

**Project:** Drug and Violent Crime Task Force

**Amount requested:** \$300,000

**Recipient:** District Attorney's Office, 14th Judicial District Tennessee

**Address:** P.O. Box 147, Manchester, TN 37349

**Project description:**

The Fourteenth Judicial District Drug and Violent Crime Task Force was started in 1987. It operates out of the District Attorney General's Office. The District Attorney General acts as chairman of a board of Directors that is made up of local chiefs of Police and the Sheriff of Coffee County. A task force director oversees agents and officers assigned to work for the task force. The Task Force's main activities in our Judicial District are generally divided into three categories. These categories: the investigation of illegal drug activity, criminal and drug interdiction and the investigation and successful prosecution of Violent Crimes. The task force has assumed a role of being a liaison with the local law enforcement agencies and steps out front to handle difficult situations and investigations. The task force primary jurisdiction is in the Fourteenth Judicial District of Tennessee. This includes Coffee County, the city of Manchester, and the city of Tullahoma.

In 2009 Tennessee was ranked second in the nation for reported meth labs. Of the 1,437 labs reported in Tennessee 510 was in the 4th Congressional District. Our judicial district reported 43 labs. These figures represent close to a 200% increase in the 4th Congressional District and a 258% increase in our judicial district from the previous year. Our Judicial District is right in the heartland of the 4th Congressional District and right at the epicenter of the methamphetamine problem in Tennessee. The requested grant funds will benefit our Judicial District and the 4th Congressional District by dedicating manpower, training and equipment for the aggressive arrests and prosecution of the individuals responsible for these illegal labs.

The meth problem is not a victimless crime. It directly affects many economic problems for our district; such as jail overcrowding, increased medical costs, decreasing property values and an increase in violent and property crimes due to meth addicts. These funds will provide the manpower, training, and equipment to help us fight this meth epidemic. Without these funds we will not be able to dedicate the manpower and time needed to effectively work these meth cases and train and equip the addition officers that is needed.