HIDTA partner agencies as the most significant trafficking threats in the region.¹⁹

(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 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

¹⁹ (U//LES/FOUO) Drug Enforcement Administration Dallas Field Division May 2012 Threat Assessment.

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 our 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 86 percent (\$2,647,000) of the HIDTA funding to initiatives targeting Mexican DTOs distributing methamphetamine. In 2012, Texoma HIDTA initiatives seized over 227 kilograms of methamphetamine and 185 kilograms of ice methamphetamine, with a total estimated value of over \$11.2 million.

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$11,469,932

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The primary drug threats to the Washington/Baltimore (W/B) HIDTA region are crack cocaine, heroin, 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, primarily New York, and then repackaged and brought to the W/B HIDTA area. There is some evidence that this pattern is changing. For example, a significant number of HIDTA cases have involved shipments originating in Texas, California, and Arizona, and a growing number of DTOs are reported as receiving drugs directly from abroad, especially Africa, Central America, and Southwest Asia. Besides the continuing threats posed by the drug trafficking and money laundering organizations 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 107 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 *National Drug Control 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 2012, W/B HIDTA initiatives did not detect any methamphetamine labs operating in the region. However, HIDTA initiatives did seize 4.8 kilograms of methamphetamine worth approximately \$196,123 (wholesale value). An estimated \$50,000 in HIDTA funds were used in these efforts.

Wisconsin HIDTA

(1) Amount of Funding Requested for FY 2015: \$4,392,959

(2) Justification

(A) Threat Assessment

The central geographic location of Wisconsin, specifically the metropolitan areas of Milwaukee and Madison, makes it prone to being a midpoint and a destination area for drug trafficking operations. These metropolitan areas are positioned along the I-90/-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 abuse of heroin continue to pose significant problems for the community. Closely associated with the heroin threat is the abuse of prescription medications, especially synthetic opiates such as OxyContin. Reports from law enforcement officials and substance abuse treatment providers clearly demonstrate a strong correlation between pharmaceutical abuses progressing to heroin addictions.

Marijuana continues to remain the most abundantly abused drug in the Wisconsin HIDTA region. Within the last year and projecting into 2014, demand for higher potency marijuana products has increased significantly. 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 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; however, there are indications that their popularity and use may be declining, most likely due to lower quality and higher prices.

In addition to these primary drug threats, emerging drugs are beginning to enter the market. Synthetic marijuana such as K2/Spice and synthetic stimulants known as “bath salts” are very popular. Law enforcement has reacted quickly to identify this threat and has assisted efforts to create legislation to establish these synthetic derivatives as controlled substances.

(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, 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 drug, gang, gun, and crime resistance.

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

The Wisconsin HIDTA supports the *Strategy* by dismantling or disrupting drug trafficking and/or money laundering organizations, 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 2012. According to the most recent Wisconsin HIDTA Threat Assessment, there is no significant methamphetamine production or use in the HIDTA region of Wisconsin. In 2012, a little over ½ kilogram of methamphetamine was seized and no ice methamphetamine was reported. 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 from 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 2015: \$2,757,642

(2) Justification

The National HIDTA Assistance Center (NHAC) provides programmatic support to all designated HIDTAs, their grant recipients, and the National HIDTA Program Office. The NHAC initiatives are organized into four components aligned under the direction of the NHAC's Management and Coordination Unit. The Training, Media/Technology, and Domestic Highway Enforcement initiatives seek to increase the efficiency of the overall HIDTA program and provide support to the individual HIDTAs and their respective initiatives.

The NHAC's diverse initiatives provide training programs and event logistics support—including support of the National HIDTA Conference, performance management surveys, collateral print materials, web designs, and audio/video productions which more efficiently use limited HIDTA fiscal resources. The NHAC initiatives assist in budget preparations, development of Executive Boards, and coordination of special projects, such as the DHE Initiative and management of the HIDTA Financial Management System. Other services include the management of the National HIDTA online collaboration workspace, library, and calendar. The NHAC also provides on-line training software that is used by all program offices.

In addition, the NHAC's Finance Unit, which provides contract-funded support to ONDCP, performs desk-audits of all requests for reimbursement of HIDTA grant funds, maintains a record of all grant transactions on the NHAC's FMS system, and provides other types of financial support to the HIDTAs as required.

Auditing Services and Associated Activities

The auditing services and associated activities portion of the request includes:

- **Financial Audits** - The objective of the financial-related audits is to provide assurance of the accuracy and integrity of claims for HIDTA funds by 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.
- **Program and 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 Audit Related Travel** – Funding will cover financial and audit related ONDCP staff travel required 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) 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 2013 Operational	FY 2014 Enacted	FY 2015 Request
(\$ in thousands)	\$226,046	\$238,522	\$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 2013 will be available once data have been fully collected and analyzed in summer 2014. For 2012, the most recent year for which complete data are available, HIDTA reports indicate there were 733 initiatives in the 28 HIDTAs distributed among the following categories: intelligence, enforcement, prosecution, interdiction, support, prevention, treatment, and management²⁰. These initiatives were staffed by approximately 7,400 Federal agents and analysts; 15,900 state, local, and tribal officers, analysts; and other representatives, including U.S. Attorneys, District Attorneys, and prevention specialists.

