

Overcoming Language Barriers in Policing: Grants and Resources that Support Language Access Programs in Law Enforcement Agencies

September 25, 2024

For Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Victim Advocates, Attorneys,
and State Government Agency Staff

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The opinions, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

Faculty Introductions

- Leslye E. Orloff, NIWAP, American University Washington College of Law
- Hildegard Koenig, Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
- Laureen Laglagaron, Senior Attorney, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ)
- Sgt. Stacy Schantz and Sgt. Emily Bastien, Denver Police Department
- Officer Natasha Haunsperger, Portland Police Bureau
- MaryEllen Garcia, Exec. Director, New Mexico Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Vince Davenport, Associate Deputy Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Dept. of Justice
- Robert Chapman, Deputy Director, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), U.S. Dept. of Justice
- Representative, Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Dept. of Justice

Learning Objectives

By the end of this webinar participants will be better able to

- Know how to access technical assistance and trainings that improve your agency's work with limited English proficient (LEP) and immigrant victims
- Employ best practices and innovative compliance strategies that improve language access to your agency
- Seek funding and resources that improvements in language access at your agency
- Use resources developed by national technical assistance providers and federal government agencies to help your agency better serve LEP and immigrant crime victims

NIWAP Supports Your Work Through:

- Training & Technical Assistance for
 - Local, state, federal law enforcement; prosecutors; judge and systems-based victim witness staff
 - Serving immigrant victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, child/elder abuse
- Bringing free training to your jurisdiction
 - On language access, U & T visas as crime fighting tools, and best practices for working with immigrant victims
- Providing peer-to-peer technical assistance
 - By national faculty of law enforcement and prosecutors
- Answering any questions you have regarding your work with LEP and immigrant survivors

Virtual Roundtables

- Law enforcement & Prosecutors only
- Interactive discussion
 - Strategies to build rapport, establish trust, and ensure safety
 - Ask questions from subject-matter experts and peers \
 - Meets by monthly
- To register, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LERoundtable>



NIWAP's Library of Training Tools

<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/>

- Language access training tools for law enforcement
- U and T visa certification toolkit
- Government regulations, policies, reports, tools and best practices that support your work with LEP and immigrant victims
- Webinars and a wide range of training materials
- Screening and trauma informed interview tools
- Multilingual victim know your rights brochures

NIWAP's Podcast Series

<https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/niwap-podcast-series>

The screenshot shows the Spotify interface for the NIWAP podcast series. The top navigation bar includes the Spotify logo, navigation icons for Home, Search, Your Library, Create Playlist, and Liked Songs, and links for SIGN UP and LOG IN. The main content area features the NIWAP logo and the title "National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project" under the "PODCAST" category. Below the title is a "FOLLOW" button and a menu icon. The "All Episodes" section lists three episodes:

- Web Library Podcast Dec 2020**: Introduction to NIWAP and the Web Library featuring Leslye Orloff. What NIWAP is, how it came to be, and how to take advantage of its resources (including the web library, local resources, online webinars, training materials, and technical assistance). Oct 29 · 25 min 42 sec
- Language Access Podcast 2020 - Part Two**: Issues of language access for crime victims and witnesses featuring Detective Shelli Sonnenberg from the Boise, Idaho, police department, and Investigator Michael LaRiviere from the Salem, MA Police Department, along with Leslye Orloff, director of NIWAP. Oct 29 · 25 min 36 sec
- Language Access Podcast 2020 - Part One**: Issues of language access for crime victims and witnesses featuring Detective Shelli Sonnenberg from the Boise, Idaho, police department, and Investigator Michael LaRiviere from the Salem, MA Police Department, along with Leslye Orloff, director of NIWAP. Oct 29 · 26 min 42 sec

The "About" section on the right states "Podcast by National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project" and includes tags for "Government" and "Educational podcasts".

500 12th Street, #330, Oakland, CA 94607

T: 415.568.3315 | E: info@api-gbv.org | W: www.api-gbv.org

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

apigbv

ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE
ON GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence

A **national resource center** on domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence in Asian/Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. We envision a world free of gender-based violence for communities with equal opportunities for all to thrive.

