



In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of the USA Freedom Corps, an effort to foster a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility, building on the generous spirit of the American people. The Citizen Corps programs are part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative and share the common goal of helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

One of the Citizen Corps programs is the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) manages and implements the VIPS Program in partnership with and on behalf of the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice. The program's goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers.

The foundation of this national initiative to help state and local law enforcement agencies is [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org). The website serves as a gateway to information for law enforcement agencies and citizens interested in law enforcement volunteer programs.

The VIPS Program offers the following resources:

- ◆ An online directory of law enforcement volunteer programs.
- ◆ A resource library of sample documents, forms and materials from law enforcement volunteer programs and other sources.
- ◆ A resource guide, *Volunteer Programs: Enhancing Public Safety by Leveraging Resources*, to assist in the implementation or enhancement of an agency volunteer program.
- ◆ A model policy on volunteers.
- ◆ *VIPS in Focus*, a publication series addressing specific elements and issues related to law enforcement volunteer programs.
- ◆ Training and educational seminars for law enforcement.
- ◆ No-cost technical assistance and mentoring for law enforcement agencies.
- ◆ Educational videos.
- ◆ *VIPS Info*, a monthly newsletter about resources and services for law enforcement.

