



LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LCSO Awarded New Grant to Enhance De-Escalation Training

The Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) is proud to announce the award of a new grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office. The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office awarded LCSO a \$349,635.00 grant to support its ongoing commitment to enhancing de-escalation training and crisis response for law enforcement personnel.

This new funding builds on the success of LCSO's previous grant of \$249,950.00, which was awarded in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024, totaling \$599,585.00. The initial funds were used to fund part of the LCSO De-escalation Research Project and the new funding will be used for the enhancement of training and strategies and to further expand its efforts to implement effective de-escalation techniques.

This funding comes shortly after the release of LCSO's De-escalation Tracking Project (DTP) report, which highlighted the effectiveness of the strategies employed by LCSO deputies. The success of the DTP, was used to justify this additional grant, demonstrating the positive impact of LCSO's ongoing de-escalation initiative.

LCSO's de-escalation initiatives further our mission to enhance public safety, strengthen community relationships, and equip our deputies with the necessary training and resources to manage critical situations with safety and effectiveness.

"At the Leon County Sheriff's Office, we are deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of both our deputies and the community we serve," said Sheriff McNeil. "This new grant from the U.S. Department of Justice is a testament to the positive impact of our ongoing de-escalation initiatives and our dedication to continuously improving the way we respond to critical situations."

For more information about the grant or LCSO's de-escalation efforts, please visit our website at www.LeonCountySO.com.



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