Our mission is to disrupt gender-based violence, which causes physical, sexual, emotional, spiritual, and economic harm within AAPI communities throughout the U.S. and territories.

- Abusive international marriages
- Domestic violence
- Domestic violence related homicide
- Engaging men
- Elder abuse
- Transforming gender roles
- Facts & stats
- Forced marriage
- Immigration policies affecting survivors
- Language access, interpretation
- Sexual violence
- Human trafficking
- Translated materials

The Interpretation Technical Assistance & Resource Center (ITARC)

works to improve systems responses to LEP victims by providing technical assistance and training on the development and implementation of language accessible services.

Technical assistance and training includes but is not limited to:

- Civil rights compliance;
- Language access planning;
- Building Capacity to Serve Communities with Limited- English Proficiency and Accessibility;
- Interpreting for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault; and
- Building pools of qualified interpreters through workshops on interpretation ethics and skills building.

Law Enforcement Language Access Initiative (LELAI):

Partnering with law enforcement to overcome language barriers

National Immigrant Women's Advocacy Project (NIWAP) Webinar
September 25 (1-2:30pm ET)

Laureen Laglagaron

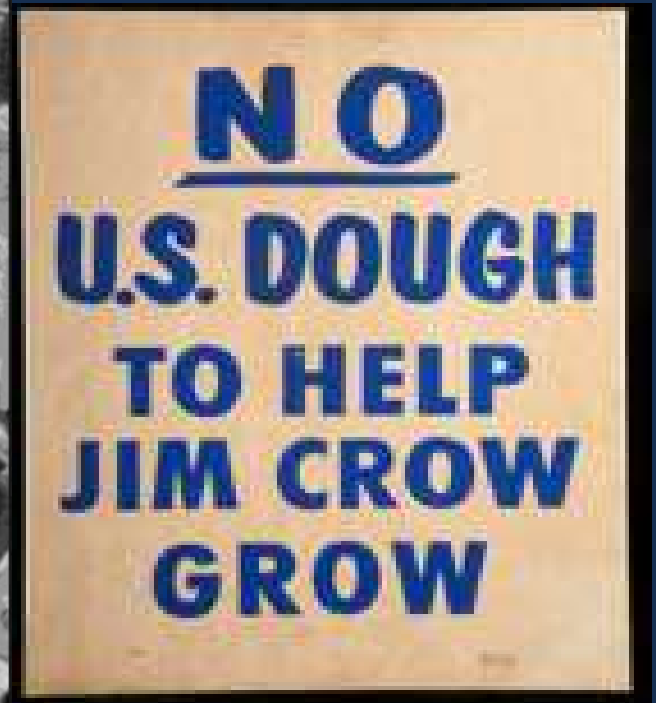
Attorney, Federal Coordination and Compliance Section



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Overview of Title VI



Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be...subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”



Legal Basis for Language Access Requirements

- ***National Origin*** and language are closely related.
- Under Title VI, failing to make certain programs and activities accessible to LEP people *may* amount to national origin discrimination.
- LEP people should have “***meaningful access***” to such programs and activities.



Law Enforcement Language Access Initiative (LELAI)



- Launched in December 2022 (Letter to Law Enforcement issued in December 2023)
- Launched in tandem with an expansive language access settlement agreement with the Denver Police Department (DPD) and a new language access policy for DPD
- Led by the CRT's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section in partnership with U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the initiative aims to:

LELAI Goals



- Develop technical assistance resources and tools that can assist local and state law enforcement agencies (LEAs)
- Affirmatively engage LEAs that want to review, update, and/or strengthen their language access policies, plans and training
- Leverage collaboration with U.S. Attorneys' Offices to conduct language access trainings in communities across the country
- Strengthen the Department's ties and engagement with LEP community stakeholders and LEP populations

LELAI Virtual Convening



In December 2023, the Division hosted a virtual convening with law enforcement stakeholders to discuss their efforts to address language barriers in policing. During this convening:

- The Division issued a letter to law enforcement agencies reiterating their federal civil rights obligations to provide language assistance services
- Justice Department officials and law enforcement leaders discussed effective strategies around language access
- The Division, in partnership with COPS, launched a language access e-learning resources on the COPS Training Portal



