

### **Pennsylvania State Police Eastern, Central and Western Regional Task Forces**

The Pennsylvania State Police Eastern, Central and Western Regional Task Forces oversee statewide auto theft efforts. Initially granted funds in 1996, the units received a two-year extension totaling more than \$4.6 million through June 2011. The regional task forces concentrate on high-theft areas around Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and central and northeastern Pennsylvania. The grant funds cover salaries of 14 county/local police department detectives, as well as overtime costs for four state police supervisors and 17 troopers. The funds also cover equipment, maintenance, vehicles and other expenses.

### **Philadelphia Police Department**

The Philadelphia Police Department was initially funded in 1996 and operates its Major Crimes Auto Theft Unit with a two-year grant extension totaling more than \$3.3 million through June 2012. 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, doubling the resources available prior to the Authority's grant funding.

### **Pittsburgh Police Department**

The Pittsburgh Police Department received its first grant in 1996. Currently, it is using a \$610,400 grant extension through June 2012. The funding increased its auto theft squad by three detectives (for a total of six detectives), modernized equipment and paid for office space and automobiles.

The Authority funds two agencies that specifically address juvenile auto theft offenders and prevention. There are an additional 10 people supported by these two initiatives.

### **Good Shepherd Mediation Program**

The Good Shepherd Mediation Program received its first grant in 2004. Currently, it is funded through June 2011 with a grant of \$96,928. After solidifying a partnership with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Juvenile Court Division, the program has successfully developed and implemented a diversion program for first-time juvenile offenders involved in vehicle theft. In 2010, it worked intensively with 82 first-time juvenile offenders in order to reduce the likelihood that they would commit future delinquent acts. Of the juvenile offenders who completed the program in 2010, 4% were re-arrested, whereas 23% who did not complete recidivated. Through the program, Good Shepherd has issued more than 460 hours of community service. Additionally the organization continually facilitates an in-school theft prevention seminar targeted toward at-risk youth in Philadelphia. In 2010, Good Shepherd worked with 608 middle school youths in an effort to reduce the chances of vehicle theft behavior among young people in Philadelphia.

### **Philadelphia District Attorney's Office**

The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office received funding for their juvenile offender initiative in 2003. The unit is funded through June 2012 with a grant of \$777,280. The funds support one detective, one prosecutor, two trial assistants and two law clerks. The juvenile offender initiative utilizes two diversion programs in order to target first-time auto theft offenders—Youth Aid Panel and Reporting Consent Decrees. Under either program, conditions of supervision are designed to hold the juvenile accountable and restore the victim. Offenders must also complete the Impact of Auto Theft Initiative Workshop through the Good Shepherd Mediation Program. In 2010, 219 juveniles were arrested for auto theft related crimes, with 44% of these offenders diverted: 53 offenders participated in the Youth Aid Panel Program, and an additional 44 offenders accepted a Reporting Consent Decree. Of the remaining cases, a deferred adjudication or an adjudication of delinquency was achieved in 60 cases. In 2010, \$22,492 in restitution was ordered, and over 295 hours of community service was performed.



**FACT:**

ATPA investigators handle cases involving stolen cars, trucks, motorcycles, ATVs, tractor-trailers, and heavy equipment.