

HIDTA PROGRAM INFORMATION

- **The mission of the HIDTA Program** is 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, with particular emphasis on drug trafficking regions that have harmful effects on other parts of the United States.
- **The HIDTA Program does not duplicate but enhances** the drug law enforcement efforts in a designated HIDTA area.
 - The HIDTA Program gives Federal, state, and local criminal justice leaders a balanced and equal voice in helping to identify the regional threat, develop a strategy, invest in the strategy, assess performance, and make necessary adjustments in a timely fashion. That creates the very important ingredient of any multi-agency, multi-faceted program. It is truly a team effort and not directed by a single agency.
- **HIDTA supports 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.
- HIDTA does not fund agencies but rather **invests in strategies** developed in a Federal, state, and local partnership.
- **The strength of the HIDTA Program is also found in its innovation**, expanded scope of mission, and diversity. The program embraces a balanced and holistic approach to address prevailing drug issues that require a multi-disciplinary and multi-faceted plan of action.
- **A main attribute of the HIDTA Program is found in the governance provided by the Executive Board.** The HIDTA Executive provides direction and oversight in establishing and achieving the goals for the designated HIDTA.
- The HIDTA program gives the federal, state, local and tribal **criminal justice leaders a balanced and equal voice** in identifying the regional threat, developing a strategy, investing in that strategy, and assessing performance. The flexibility of this leadership model creates the ability for the Executive Board to quickly, effectively, and efficiently adapt to emerging threats that may be unique to their HIDTA by redirecting resources as necessary to provide for the greatest level of impact.

- The Executive Board provides for a high degree of local and regional control in addressing emerging threats.
- **Training is an essential ingredient to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of HIDTA initiatives.** The HIDTA training curriculum makes a significant contribution to advancing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of drug law enforcement, treatment, and prevention professionals, while also offering unique networking opportunities across agencies and disciplines.
- **HIDTA funds are used to advance drug law enforcement efforts** in the HIDTA area:
 - Fund overtime for state and local law enforcement
 - Fund analyst positions
 - Fund support positions
 - Fund leases to bring drug law enforcement together through co-location
 - Purchase much needed equipment that can be shared with all participants
 - Purchase of evidence
 - Fund investigations and required travel
- **HIDTA enhances law enforcement intelligence sharing** among Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.
- **The HIDTA Program is able to demonstrate the impact it has on drug law enforcement** efforts through its Performance Management Process (PMP) - a formalized process to assess the quantitative performance of each HIDTA and the overall HIDTA Program.
- **The HIDTA Program is vastly different from the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force Program (OCDETF).**
 - The HIDTA Program funds initiatives – OCDETF funds investigations.
 - HIDTA is mission specific – OCDETF is case specific.
 - Funding initiatives provides ongoing stability and sustains efforts.
 - The HIDTA Program is led by an Executive Board (equal parts Federal and state, local, and tribal law enforcement leaders) – OCDETF is led by the United States Attorney’s Office.

- HIDTA investigations can be prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, state prosecutors, or local prosecutors – OCDETF investigations are required to be prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office, with a few exceptions.
- Historically, approximately 40% of OCDETF funded investigations have been initiated by HIDTA Initiatives.
- **The HIDTA Program is best administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP)** given its unbiased and neutral position towards any one department or agency.
- **The strength of the HIDTA program is truly multi-dimensional.** One of the cornerstones of the program is its demonstrated ability to bring people and agencies together to work toward a common goal.
- **The neutrality of the HIDTA program is a key to its success.** HIDTA is not an agency, does not espouse the views of any one agency, and is not beholden to the mandates of any one agency. HIDTA is truly an agency neutral program that serves only to facilitate and coordinate.
- **The HIDTA Program, different from single mission agencies,** employs a comprehensive multi-disciplinary, holistic strategy to address the prevailing public health and public safety issues raised by drug abuse and misuse in our society.
- **The Office of National Drug Control Policy has the important responsibility** to establish priorities and objectives for the nation's drug policy, which includes treatment, prevention and law enforcement. The goals include reducing illicit drug use, trafficking, drug-related crime and violence, and drug-related health consequences.
- **The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program is an essential component of the National Drug Control Strategy.** It is clear that federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement plays an integral role in the balanced strategy to reducing drug use and its consequences.
- **While the primary mission focus of enforcement remains of paramount importance,** HIDTAs throughout the nation are also involved in drug prevention activities that stress training, partnership, sponsorship and community outreach.

- **Intelligence and information sharing is a critical component of the overall strategy to reduce the market for illegal drugs.** The HIDTA program establishes Investigative Support Centers in designated areas, specifically to create a communication infrastructure that can facilitate information sharing among federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies.
- **The HIDTA program has been at the forefront of establishing, coordinating, and supporting innovative approaches in partnership with relevant disciplines to stem the tide of drug abuse.** The emerging partnership between public health and public safety has never been more important as the nation confronts the opioid crisis, and the HIDTA Program provides the perfect platform to promote that partnership.
- **The HIDTA Program is unique** in its capability to promote the synergistic effect of enforcement, prevention, and education working together across disciplines toward achieving a sustainable quality of life in our communities which allows our citizens to remain healthy and achieve their full potential.
- **ONDCP and the HIDTA program have developed a partnership** that has been instrumental in the continuing success of the HIDTA Program. It is a partnership that has consistently paved the way for greater achievement in addressing the significant challenges of drug use and abuse throughout the Nation.