

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Department: Public Safety

HB Section(s): 08.005

Program Name: Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST)

Program is found in the following core budget(s): Director Administration & Programs

1a. What strategic priority does this program address?

Public Protection, Service, and Workforce Development

1b. What does this program do?

The POST Program is responsible for the licensing of peace officers, reserve peace officers, corporate security advisors, law enforcement basic training instructors, law enforcement basic training centers, and continuing law enforcement education (CLEE) training providers. The POST Program also reviews and approves submitted CLEE training courses from unlicensed and in-service law enforcement agency training providers, maintains the closed-record list of school protection officers, and maintains the online CLEE tracking system used by law enforcement agencies and officers. The POST Program has an eleven-member gubernatorial appointed commission responsible for establishing the basic and continuing law enforcement education training standards of all licensed peace officers, reserve peace officers, and school protection officers. The POST Program is responsible for investigating complaints against licensed peace officers, basic training instructors, basic training centers, and licensed CLEE providers. The POST Program administers the POST Commission Fund, which provides a means to help offset the cost of CLEE training for Missouri's 16,798 licensed and commissioned peace officers. The goal of the POST Program is to ensure that all Missouri peace officers are properly trained and those officers who violate the public trust are disciplined appropriately.

2a. Provide an activity measure(s) for the program.

From January 1, 2016 to September 2, 2020, the POST Program initiated 1,271 investigations of peace officer misconduct and reviewed the background of 1,390 basic training and peace officer license applicants with a prior criminal history. The following numbers represent peace officer license disciplinary actions and applicant denials taken in calendar years 2016 through September 2, 2020:

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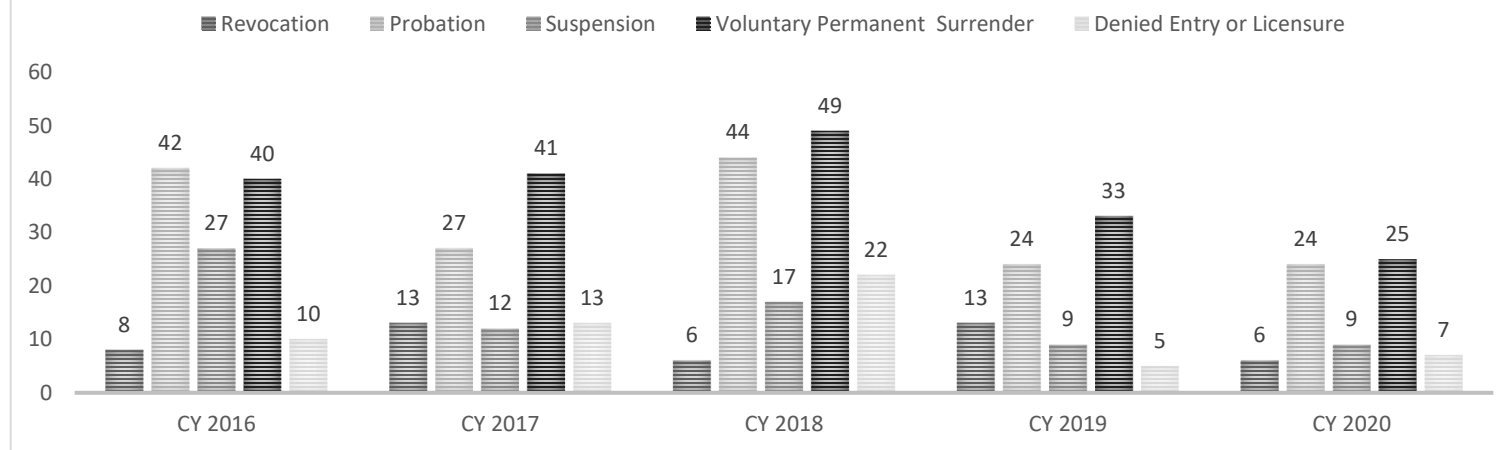
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POST DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS FROM 1/1/2016 TO 09/02/2020



