U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Reducing Risk During Public Events:

Contingency Planning

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Relation Service's (CRS) in-person training program, *Reducing Risk During Public Events: Contingency Planning* led by subject matter experts, is designed to help law enforcement, government officials, event organizers, and community volunteers plan safe public events. This training course helps stakeholders identify and mitigate risks to public safety prior to the start of a public event.

Communities sometimes experience tensions because of differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, and these conflicts may be reflected through public protests. This training program helps communities plan for a safe march or demonstration. Through the implementation of best practices and tools for event contingency planning, community stakeholders are better able to contribute toward ensuring safety for upcoming public events.

Course Goals

Increase knowledge of how to plan for a safe public event

Establish the importance of planning for a public event

Begin to develop an appropriate plan to prepare for the event, hold the event, and assess potential issues for maintaining public safety during the event

Program Overview

When conflicts arise in communities due to differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability, public protests may occur, and CRS helps ensure community members are trained in best practices for planning a safe event.

Event Planning Considerations. This lesson examines the various factors, including logistics, permits, and allocation of resources, to consider when planning an event.

Key Players. This lesson focuses on developing an action plan for identifying key players, assigning roles and responsibilities, and providing them with resources and training.

Event Stage Planning. This lesson reviews the five key stages to most public events — pre-event, assembly, march, rally, and disbandment — and discusses the planning and risks associated with each one.

Planning for Potential Issues. This lesson focuses on contingency planning, including coordination between local law enforcement and event organizers.

About CRS

Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, CRS's services expanded through the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009. CRS, a component of the United States Department of Justice, serves as "America's Peacemaker" for communities facing tension or conflict based on differences of race, color, natural origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. Through the services CRS provides, the agency enhances the ability of such community members to independently and collaboratively prevent and resolve future conflicts through increasing knowledge, understanding, and communication from within.

CRS Programs

CRS provides an array of programs to communities experiencing tension. As a companion course to this training, CRS also offers *Event Marshals: Maintaining Public Safety During Events*. These programs and others are tools 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

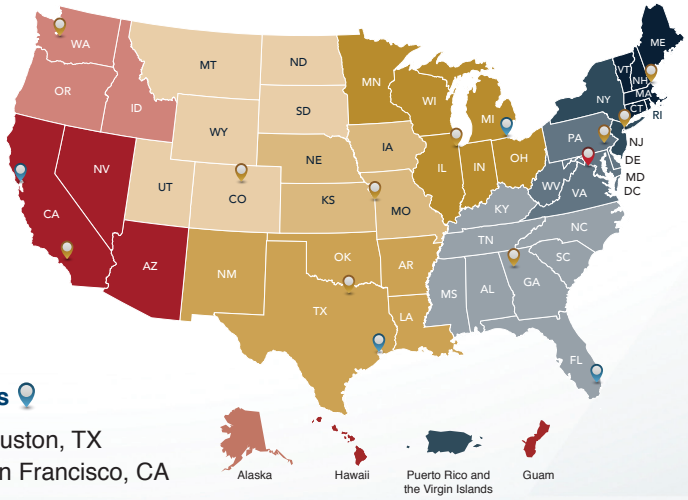
Rocky Mountain
Denver, CO

Western
Los Angeles, CA

Northwest
Seattle, WA

CRS Field Offices

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



Find us, connect with us

www.justice.gov/crs

facebook.com/DOJCRS/ | @DOJ_CRS | askcrs@usdoj.gov | 202.305.2935

To contact any of our regional or field offices about training, please visit:
https://www.justice.gov/crs/about-crs/regional-and-field-offices