



THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
CAMPUS PUBLIC SAFETY

Community Relations Resources

*Prepared by the National Center for Public Safety
Updated March 2017*

General Resources

[Building Relationships of Trust Toolkit](#)

This toolkit was developed by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) to assist agencies with building relationships of trust. The toolkit includes components that “provide detailed information police officers and community members should consider when trying to build trusting relationships.” The main components of the toolkit are listed as follows:

- **[Moving to Implementation](#)**: A publication that provides clear guidance to law enforcement agencies, fusion centers, community members, civil groups and others on developing relationships of trust.
- **[Recommended Steps for Chief Executives](#)**: A publication that offers practical guidance for operationalizing the philosophies of community policing.
- **[Commonly Used Terms](#)**: A resource that lists descriptions of terms used by law enforcement when working with their communities.
- **[Community Perception Survey](#)**: A survey that should be distributed by law enforcement agencies before and after implementing an initiative for building relationships of trust.
- **[Curriculum Training Modules](#)**: An in-service course to assist officers in building relationships of trust.

[Community Relations Service](#)

Established under The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Department of Justice’s Community Relations Service (CRS) is a conflict resolution agency for community conflicts and tensions arising from differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion and disability. There are four primary services provided by the CRS to assist in preventing and resolving conflict: mediation, facilitation, training and consulting. The CRS responds to all communities, large and small, in each of the fifty states. The CRS also offers support and **[resources](#)** for schools, law enforcement, tribal communities, advocacy groups and more. Among the CRS online resources, you will find annual reports, training, best practices and tips, and publications to include brochures, flyers and pamphlets.

[COPS Learning Portal Resources](#)

The COPS Learning Portal provides several resources for law enforcement practitioners, community members, and community policing professionals to include publications, guides, and resource pages.

[Ethics Toolkit](#)

This toolkit, provided by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and COPS, is both a call to action and a resource guide to assist local law enforcement agencies. Local agencies using the activities and programs contained in this toolkit will heighten the awareness and visibility of law enforcement's ethical standards both internally and externally. The tools are here to engage your agency in the building blocks of high ethical standards and to demonstrate your department's commitment to ethics and professionalism to your community.

[Overcoming Tragedy Documentary](#)

Available to order free of charge, the “Waking in Oak Creek” documentary (DVD) produced by COPS is intended for law enforcement to use in their communities. The film profiles a town shaken by a hate crime when six Sikh Temple worshipers were killed by a white supremacist. The film also highlights a law enforcement agency and its community coming together and working collaboratively to overcome a tragedy.

Training

[COPS Learning Portal](#)

The COPS Learning Portal offers a variety of courses for law enforcement practitioners, community members, community policing professionals, and COPS grantees such as:

- [Community Policing Defined](#)
- [Ethics for the Individual Officer](#)
- [New Perspectives on Community Policing](#)

[Fair & Impartial Policing® Training](#)

The “fair & impartial policing perspective” reflects a new way of thinking about the issue of biased policing. It is based on the science of bias, which tells us that biased policing is not, as some contend, due to widespread racism in policing. In fact, the science tells that even well intentioned humans (and thus, officers) manifest biases that can impact on their perceptions and behavior. These biases can manifest below consciousness. The following five curriculum reflect the science-based fair & impartial policing perspective: recruit/patrol, first-line supervisor, mid-management, command-level or command/community, and train-the-trainer.

Publications (PDF)

[Building Communities of Trust: A Guidance for Community Leaders](#)

This document is a complementary piece to Guidance for Building Communities of Trust and was developed to assist community leaders working with law enforcement agencies to facilitate dialogue and discuss ways to work together to prevent crime and terrorism. The strategies discussed here also complement national strategic goals to empower local partners to keep communities safe from threats of violent extremism. This Guidance provides recommendations, resources, and tips on how you, as a community leader, can be more

proactive in working with your law enforcement agencies to help keep your neighborhoods safe.

[Building Communities of Trust \(BCOT\) Fact Sheet](#)

This document, provided by the Department of Homeland Security, the Nationwide SAR Initiative, and COPS, lists information about the BCOT initiative; highlights outreach efforts; and provides resources to include guidance documents for community leaders and law enforcement, and the “If You See Something, Say Something” campaign.

