U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relations Service's (CRS) program, *Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans*, a three-hour, in-person training course, led by subject matter experts, is designed to familiarize law enforcement, and government officials, as well civic and community leaders, with customs and cultural aspects of the Muslim American community, including their beliefs, practices, and civil rights-related issues that impact the community.

Our nation is enriched by its diversity. Understanding the cultures and customs of diverse communities can be challenging and complex at times. Police officers, first responders, and other government officials, as well as community, civil rights, religious, school, and tribal leaders, can strengthen their relationships with the Muslim American communities they serve by learning about cultural sensitivities, best practices on how to engage, and better methods of communication.

The Benefits of Training

Facilitates cooperation for smooth interactions

Establishes mutual respect

Increases safety

Strengthens partnerships to build public trust

Program Overview

The Importance of Community Awareness Community awareness enables interacting with community members in an informed manner. This lesson explains how understanding beliefs and religious practices of a community fosters improved engagement and describes the issues impacting Muslim Americans.

Building Awareness and Understanding This lesson provides basics of Muslim Americans and their faith and what influences their daily interactions to help avoid misunderstandings and stereotyping, while identifying compatible community engagement practices.

Planning Community Engagement This lesson identifies community engagement strategies that advance best practices on how to cultivate and further relations with Muslim Americans and highlights the benefits of creating partnerships between law enforcement, public officials, and the Muslim American community.

About CRS

Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and expanded by the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, CRS serves as “America’s Peacemaker” for communities facing tension or conflict based on differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. CRS services aim to enhance the ability of local communities to independently and collaboratively prevent and resolve future conflicts through the use of problem solving, increased knowledge, and improved communication.

CRS Services and Programs

CRS provides an array of programs to communities experiencing tension, as a tool for cultivating understanding, improving collaboration, and preventing future disagreements. CRS staff are professional mediators, facilitators, trainers, and consultants experienced in bringing community members together to help enhance their ability to resolve existing conflict and prevent future conflicts.

Where We Work

CRS Headquarters
Washington, DC

CRS Regional Offices

New England
Boston, MA

Northeast
New York, NY

Mid-Atlantic
Philadelphia, PA

Southeast
Atlanta, GA

Midwest
Chicago, IL

Southwest
Dallas, TX

Central
Kansas City, MO

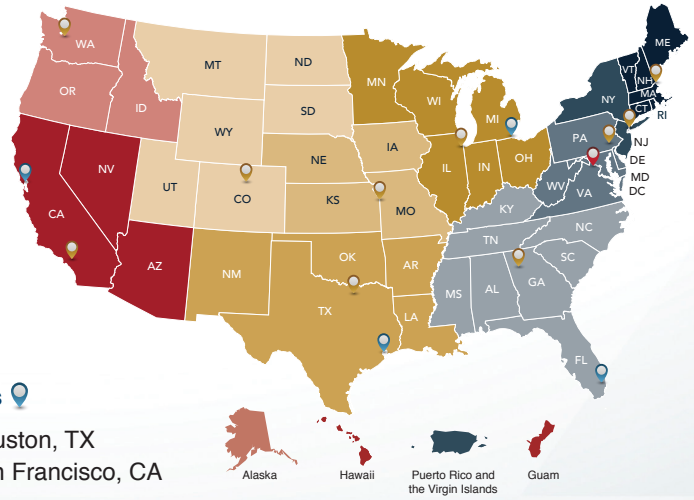
Rocky Mountain
Denver, CO

Western
Los Angeles, CA

Northwest
Seattle, WA

CRS Field Offices

Miami, FL
Detroit, MI
Houston, TX
San Francisco, CA



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