

Grantees fight auto theft at the local level.

The Authority funds 15 law enforcement/investigative units, including the Pennsylvania State Police, which distributes its grant funds to three regional task forces. Authority funds support investigative activities by the grantees as well as public outreach activities by two additional organizations. The grants awarded through December 2004 total \$46.4 million to support activities through the year 2006.

Allegheny County District Attorney's Office – joined the Authority in September 1998. The unit, which consists of an assistant district attorney and two paralegals, received a two-year grant renewal in June 2004 totaling more than \$315,835.

Cumberland County District Attorney's Office – received its first grant to establish an auto theft unit in 1996. The unit received a two-year grant renewal in June 2004 totaling more than \$113,321. The unit includes an assistant district attorney, a detective and a secretary. It coordinates investigative efforts with local municipal police throughout the county and provides local police training sessions with public presentations.

Delaware County District Attorney's Office – received initial funding in 1997 and was awarded a two-year grant extension of more than \$426,977 in June 2004. An assistant district attorney, a detective and an analyst support the unit. Grant funds help pay overtime expenses for four police officers from local departments. The funds also cover equipment and coordination with local law enforcement units.

City of Erie Bureau of Police – initially funded in 1997, the unit is operating with a two-year grant extension through mid-2006 totaling \$162,795. The Erie Auto Theft Unit has one officer working closely with the Pennsylvania State Police and the Millcreek Township Police Department to investigate and arrest car thieves.

Erie County District Attorney's Office – received an initial grant in July 2001. The unit, which consists of an assistant district attorney and a clerical position, received a one-year grant extension of more than \$31,181 in July 2004 to continue the unit through June 2005.

Harrisburg Bureau of Police – has had an active auto-theft unit since it received its first grant in 1997. The unit is operating with a grant of \$340,319 through June 2006. Two investigators coordinate anti-theft measures in Harrisburg, where there has been a major juvenile theft problem.

Lancaster City Police – joined the list of grantee organizations in July 2002. The unit, which consists of two investigators and a part-time assistant district attorney, received a two-year grant extension in June 2004 totaling \$555,620.

Lehigh County District Attorney's Office – received an initial grant in 1996. Currently, it is operating its Auto Theft Task Force under a two-year grant renewal, totaling more than \$876,775 through mid-2006. The unit, which also has investigative powers in neighboring Northampton County, has a prosecutor, secretary and four full-time investigators from local police departments.

Millcreek Township Police – The Auto Theft Task Force, first funded in 1997, is operating under a two-year grant extension of more than \$276,240 through June 2005. The unit consists of one officer who works with the Pennsylvania State Police operating in Erie and Crawford counties. The unit has been granted jurisdiction throughout Erie County.

Northeastern PA Task Force – is a unique multi-jurisdictional program administered by the Lackawanna County District Attorney's Office. First funded in 1996, the unit is operating on a two-year grant of \$550,175 through June 2006. Supported by a district attorney, an administrator, one full-time and five part-time detectives and a secretary, this far-reaching investigative unit coordinates efforts in 11 counties, including Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Bradford, Monroe, Wayne, Wyoming, Sullivan, Columbia and Carbon.

Pennsylvania State Police (Eastern, Central and Western Regional Task Forces) – oversees statewide anti-auto theft efforts. Initially granted Authority funds in 1996, the units received a two-year extension, totaling more than \$2.5 million through mid-2005. The regional task forces concentrate on high-theft areas around Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, central and northeastern Pennsylvania. The grant funds cover salaries of ten county detectives, as well as overtime costs for four State Police supervisors and seventeen troopers. The funds also cover part-time clerical support in district attorneys' offices, equipment, maintenance, vehicles and other expenses.

Philadelphia District Attorney's Office – funded in 1996, this unit works closely with the Philadelphia Police Department through a one-year grant extension totaling \$335,239 through 2005. The funds support one detective, one prosecutor, one trial assistant, and two law clerks. Starting in July 2003, the funds were also allocated to research and develop a juvenile auto theft diversion program in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Police Department – funded in 1996, this unit operates its Major Crimes Auto Theft Unit with a two-year grant extension totaling more than \$2.6 million through mid-2006. One arm of the unit

concentrates on chop shop and salvage yard investigations, while another investigates all other auto theft cases. Funding from the Authority added eight police officers and four detectives, which doubled the resources available prior to the Authority's grant funding.

Pittsburgh City Police Department – received its first grant in 1996. Currently, it is using its \$409,164 grant extension through mid-2006. The funding increased its auto theft squad by two detectives, modernized equipment and paid for office space and automobiles.

York County District Attorney's Office – first received funding in 1996 and was approved for more than \$173,670 to extend its operation through mid-2006. Supported by a detective, the unit developed auto theft reporting, investigation and prosecution protocol for countywide use. It also provides victim/witness services.

There are two public outreach programs funded by the Authority:

Good Shepherd Mediation Program – received their first grant in 2004. Currently, they are funded through 2006 with a grant of \$82,350. Working with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Juvenile Court Division, they have developed a diversion program for first time juvenile offenders involved in vehicle theft.

Pennsylvania Anti-Car Theft Committee (PACT) – received its first one-year grant in 1997 and is currently working under a two-year grant totaling \$94,000 through mid-2005. PACT operates a speakers' bureau. It also sponsors "car stripping" events to raise public awareness of auto theft and chop shop organizations.