From January 1, 2016 to September 2, 2020, the POST Program licensed 5,558 peace officers. In that same window of time, only 10 people failed the Missouri Peace Officer License Exam after their third attempt, as allowed by administrative rule. The following reflects the number of peace officer licenses issued in calendar years 2016 through September 2, 2020:

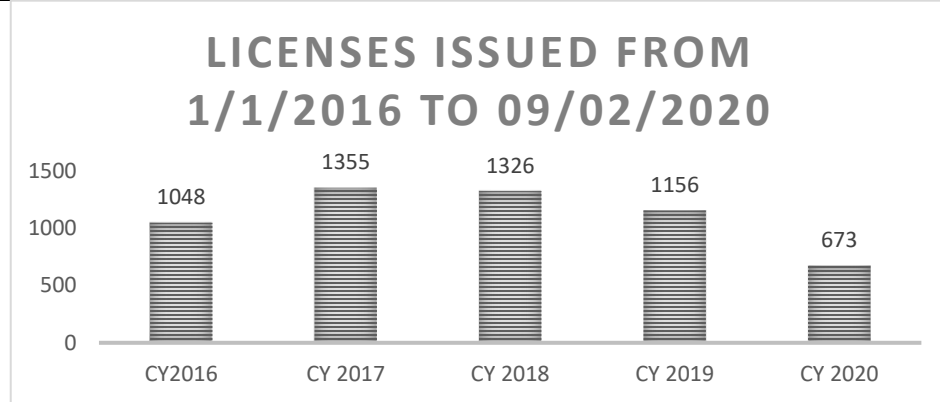
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2b. Provide a measure(s) of the program's quality.

The POST Program takes the steps necessary to license only properly trained individuals; the POST Program takes the steps necessary to prevent persons from becoming licensed that have committed criminal violations that are serious enough to jeopardize public safety if licensed; and the POST Program takes the steps necessary to quickly and fairly investigate peace officers that are alleged to have violated the public trust.

2c. Provide a measure(s) of the program's impact.

Prevention of peace officer misconduct is difficult to quantify. The POST Program conducts a background check on each applicant before they start basic training, or before they are issued a license, with a state and FBI fingerprint check and a criminal history self-disclosure form. On 1/1/2015, we started tracking the number of applicants that disclosed, or were discovered to have a prior criminal history regardless of how minor that criminal history was, to include very minor traffic offenses. From 1/1/2015 to 9/2/2020, 1,622 applicants were found to have some form of an offense in their background. Of these applicants, 54 were denied entry into a basic law enforcement academy and 119 were allowed entry on a probationary basis by the Director of Public Safety. The remaining applicants were either allowed to begin basic training with no restrictions, or were denied entry by the training center director prior to the completion of our review. There were an additional 19 applicants from other state, federal, or military law enforcement agencies that were denied licensure in Missouri because of their criminal history. There are currently 18 basic training or license applicants with a criminal history that are pending a review and decision of eligibility by the Director of Public Safety. Furthermore, the names of all license applicants are searched in the National Decertification Index (NDI) in an effort to prevent officers that have had their peace officer license or certification revoked in another state from becoming licensed in Missouri. The name of every peace officer that has voluntarily surrendered his or her peace officer license while being subject to discipline, or has had his or her peace officer license revoked in Missouri, has been added by the to the NDI by the POST Program. The POST Program issues approximately 1,200 new peace officer licenses every calendar year.

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2d. Provide a measure(s) of the program's efficiency.

The POST Program has been very aggressive in investigating officers who have had disciplinary complaints filed against them or for violations that were brought to the attention of the POST Program. As of September 2, 2020, there are 315 peace officer misconduct investigations the POST Program is actively managing.