[Building Trust Between the Police and the Citizens They Serve](#)

This promising practice guide, provided by COPS and IACP, focuses on the pivotal role of the Internal Affairs function as one component of an agency-wide professional standards effort in building trust between law enforcement agencies, their staff, and the communities they protect and serve. The guide addresses the Internal Affairs function from complaint processing to decision-making, discipline, notification, and community transparency, as well as building an effective Internal Affairs approach for any size agency. It also looks at the Internal Affairs process from the Citizen's viewpoint, presenting information about how local agencies can be accountable to their citizens through trust-building initiatives and other activities.

[Guidance for Building Communities of Trust](#)

This guidance document, a BCOT-related resource, describes the challenges that must be addressed by fusion centers, local law enforcement agencies, and communities in developing relationships of trust.

[IACP National Policy Summit on Community-Police Relations: Advancing a Culture of Cohesion and Community Trust](#)

This report is designed to serve as a roadmap for law enforcement, communities, and stakeholders to build meaningful, sustainable, trusting, and effective working relationships. Summit participants outlined three conceptual elements of building community-police relationships. The report defines those elements—communication, partnerships, and trust—and provides recommendations for improvement in each.

[Racial Reconciliation, Truth-Telling, and Police Legitimacy](#)

This publication, provided by COPS, gives police executives the chance to hear from their own colleagues why engaging in the process of racial reconciliation is not only morally, but also functionally and operationally critical. The concepts of police legitimacy, legal cynicism, and informal social control introduced here provide the theoretical underpinning that helps to explain in practical terms how police who actively and sincerely engage with their communities of color will find they can do their job better and more effectively.

[The Law and You: Guidelines for Interacting with Law Enforcement Officials](#)

In a collaborative effort, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and Allstate Insurance Company have joined together to develop “The Law and You: Guidelines for Interacting with Law Enforcement Officials.” This guide offers suggested procedures to follow if you are stopped by a police officer or law enforcement official, regardless of the reason. These suggestions should be used as guidelines until professional legal advice and guidance should be obtained.

[The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing Interim Report](#)

The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing was established in December 2014. The Task Force resolved to identify best practices and make recommendations on how policing practices can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust. They examined how to foster strong, collaborative relationships between local law enforcement and the communities they serve. Their recommendations to the president are provided in this report.

News

Six Pilot Sites Announced for the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice

Last year, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) established the [National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice](#) (National Initiative) as part of President Obama's launch of the [My Brother's Keeper](#) initiative. The National Initiative is "a multi-faceted approach to enhance community trust and help repair and strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve."

One of the National Initiative's goals is to establish pilot sites to implement and examine evidence-based strategies to "promote procedural justice in policing, address issues of implicit bias, and create opportunities for racial reconciliation." Last week, Attorney General Eric Holder [announced](#) the first six pilot sites as: Birmingham, Alabama; Ft. Worth, Texas; Gary, Indiana; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Stockton, California. Additional training and technical assistance will be provided to law enforcement agencies and communities not included in the pilot sites. For more information regarding technical assistance through the National Initiative, use the contact form at the bottom of [this page](#).

The National Initiative also created an online [clearinghouse](#) that provides a variety of information and resources on building trust between public safety and communities. Among those resources are tools and guides, publications, research, interventions, best practices, and more.

Integrating Crime Victims' Issues Into College and University Curricula

When it comes to the care and support of victims, everyone has a role to play. Campus law enforcement working cooperatively with other university departments and community providers can have significant impact on the appropriate response to victimization. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), funded the University of Massachusetts Lowell, along with other university partners, to develop innovative, multidisciplinary education models that address victimization issues and responses to crime victims. The resulting [Integrating Crime Victims' Issues Into College and University Curricula](#) is designed to "broaden college and university students' awareness of crime victims' issues and knowledge of appropriate responses, and to increase the number and diversity of students exposed to and educated in crime victims' issues." Campus public safety officials may find particular interest in the course module on the relationship between law enforcement and victims in the crime reporting process.

With this integrated curricula approach, OVC intends to increase the role of educators and educational institutions in addressing the issues that crime victims face by adding a victim issues component to existing courses and programs, developing new victim-oriented courses and programs, and increasing the availability of victim-oriented field placements. The curricula material was developed by educators from the criminal justice and medical fields, pilot tested with college students, and peer reviewed by education leaders in criminal justice.

The materials may be customized and include the following components:

- Curriculum Kits/Teaching Materials: Nine course modules with class exercises, sample assignments, reading lists, slides, and other electronic and media presentations.
- Faculty Involvement: Information on creating a supportive learning environment for students, handling disclosures, and providing appropriate support and referrals.
- Promoting Student Involvement: Materials for increasing student placements in victim services.