U.S. Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division

950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

December 12, 2023

Dear Law Enforcement Colleagues:

In order to effectively protect and serve communities and carry out their vitally important mission, law enforcement agencies (LEAs) must be able to communicate in an accurate and timely manner with all members of the public, regardless of language spoken. Every day, law enforcement personnel across the country interview witnesses, victims, and subjects; communicate vital information to the communities they serve; and maintain phone lines and websites to facilitate the flow of information. Yet all too often, individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP), those who have a limited ability to speak, read, write, or understand the English language, face greater hurdles when seeking the protection of or communicating with state and local LEAs.¹

Overcoming language barriers within a law enforcement agency is critical for three key reasons. First, accurate and timely communication protects officers and the public. When threats or other vital information are misunderstood, lives may be unnecessarily put at risk. Tragic consequences have resulted from officers' inability to communicate in an accurate and timely manner with perpetrators, victims, or witnesses with LEP.² Second, use of translation, interpretation, and other language assistance services promotes community trust and inclusion by sending a message that LEAs strive to equitably serve the whole community, irrespective of language barriers. Finally, accurate and timely language assistance also helps to ensure the reliability of witness accounts and other evidence. Collecting reliable evidence is at the very heart of the law enforcement mission and critical to achieving justice in the courtroom.

W E L C O M E T O T H E



Powered by the National Center for Policing Innovation

The COPS Office is a leader in developing and providing innovative training to advance community policing for all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve. The COPS Office provides numerous trainings and support materials in a variety of formats, including curricula, guidebooks, webinars, publications, conference presentations, podcasts, and videos.

The COPS Training Portal provides a convenient avenue for law enforcement professionals and community partners throughout the United States and territories to access interactive online training in emerging public safety topics and serves as a gateway to a variety of multimedia community policing resources at no cost.

E-LEARNING RESOURCE

Overcoming Language Barriers in Policing and Building an Effective Language Access Program

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) recognizes the need for additional resources to help law enforcement overcome language barriers and communicate accurately and effectively with people who have a limited ability to speak, write, or understand the English language.

[ACCESS RESOURCE](#)

Overcoming Language Barriers in Policing and Building an Effective Language Access Program

Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division

Language barriers can impact officer safety, public safety, and the integrity of an investigation and prosecution. The DOJ's Law Enforcement Language Access Initiative (LELAI) has developed resources and tools that can assist local and state law enforcement agencies in their efforts to provide meaningful language access to individuals with limited English proficiency within their jurisdiction. An initiative led by the Civil Rights Division's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section in partnership with U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the resources below review the legal obligation to provide language assistance services and offer promising practices for overcoming language barriers.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is making its resources as well as LELAI's available below. Specifically, the language access resources include the following:

- **Roadblocks to Communication Recorded Virtual Training Event** which discusses the legal obligation to provide meaningful access to individuals with limited English proficiency, identifies and troubleshoots common translation and interpretation issues, and describes the appropriate use of tools and resources such as bilingual officers and machine translation.
- **LEP.gov Web Resources for Law Enforcement Officers** provides sample language access plans, policies, and forms; examples of language access settlement agreements; and other resources to help law enforcement draft, revise, or adopt language access policies, plans, and procedures.
- **LEP Resource Guide for Law Enforcement** that includes guidance on strategies for law enforcement agencies to ensure language access, resources for obtaining language services, and possible funding sources for law enforcement agencies.
- **FBI Advice of Rights Forms Translated in 40+ Languages**, often referred to as the Miranda warning, this document is used by law enforcement to apprise subjects of their constitutional rights in various types of law enforcement interactions, including arrests and custodial interrogations. The form has been translated by FBI linguists into over 40 languages.

To learn more about the language access initiative, visit the Strengthening the Federal Government's Commitment to Language Access memo from the Office of The Attorney General and <https://www.lep.gov/>.

