



## **DHS Plan to Provide Training to State and Local Law Enforcement in the Secure Communities Program**

The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are creating a series of training /awareness briefings designed primarily for use by front line state and local law enforcement agency (LEA) personnel during daily muster/roll call briefings.

### **Project Goals:**

- 1) To provide actionable information to state and local law enforcement about the civil rights and civil liberties issues that may arise when ICE begins using federal information sharing capability through Secure Communities in their jurisdictions.
- 2) To increase the transparency of the Department's active commitment to protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of all persons affected by DHS activities and programs.

### **Materials and Timeline**

The training/awareness briefing materials will include a series of short downloadable videos, discussion guides with references to web-based resources for additional information (when available) and job aids. The primary deployment of these materials will be at muster/roll call briefings at the start of officers' shifts, though they can be used in other settings. The full series of training/awareness briefing materials will take approximately eighteen months to produce and will include input from law enforcement and community focus groups. The potential audience is hundreds of thousands of police officers.

### **Overview of the Proposed Issues**

The videos and other materials will address the following categories of civil rights and civil liberties issues and topics that may be relevant when Secure Communities is activated in a jurisdiction:

1. *Introduction to Secure Communities for LEAs* – This module provides a broad overview of the Secure Communities program for law enforcement and emphasizes that Secure Communities imposes no new or additional requirements on state and local law enforcement, and that law enforcement attention or action should not be based on race, ethnicity, immigration status, or inability to speak English. This module will serve as the foundation for the remaining topics. **Status: COMPLETE**
2. *Avoiding the Unlawful Use of Race, Ethnicity, and National Origin in Law Enforcement Activities; Nondiscrimination* – This module will draw from existing Department of Justice and other materials developed for multi-day officer training materials on racial profiling and nondiscrimination. This unit will make clear that Secure Communities does

not license an LEA to take an individual's race, ethnicity, national origin, or ability to speak English into account when deciding whom to stop, question, or arrest.

3. *Outreach to Communities* – This module will focus on how to conduct outreach to immigrant communities and address public concerns surrounding the Secure Communities program.
4. *Legal Protections and Relief for Victims of Violence and Human Trafficking, Part 1* – This module will briefly cover special considerations on domestic violence in the immigrant community, recognizing the signs of violence or other crimes against immigrant victims, the relief available through T and U visas, and the ability for victims of domestic violence to self-petition for lawful permanent resident status and special suspension of deportation if the victims meet certain residency requirements under Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
5. *Legal Protections and Relief for Victims of Violence and Human Trafficking, Part 2* – This module will build upon the Part 1 module with a focus on the responsibilities of local law enforcement under the VAWA confidentiality provisions. The module will also cover practical tips for law enforcement on how to best communicate and interact with immigrant victims of crimes as well as victims of persecution, torture, and trafficking and other potential asylum seekers.
6. *Recognition of Manipulation or Retaliation by Employers, Landlords, etc.* – This module will provide information that will assist officers in identifying potential abuses by landlords, employers, or others who may be involved in conflicts with immigrants and may seek to manipulate police actions in retaliation as a result of these conflicts.
7. *Detainers, the Complaint Process and Consular Notification* – This module will teach officers about the ICE detainer process, including the details of the new detainer form, LEAs' legal obligations with respect to consular notification, and the CRCL civil rights complaint process.
8. *Language Services/Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP): Considerations, Best Practices and Requirements* – Executive Order 13166 and 28 CFR § 42.104(b)(2) require that all recipients of Federal financial assistance (including nearly all police and sheriff's departments), take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to all programs and activities for persons with limited English proficiency. This module will cover both the requirements as well as practical tips drawn from state and local law enforcement experience on how to identify LEP needs and provide the necessary assistance.



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