



**NHDA**  
National HIDTA Directors Association

June 16, 2025

Jon E. Rice  
ONDCP Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director  
Office of National Drug Control Policy  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D.C. 20503

**RE: NHDA Input on the 2026  
National Drug Control Strategy**

Dear Mr. Rice:

On behalf of the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Directors Association (NHDA), I write to provide input on the 2026 National Drug Control Strategy.

The NHDA represents the executive leadership of all 33 High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) regions nationwide. Our association serves to unify the directors who oversee these critical areas and provide a collective voice for coordinated drug enforcement strategies across the entire United States. Each HIDTA director manages complex operations involving federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners within their designated regions.

Our directors lead collaborative efforts that successfully aim resources at the most significant drug trafficking challenges facing their communities that often range from combating transnational criminal organizations to disrupting local distribution networks. We coordinate intelligence sharing, resource allocation, and joint operations that leverage the unique capabilities of multiple law enforcement agencies working toward common objectives.

In support of the Administration's National Drug Control Strategy the NHDA asks that you consider incorporating the following concepts into the plan:

***Preserve and strengthen the HIDTA Program by maintaining it under the Office of National Drug Control Policy Administration and provide increased funding to support activities.***

***Leverage the HIDTA Program's trusted network and significant infrastructure to further priorities set forth by the administration.***

Moreover, we offer the following insights, based on our collective operational experience, that provide additional context in support of the suggestions made:

Drug trafficking organizations present multifaceted challenges that cross jurisdictional lines throughout regions, states, and the nation. Congress established the HIDTA Program to build stronger partnerships among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. Through



coordinated enforcement strategies, the HIDTA Program enhances public safety by targeting and disrupting illegal drug markets.

The program delivers essential funding and resources to 33 regions spanning all 50 states, prioritizing areas most severely impacted by drug trafficking activities. Executive boards comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders govern each HIDTA region, providing balanced oversight and regionally focused strategies.

The HIDTA Program brings together diverse law enforcement agencies for joint investigations, shared intelligence operations, and coordinated tactical efforts - capabilities that exceed what any individual agency could accomplish independently. This partnership approach has resulted in the disruption and dismantlement of significant trafficking organizations and thousands of successful prosecutions. Additionally, this program promotes adaptability and innovation, enabling swift responses to emerging threats and evolving regional trafficking patterns.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) provides the most effective administrative oversight for the HIDTA Program through its impartial management and capacity to synchronize the program with broader national drug control objectives. Unlike specific enforcement agencies, ONDCP operates without advancing particular departmental agendas - maintaining exclusive focus on effective coordination and strategic planning. Maintaining the HIDTA Program under ONDCP administration guarantees balanced, unified responses to drug threats while preserving the program's multi-agency foundation.

HIDTA represents a framework for successful inter-agency collaboration, producing concrete outcomes. The NHDA stands ready to support efforts to ensure the continued success of this vital law enforcement program.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Administration in developing effective strategies to combat drug trafficking and protect our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "F. Mike McDaniel".

F. Mike McDaniel  
President, National HIDTA Director's Association  
Houston HIDTA Director  
fmcDaniel@houstonhidta.net  
281-203-2283