

# The HIDTA Program & DFC Coalitions: *Strengthening Communities Together*

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# So, What's a HIDTA??



- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas**
- Designated by the Director of ONDCP
- Mission:
  - “...To disrupt the market for illegal drugs in the United States by assisting Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities participating in the HIDTA program to dismantle and disrupt drug trafficking organizations...”
- Essentially, HIDTAs are **coalitions** of Law Enforcement Agencies



## Designation Criteria

- Area is a **significant center** of illegal drug **production, manufacturing, importation, or distribution**;
- State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies have **committed resources indicating a determination to respond aggressively**
- Drug-related activities having **negative impact locally and in other areas of the country**; and
- Significant increase in allocation of **Federal resources necessary to respond adequately.**



## Designation Process

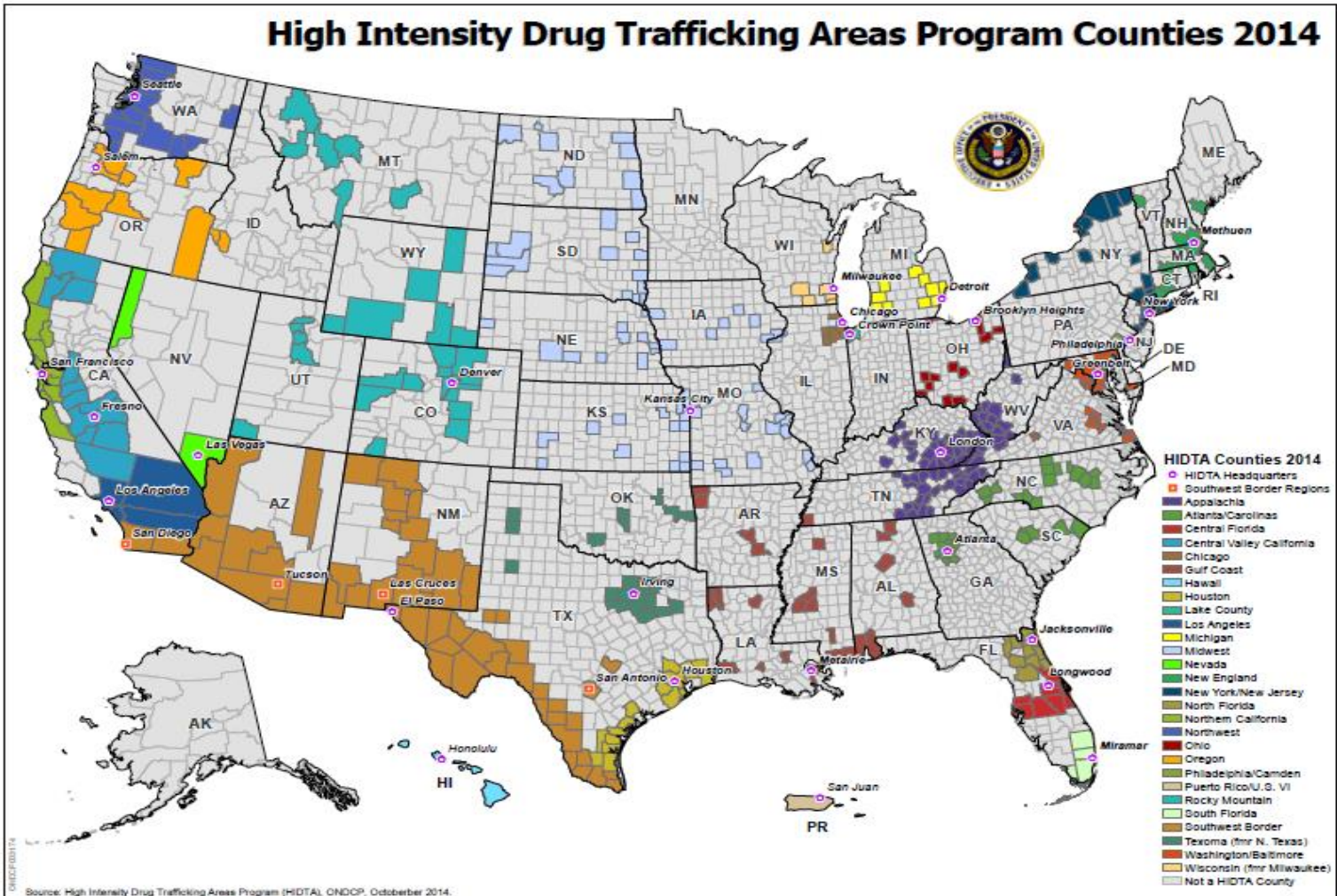
- **Coalition of Law Enforcement** agencies must petition for specific area (county or counties) to be designated
- Criteria reviewed by independent panel of Federal law enforcement experts
- If criteria met the panel makes their recommendation to the Director, ONDCP who makes final determination whether to designate areas as a HIDTA.
  - Generally, to be added to closest existing HIDTA
  - No “NEW” HIDTA has been designated since 1999

