

The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics has been approved to receive \$1 million to combat methamphetamine production and distribution. Funding will come through the U.S. Justice Department's Community-Oriented Policing Services program, created by the president in 1994 to provide crime-fighting resources to state and local law enforcement.

MBN will use the grant funds for equipment purchases and in-service training, resulting in better service to local police.

Makeshift labs producing methamphetamine in Mississippi, first seen in the Delta, are now found statewide. Last fiscal year, the MBN seized 13 pounds of methamphetamine, up from seven pounds the previous fiscal year. The drug has an estimated street value of \$15,000 per pound.

Methamphetamine is a highly potent form of amphetamine, which is used for medical treatment. Unlike other illegal drugs, which are often imported, methamphetamine can be made anywhere, giving the drug the potential to be deadlier and more widespread than crack cocaine. — **By Delores Sims Lewis, Public Relations Director, Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics**