



NEWS RELEASE

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**NATURE OF STORY: RESIDENT DEPUTY PROGRAM
REESTABLISHED**

DETAILS:

Because of the efforts of our Congressional delegation including Senators Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley and Congressman Peter DeFazio, the Department of Justice recently announced the recipients of the COPS Grant funding. The Lane County Sheriff's Office received the second largest award for those given to Oregon; and, was the only sheriff's office in the group of recipients.

The three geographic areas where deputies will be posted were chosen based upon a number of criteria including: demand for service over the past year (as measured by call volume); the number of case reports filed in each area; and the relative accessibility/remoteness of the areas.

The areas selected are: Western Lane County, including Mapleton, Swisshome, Deadwood and the Highway 101 coastal corridor; South Lane County including Saginaw, Dorena Lake, Cottage Grove Lake, Culp Creek and Bohemia; and the McKenzie Valley including Marcola and Highway 126 from Walterville to McKenzie Bridge. These areas represent significant populations removed from the metro area with public safety needs unique to rural areas.

In future years, if funding is secured, the Resident Deputy program will be expanded to include the Highway 58 corridor and the rural areas west of Junction City.

Deputies will be placed in their assigned communities as soon as the hiring process can be completed. The deployment of the Deputies has been slowed by the necessity of hiring a number of deputies to staff the recently reopened 84-bed section of the Lane County Jail.

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