In 2012, HIDTA initiatives identified 8,864 DTOs operating in their areas of responsibility and reported disrupting or dismantling 3,030. Nearly two-thirds (62 percent) 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 \$819.0 million in cash and \$1.1 billion in non-cash assets from drug traffickers (\$1.9 billion total). PMP data further indicate that 38 percent of HIDTAs achieved an average cost per DTO disrupted or dismantled below the program average of \$58,212.

Quantities of Drugs Removed from the Marketplace by HIDTA Initiatives in 2012	
Drugs Seized	Kilograms
Marijuana	1,433,755
Marijuana Plants-Outdoors ²¹	1,473,927
Marijuana Plants- Indoors	103,226
Cocaine Powder	47,721
Crack Cocaine	2,403
Methamphetamine	8,226
Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice)	8,220
Heroin	3,408

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, HIDTA Performance Management Process (PMP) Database, data retrieved August 5, 2013

HIDTA Program Highlights

Training

To support the HIDTA program's goal of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives, Executive Boards allocate significant amounts of funding to training and related activities that contribute to accomplishing this goal, which, in turn, enhances the ability of participating agencies to disrupt and dismantle DTOs. HIDTAs regularly make training available to area drug unit personnel, to include non-HIDTA participating agencies. The training

²⁰ 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.

²¹ As reported in the HIDTA PMP database, 1 marijuana plant is equivalent to 0.45 kilogram.

improves investigative capability and promotes communication, cooperation, and a strong cohesion among investigators who train together.

In 2012, 763,000 training hours were provided to 76,625 students across the 28 HIDTAs. Results of 6 month follow-up surveys indicate that 95% of respondents found that the course they followed improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities; and 87 % have applied course material since completing the training.

Intelligence and Information Sharing

Intelligence and information sharing is essential to coordinated and effective operations; thus, each HIDTA has at least one Investigative Support Center (ISC) designed to develop intelligence, share information, and provide deconfliction and technical support to enforcement initiatives. ISCs are managed and staffed by representatives of participating agencies with direct on-site access to their agencies' information databases.

In 2012, HIDTAs budgeted a total of \$48.4 million for intelligence and information sharing to support 57 operational intelligence and information sharing initiatives (32 primary ISCs and 25 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 HIDTAs act as neutral centers to manage, deconflict, analyze, and report on drug enforcement activities in their respective regions.

In 2012, HIDTA ISCs processed a total of 262,172 event deconfliction²² requests submitted by law enforcement agencies, 45 percent of which were determined to be positive hits. More than one million case/subject/target deconfliction²³ requests were processed, 30 percent of which were positive hits. As many as 52,148 investigative leads were referred to other HIDTA ISCs and law enforcement agencies and 28,376 cases were provided analytical support. ISCs distributed 489 intelligence products (threat assessments and information bulletins) to other HIDTA ISCs and law enforcement agencies.

National Methamphetamine and Pharmaceuticals Initiative (NMPI)

In 2012, the NMPI continued to sponsor and manage conferences bringing together Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and international partners such as China and Canada, to create a uniform strategy aimed at restricting the availability of essential chemicals used in the clandestine manufacture of methamphetamine, and disrupting drug trafficking organizations involved in the distribution of methamphetamine or the diversion of prescription drugs. Regular meetings were held on a regional level for the purpose of intelligence sharing, trend identifying, and strategy development. The primary goal of these meetings is to unify law enforcement (at all levels), prosecutors, and the various intelligence agencies in a combined

²² 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.

²³ 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.

effort to deny clandestine illicit drug manufacturers the chemicals (especially precursors) and other raw materials and equipment to operate their laboratories. These meetings focus primarily on methamphetamine production and related issues and promote best practices and a unified strategy.

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 *National Drug Control Strategy*.

National Marijuana Initiative (NMI)

In 2012, the NMI continued to support the *National Drug Control Strategy*, in particular the effort led by the Public Lands Drug Control Committee to eliminate marijuana production on our public lands. Operation Mountain Sweep, an 8-week, multi-agency and multistate marijuana operation targeting large-scale illegal marijuana grows on public lands in seven states, eradicated more than 726,000 marijuana plants. The value of the removed plants was estimated to be over \$1.45 billion. In addition to the marijuana plants eradicated, huge amounts of trash, miles of irrigation line, and many pounds of fertilizer and pesticides were removed from grow sites on public lands. The NMI played a key role in coordinating the support of 10 HIDTAs in 7 states (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Washington) to this successful operation.

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 continued to play 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 2012, SWB HIDTA initiatives, all 5 Regions combined, dismantled or disrupted 401 DTOs and MLOs, of which 71 percent were determined to be part of an international or multi-state operation and 13 percent, were part of an OCDETF designated investigation. Seizures of drugs and cash and other assets in 2012 resulted in a total ROI of \$103.45 for each SWB HIDTA dollar invested in investigative, interdiction, prosecution, and intelligence initiatives. Cash seizures in 2012 totaled more than \$100.3 million and the combined value of illegal drugs, cash, and other assets exceeded \$4.0 trillion. In addition, the HIDTA provided training to 15,300 Federal, state, and local participants and analytical support to 2,012 investigations.

National Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy

In January 2012, following an extensive consultation process, the Administration released the first *National Northern Border Counternarcotics Strategy*, a framework for ongoing efforts to reduce the drug threats on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. The Strategy builds upon the

understanding of shared responsibility articulated in *Beyond the Border: A Joint Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness*. The Strategy also recognizes the reality that transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) operating on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border exploit 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), meth, and cocaine between the two countries.

The HIDTA program supports the effort to secure the Northern border through initiatives such as the Northwest HIDTA Border Task Force, a 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 Taskforce (BEST), and a prosecution unit. The HIDTA Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) program also supports border security by fostering information exchange between U.S. and Canadian law enforcement through training opportunities and highway corridor conference calls.

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 2012, 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.

The SWB HIDTA/Arizona Region, for instance, provides training and equipment to tribal law enforcement involved in HIDTA interdiction and investigative initiatives and continues to participate in the Arizona Indian Country Intelligence Network. In 2013, the Arizona Region established the Native American Targeted Investigation of Violent Enterprises (NATIVE) Task Force. A multi-agency task force led by the Tohono O'odham Police Department, NATIVE will focus on substantially reducing drug trafficking and related crimes via utilization of complex investigative techniques leading to the interdiction and seizure of drugs and currency from drug smuggling organizations that utilize the border corridor between the United States and the Republic of Mexico through the Tohono O'odham Nation. Furthermore, the Arizona Region has relocated its Investigative Support Center and its Management and Coordination Initiative onto the Tohono O'odham Nation Reservation, while its law enforcement training center opened in July 2013 in the Gila River Indian Community's corporate center. The state of the art training facility will benefit all initiatives in the HIDTA region and all drug law enforcement in AZ.

In addition, two Native American projects were selected to receive 2013 HIDTA

discretionary funding. These are the SWB HIDTA New Mexico Region's FBI Safe Streets HIDTA Gang Task Force and BIA Indian Country HIDTA Drug Task Force which will work together to target drug trafficking in the Northern New Mexico Pueblos, and the above-mentioned NATIVE task force of the SWB HIDTA Arizona Region.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Proper disposal of unwanted or expired prescription drugs is one of ONDCP's pillars in reducing prescription drug abuse. HIDTAs across the country assist with National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (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 provide a safe and convenient method of safe and proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications.

Discretionary Funding

In 2012, ONDCP allocated over \$9.7 million in discretionary funding to projects designed to further support the *Strategy*, including:

- The Domestic Highway Enforcement (DHE) Project to fund intelligence-driven multi-jurisdictional law enforcement efforts directed at ongoing transportation corridor projects along our Nation's highways. DHE operations resulted in the disruption/dismantlement of 67 DTOs. Seizures included \$81.8 million in cash, 6.0 million in other drug-related assets, and drugs estimated at \$432.4 million in wholesale value;
- The Domestic Marijuana Project (DMP) to help HIDTAs in high marijuana production areas fund law enforcement entities investigating DTOs engaged in indoor and outdoor marijuana production, particularly on public lands. These additional resources supported officer overtime,²⁴ aviation flying hours, special equipment purchases, and other investigative costs, complementing eradication efforts of the DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP), the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the National Guard, and the M7 states²⁵. With this support, ONDCP enhanced interagency efforts to reduce marijuana cultivation and contributed to the eradication of more than 3.9 million plants from indoor and outdoor grows nationwide in 2012, of which 2.9 million plants were eradicated in the M7 states, 2.1 million in California alone;
- Prevention initiatives to facilitate increased coordination between the law enforcement and prevention communities to reduce drug abuse and its negative consequences;
- The Parcel Project to focus on the investigation of DTOs using parcel shipping services to transport illegal drugs and drug proceeds;

²⁴ HIDTA funds do not usually pay officer salaries but can be used to reimburse overtime for a state, local, or tribal law enforcement officer or a uniformed Federal agent (e.g., uniformed Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Forest Service) if the participant is eligible for such compensation by his/her parent agency and the overtime is performed in support of a HIDTA Enforcement Initiative or Intelligence and Information Sharing Initiative.

²⁵ The "Marijuana Seven" or "M7 states" are California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington, Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

- The Prescription Drug Project to fund investigations to disrupt and dismantle DTOs suspected of violating Federal, state, or local statutes pertaining to the diversion of licit pharmaceutical controlled substances. Investigations target rogue pain clinics, physicians who prescribe scheduled drugs without a valid medical reason, and pharmacies that illegally dispense or divert controlled drugs;
- The Native American Project to assist HIDTAs in developing intelligence-driven operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and/or dismantle organizations involved in drug trafficking on tribal lands; and
- New county and emergent threat initiatives to support the designation of new HIDTA counties and initiatives that address emergent threats.

FY 2015 Strategies

In 2015, 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 2015.

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 2015, 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.

ONDCP expects the HIDTA program will continue to prove to be a key component of our national effort to reduce drug trafficking and drug production in the United States in support of the *National Drug Control Strategy*.