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Sheriff's Office Receives Federal Grant

The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office today received a federal grant to hire two new deputies under the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Recovery Program.

The grant totaling \$363,476 will provide 100 percent of the approved salary and benefits for entry level officer positions over a three year period. The Sheriff's Office is then required to retain the grant funded positions for a fourth year.

By hiring two new deputies, the Sheriff's Office will be able to move two current deputies into the crime prevention unit to work with citizen patrols, neighborhood watch groups and the new Seniors vs Crime program.

The Sarasota County grant was among more than \$1 billion in funds announced today by Vice President Joseph Biden and Attorney General Eric Holder to fund the hiring and rehiring of 4,699 law enforcement officers under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.