Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities

The United States Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) training program, Engaging and Building Relationships with Transgender Communities, is an in-person, three-hour training designed to help law enforcement officers improve their interactions and develop relationships with transgender communities and individuals.

Co-facilitated by subject matter experts from transgender community organizations and law enforcement, the program aims to increase participants’ awareness and understanding of issues impacting transgender individuals and communities. The program also provides strategies and best practices for improving communication and collaboration with transgender communities.

Building Awareness and Understanding
The program defines important terms and clarifies language related to transgender individuals and communities. These include gender identity terms and acceptable language to use when speaking with and referring to transgender persons.

Importance of Community Awareness
Through statistics and case studies, participants learn about issues that impact transgender communities and individuals, including social and economic disparities, assault and harassment, and high suicide rates. The program also discusses dynamics between law enforcement and transgender communities that impact trust and communication.

Planning Community Engagement
Participants learn strategies and best practices to engage transgender communities and individuals, including the development of safe spaces initiatives; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer or Questioning (LGBTQ) liaison units; written policies; and community outreach plans.
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 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

Midwest
Chicago, IL

Western
Los Angeles, CA

Northeast
New York, NY

Southwest
Dallas, TX

Northwest
Seattle, WA

Mid-Atlantic
Philadelphia, PA

Central
Kansas City, MO

CRS Field Offices

Southeast
Atlanta, GA

Rocky Mountain
Denver, CO

Miami, FL
Houston, TX

Detroit, MI
San Francisco, CA

Find us, connect with us

Find us, connect with us

www.justice.gov/crs

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askcrs@usdoj.gov

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