In January of 2017, the POST Program, working with representatives of Missouri's Information Technology Services Division, completed the development of an online continuing law enforcement education (CLEE) tracking and compliance reporting system. This system allows an officer and his or her employing agency a secure method to review the CLEE training courses completed by the officer. When CLEE training is completed, it is entered into the CLEE system by the training provider through a secure web-based interface. In the past, an officer and his or her employing law enforcement agency had to maintain and track all paper certificates of completed CLEE training. At the end of the CLEE reporting cycle, the POST Program would spend multiple hours generating agency roster reports, preparing forms for signatures, and mailing forms to the CEO of Missouri's 620 active law enforcement agencies. The law enforcement agency CEO, or his or her designee, would then have to carefully review the training certificates for each officer and affirm that the officers employed with the law enforcement agency were compliant with the CLEE training requirements, and mail the completed forms back to the POST Program for processing and entry. Obviously, this was also a very time consuming process for the agency CEO and the POST Program. With the newly developed CLEE tracking system, officers and agency CEOs can verify an officer's compliance with the CLEE training requirements in a matter of moments through a secure web-based interface. Agency CEOs can check an officer's individual CLEE training records or they can run a compliance spreadsheet showing just those officers that are behind on training hours and the report will reflect exactly what training hours the officers are behind. The POST Program uses the CLEE system to send automated reminder emails near the end of the CLEE reporting cycle and to quickly determine officer compliance. As we have always done in the past, extensions are given to those officers that are non-complaint for medical reasons and CLEE training waivers can be given to those officers who were unable to complete their CLEE training hours because they were activated for military service.

According to representatives of Missouri's Information Technology Services Division, the MO POST Program and its CLEE system is the third largest user of "MO Login," which is the single source to access the State of Missouri's various online services. As of 9/2/2020, 11,354 users have created a MO Login account and accessed the POST CLEE system.

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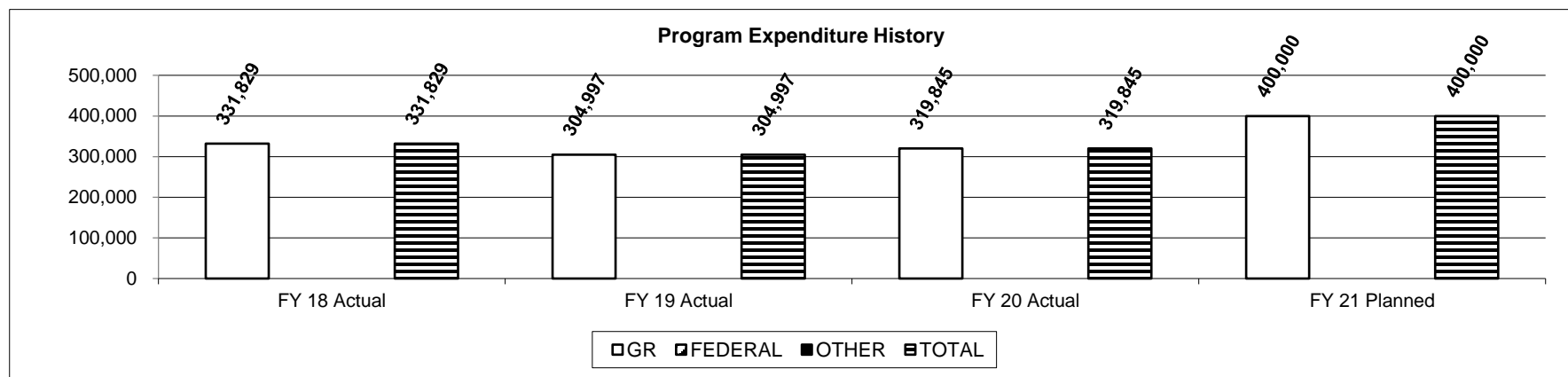
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3. Provide actual expenditures for the prior three fiscal years and planned expenditures for the current fiscal year. (Note: Amounts do not include fringe benefit costs.)



4. What are the sources of the "Other" funds?

N/A

5. What is the authorization for this program, i.e., federal or state statute, etc.? (Include the federal program number, if applicable.)

Chapter 590 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, 2016.

6. Are there federal matching requirements? If yes, please explain.

No

7. Is this a federally mandated program? If yes, please explain.

No.