

*A Federal, State, and Local Partnership*



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June 16, 2025

The Honorable Dave Joyce  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for the HIDTA Program and Opposition to FY2026 Budget Proposal Changes

**Dear Chairman Joyce, Ranking Member Hoyer, and Members of the Subcommittee:**

On behalf of the Indiana High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Executive Board and participating state and local agencies listed below, we write to express our strong and unified support for the HIDTA Program and to respectfully urge Congress to preserve its current structure under the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and fully fund the program at \$333 million for Fiscal Year 2026.

The HIDTA Program is an indispensable tool in our collective fight against drug trafficking, money laundering, and related violence. It enables a balanced, collaborative approach by integrating federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement in intelligence-driven task forces that respond to region-specific threats. More than 90% of HIDTA's funding directly supports state and local agencies, enabling data sharing, complex investigations, and long-term interdiction strategies that would not otherwise be feasible.

We are deeply concerned by the Administration's FY2026 proposal to reduce HIDTA funding by 35% and to transfer the program from ONDCP to the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP). This proposal would undermine HIDTA's effectiveness in several critical ways:

- **Erosion of Local Control:** HIDTA's current structure empowers local agencies to set priorities and deploy resources with regional autonomy. Moving to DOJ's grant-based model risks bureaucratic delays and the loss of this operational flexibility.

- **Disruption to Coordination and Continuity:** HIDTA's success depends on the seamless integration of federal, state, and local partners. A structural shift threatens the stability of long-standing partnerships and may hinder ongoing investigations.
- **Public Health Impact:** HIDTA's integration with public health initiatives—like the Overdose Response Strategy—relies on ONDCP's neutral coordination. DOJ's law enforcement-only framework is ill-equipped to maintain these efforts.

HIDTA's track record speaks for itself: in 2024 alone, nearly 10,000 drug trafficking and money laundering organizations were investigated, with over 3,000 dismantled or disrupted. Recent reductions in overdose deaths—now the lowest since 2020—reflect the tangible impact of this program.

We respectfully request that Congress:

1. **Maintain HIDTA within ONDCP**, where it has thrived under a model of balanced, collaborative governance.
2. **Fully fund the program at \$333 million for FY2026**, ensuring its critical operations and initiatives can continue without disruption.

The HIDTA Program is not just a line item in the budget—it is a lifeline for our communities. Thank you for your time, leadership, and continued support of law enforcement and public safety nationwide.

Sincerely,



Garrett Cizewski  
Chief, Hobart Police Department  
Chairman, Indiana HIDTA Executive Board

Cc: Representative Dave Joyce, Chairman (OH), Representative Steve Womack (AR), Representative Mark Amodei (NV), Representative Ashley Hinson (IA), Representative Michael Cloud (TX), Representative Chuck Edwards (NC), Representative Mark Alford (MO), Representative Nick LaLota, Vice Chair (NY); Representative Steny Hoyer (MD), Representative Mark Pocan (WI), Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA), Representative Glenn Ivey (MD), Representative Sanford Bishop, Jr. (GA)

## **Indiana HIDTA State & Local Participating Agencies**

Allen County Sheriff's Office	Lawrence Police Department
Auburn Police Department	Marion County Prosecutor's Office
Avon Police Department	Marion County Sheriff's Office
Beech Grove Police Department	Merrillville Police Department
Carmel Police Department	Michigan City Police Department
Clay County Sheriff's Office	Munster Police Department
Clinton County Sheriff's Office	Noble County Sheriff's Department
Crown Point Police Department	Owensboro, KY Police Department
Crown Point, IN	Plainfield Police Department
Daviess County, IN Sheriff's Office	Portage Police Department
Dubois County, IN Sheriff's Office	Porter County Sheriff's Department
East Chicago Police Department	Posey County, IN Sheriff's Office
Evansville, IN Police Department	Princeton, IN Police Department
Fishers Police Department	Schererville Police Department
Fort Wayne Police Department	St. John, IN Police Department
Gary Police Department	Terre Haute Police Department
Griffith Police Department	Valparaiso Police Department
Hammond Police Department	Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office
Highland Police Department	Vigo County Sheriff's Office
Hobart Police Department	Warsaw, IN Police Department
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department	Washington, IN Police Department
Lake County Police Department	Westfield Police Department
Lake County Sheriff's Office	Indiana National Guard
LaPorte City Police Department	Indiana State Police
LaPorte County Sheriff's Office	Indiana University Indianapolis Police Department