



U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Working with Law Enforcement & Communities To Improve Partnerships and Collaboration

The United States Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) provides services to federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that help communities resolve conflict. Through facilitated dialogue, mediation, consultation, and training, CRS services help to build trust and improve partnerships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. These partnerships help to facilitate problem solving and improve communication, which reduces tensions, clarifies misunderstandings, and improves local communities' capacity to resolve future conflict.

CRS works with law enforcement to ▼

Improve partnerships and communication between law enforcement and diverse communities through dialogue and problem solving

Mediate community conflict and tension following controversial incidents, including prosecutorial decisions or verdicts

Help organizers hold safe public events through contingency planning and event marshal training

Improve community awareness of hate crime laws, prevention, and response

Improve law enforcement awareness of the customs and practices of the diverse communities they serve

Programs & Services ▼

Strengthening Police & Community Partnerships (SPCP)

CRS offers a full-day program which brings together law enforcement and community leaders to address problems in the community and improve police-community partnerships. SPCP is designed to help communities increase local capacity and develop local solutions to local problems.

Mediation & Facilitated Dialogue

In response to controversial incidents or longstanding distrust that create community tensions (including officer-involved shootings or prosecutorial decisions or verdicts), CRS provides mediation and facilitated dialogue services to law enforcement and community stakeholders to help reduce tension, increase information sharing, and develop agreements between parties.

Training on Supporting Safe Public Events

CRS provides contingency planning and event marshal



Sanford, Florida Chief of Police Cecil Smith (left) and Mayor Jeff Triplett (center) attend a community prayer meeting in 2013 in the aftermath of the Trayvon Martin verdict. CRS worked with law enforcement, the mayor's office, and faith leaders in Sanford to reduce conflict and tension resulting from the case.

(Photo credit: Scott Olson/Getty Images)

training to organizers planning public events, such as demonstrations and marches. CRS works with local law enforcement, event planners, community organizers, and other stakeholders to improve communication between parties and minimize the risk of violence at the event.

Hate Crimes & Protecting Places of Worship Forums

CRS facilitates half-day educational sessions where law enforcement, prosecutors, and other experts educate communities on state and federal hate crimes laws, reporting, and related topics. A second half-day forum, Protecting Places of Worship, convenes law enforcement, faith-based leaders, and other

experts to educate communities on alleged hate crimes targeting religious buildings.

Community Awareness Trainings for Law Enforcement

In an effort to build relationships between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve, CRS provides trainings on customs, cultures, and practices of various communities. These trainings include *Engaging and Building Partnerships with Muslim Americans*, *Engaging and Building Partnerships with Sikh Americans*, and *Law Enforcement and the Transgender Community*. CRS facilitates these interactive trainings in collaboration with local subject matter experts.

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

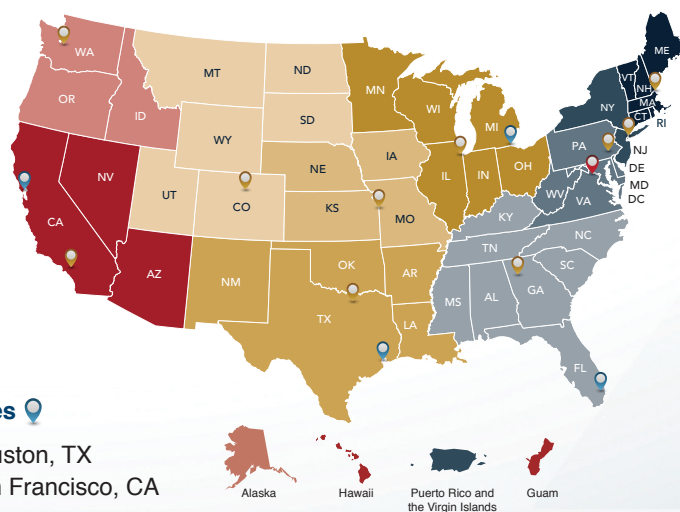
Central
Kansas City, MO

Rocky Mountain
Denver, CO

Western
Los Angeles, CA

Northwest
Seattle, WA

CRS Field Offices 📍
Miami, FL Houston, TX
Detroit, MI San Francisco, CA



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 [@DOJ_CRIS](https://twitter.com/DOJ_CRIS)

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 202.305.2935

For more information on this program or other CRS services, please contact your local CRS office:

<https://www.justice.gov/crs/about-crs/regional-and-field-offices>