# What Does HIDTA Do?

- *The HIDTA Program is built on the premise that **Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies should have an equal voice in addressing regional drug threats, and ONDCP provides a neutral environment for this program to flourish.***
  - **Provides assistance** to Federal, state, local, and now tribal law enforcement agencies
  - **Fosters resource and information sharing** among all levels of criminal justice agencies.
  - **Promotes cooperation and collaboration** using a task force model
    - **“Initiatives”** designed to have at least one officer from Federal, state, local, and (where designated) tribal law enforcement.
  - **Coordinates with demand reduction entities.**
  - **Advances the National Drug Control Strategy**



# Program Footprint





# HIDTA Facts

- Program established by Congress in Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988
- Originally, 5 HIDTAs were designated
- Now, **28 HIDTAs** established nationwide
  - **16% of all U.S. Counties, in 47 states** plus DC, Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands, are HIDTA-designated
    - **Alaska, Delaware, & Minnesota** are the exceptions
    - About **60% of U.S. population** live in HIDTA counties
  - FY 2014 program budget = \$238.5 mil.
- HIDTA is an ONDCP-funded **PROGRAM**, not an Agency



# HIDTA Program Basics

- Each HIDTA has:
  - An **Executive Board**, comprised of representatives of local, state, federal and tribal law enforcement leaders
  - A **Director**, who administers the HIDTA's day-to-day functions
  - A **Strategy**, which establishes priorities for action
  - **Initiatives**, which carry out the strategy
    - Enforcement
    - Intelligence & Information-Sharing
    - Training
    - Management & Coordination
    - Prevention (new requirement in 2015)



# HIDTA Program Oversight

- Fiscal Audits
- Performance Audits
- On-Site Program Reviews



# No Two HIDTAs Are Alike!



- While all are guided by Program Policy, HIDTAs are designed to be responsive to regional drug threats
- HIDTA Regions range from two counties in one state to 74 counties in six states
- Funding levels vary
- Strategies & approaches are varied
- Levels of engagement with DFC may depend on YOUR outreach

# “Best Practices”: What’s WORKING



- Intelligence & Information Sharing
  - Sharing information & data with HIDTA Investigative Support Center
  - Contribute to Strategic Intelligence Assessments
  - Make use of HIDTA threat assessments as a resource
    - Ask for a non-“Law Enforcement Sensitive” version

# “Best Practices”: What’s WORKING



- Training
  - HIDTAs sponsor & offer many training programs throughout their regions – some may be of benefit:
    - Drugs of abuse awareness
    - Emerging threats & trends
    - Prevention program development
  - Almost all are **at no cost** to the participant
  - HIDTA Training Coordinators can be helpful in identifying appropriate programs for DFCs



# “Best Practices”: We Work Best When We Work Together

- Collaboration with HIDTAs in planning & delivering prevention programs
  - SMEs from the LE field can enhance those programs
  - Accessing them is often difficult
  - HIDTAs may be able to reach out for you
- “Ad hoc” opportunities can lead to lasting partnerships

# “Best Practices”: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

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## **San Diego/Imperial Valley HIDTA – CADFY** “Forces United”

- Possibly the longest relationship: 10+ years
- Executive Board member
- Coordinate DFC activities throughout California

## **Oregon HIDTA**

- Works with several DFC grantees
- One is part of their Prevention Initiative delivering school-based prevention programming
- Others do drug awareness education programs

# “Best Practices”: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

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## Arizona HIDTA

- Collaboration with DFCs, ASU & media outlets on a state-wide presentation “Hooked: Tracking Heroin’s Hold on Arizona”
- Tribal partners collaboration to create DVD & “Train-the-Trainer” program focusing on Native American communities

## Houston HIDTA – Houston Mayor’s Office Coalition - Harris Co. Drug Abuse Prevention Coalition

- Director serves as a member of the Coalition Board Advisory Committee
- Annual Community Awareness Day in the Houston area
- Plan upcoming Initiative activities, while allowing for a dynamic exchange of information and ideas



# “Best Practices”: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

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## **Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA** - Charlotte Mecklenburg DFC

- HIDTA State Coordinator serves on DFC Board
- Helping them to define & convey drug threats in area to area school boards & educators
- Arranged presenters for coalition meetings

## **New England HIDTA**

- Hosted DFC workshops with ONDCP reps.
- Speakers for DFC meetings

# “Best Practices”: Examples of Collaborative Efforts

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## **Philadelphia-Camden HIDTA** – Phila. Coalition for Drug & Violence-Free Communities

- Director a member of the DFC grantee’s Steering Committee
- Arranged a strategy summit with DFC, ONDCP Dep. Director, CADCA & City officials
- Partnered with DFC & Penna. Liquor Code Enforcement Bureau in youth prevention ad campaign
- Provide data exchanges, analysis and threat assessment research
- Participation in DFC’s events planning

# So, What's Next??



- Whatever prior experiences you've had, be open to new situations, contexts and approaches
- Use HIDTA & its resources as a “force multiplier”
- Get yourselves familiar with what HDTAs and Initiatives are doing in your communities
- Familiarize the HIDTA in your area as to what YOU are doing
- Adopt “C-3” principles:
  - Communicate
  - Coordinate
  - Collaborate



# In Conclusion: Opportunity is Knocking!

- We take different paths – prevention v. enforcement - but
- We share the same goal: **Reduce Drug Abuse**
- We have resources each other can benefit from
- Visit: [www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/high-intensity-drug-trafficking-areas-program](http://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/high-intensity-drug-trafficking-areas-program)
- Reach out to HIDTA Director in your region

# Any Questions?