Type: Resource

All Topics: Professional Skills and Competencies

Sub-topic: Vulnerable Populations

Learning Partner(s): DOJ CRT



[Home](#)

Law Enforcement

DOJ Law Enforcement Language Access Initiative

The Department of Justice has [launched](#) its Law Enforcement Language Access Initiative (LELAI), a nationwide effort to assist law enforcement agencies (or LEAs) to overcome language barriers in their day-to-day work. Led by the Civil Rights Division's Federal Coordination and Compliance Section, in partnership with U.S. Attorneys' Offices, this Initiative provides technical assistance [reprodsources](#) and [tools](#) aimed at helping state and local law enforcement provide meaningful language access to individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP), in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

LELAI also affirmatively engages law enforcement agencies that want to review, update and/or strengthen their language access policies, plans and training. The Initiative seeks to strengthen the connection between law enforcement agencies and communities that may not speak, read, write, or understand English. Investing in this effort not only assists LEAs in complying with Title VI, but it also promotes community and officer safety, collection of reliable evidence, and community trust. If you are a law enforcement agency interested in improving your agency's ability to communicate with individuals or communities with LEP, email LELAI@usdoj.gov

- [Settlement Agreements and Language Access Policies](#) 
- [Resources for Law Enforcement](#) 

Resources

- [Español for Law Enforcement | Home | National Institute of Justice \(ojp.gov\)](#)
- DOJ National Institute of Justice Spanish Glossary for Law Enforcement



The screenshot shows the homepage of the "Español for Law Enforcement" course. At the top, there is the DOJ seal and the NIJ logo with the tagline "STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE." and a "Menu" button. Below the navigation bar, the page title "Español for Law Enforcement" is displayed. A "Home" link with an external icon is prominent. A secondary navigation menu includes links for "Home", "Course Contents", "Vocabulary", "References", "Troubleshooting", and "Contact Us". The main heading "Español for Law Enforcement" is followed by a photograph of a police officer in uniform talking to a group of four people (two women and two men) standing behind yellow crime scene tape.

The goal of this course is for students to attain a working knowledge of the Spanish language and apply that knowledge to law enforcement situations.

To begin this course, select a topic below.

If you are taking this course for the first time, it is recommended that you start with Basic Knowledge followed by the scenarios.

- [Basic Knowledge](#)
- [Interviews](#)
- [Crime Scene](#)
- [Motor Vehicles](#)
- [Domestic Violence](#)

Course Notes [↗](#)

Certificate or credits: The National Institute of Justice **does not** offer any credits for completion of this course.

Lessons [↗](#)

Lesson
Basic Knowledge
Interviews
Crime Scene



Top

Focus on LEA Language Access Training



DPD Agreement and Updated Language Access Policy



MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER AND THE DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE NUMBER 171-16-55

I. BACKGROUND

- A. Allegations.** In July 2018, the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado (USAO) received allegations that the Denver Police Department (DPD) engaged in national origin discrimination against limited English proficient (LEP) individuals in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d to 2000d-7 and its implementing regulations, 28 C.F.R. Part 42, Subpart C (collectively "Title VI"). In October 2018, the USAO, together with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division (collectively "DOJ"), initiated an investigation to determine: (1) whether DPD failed to provide language assistance services to LEP individuals from Burma, including during arrests of such individuals; and (2) whether any language assistance provided deviated in quality,

Recent LELAI Settlement Agreements



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King County Sheriff's Office to improve language access after alleged bias

Feb. 8, 2024 at 11:36 am | Updated Feb. 8, 2024 at 5:51 pm

By [Alexandra Yoon-Hendricks](#)
Seattle Times staff reporter

The King County Sheriff's Office will improve its language access as part of an agreement with U.S. Justice Department over allegations the agency violated federal law by discriminating against people with limited English proficiency.

As part of the agreement, which details a two-year plan, the Sheriff's Office will hire a language access program manager and prohibit the use of children, family, bystanders and electronic translation tools like Google Translate for language assistance in most situations.



DOJ Reaches Agreement With Wisconsin Sheriff's Office to Improve Services for People Who Don't Speak English

Years after deputies in Dane County, Wisconsin, mistakenly blamed an immigrant worker for his son's death on a dairy farm, the sheriff's office has agreed to reforms meant to ensure that residents who speak limited English can get needed services.

National Policing Conferences & Related Workshops



Laureen.Laglagaron@usdoj.gov

Senior Attorney

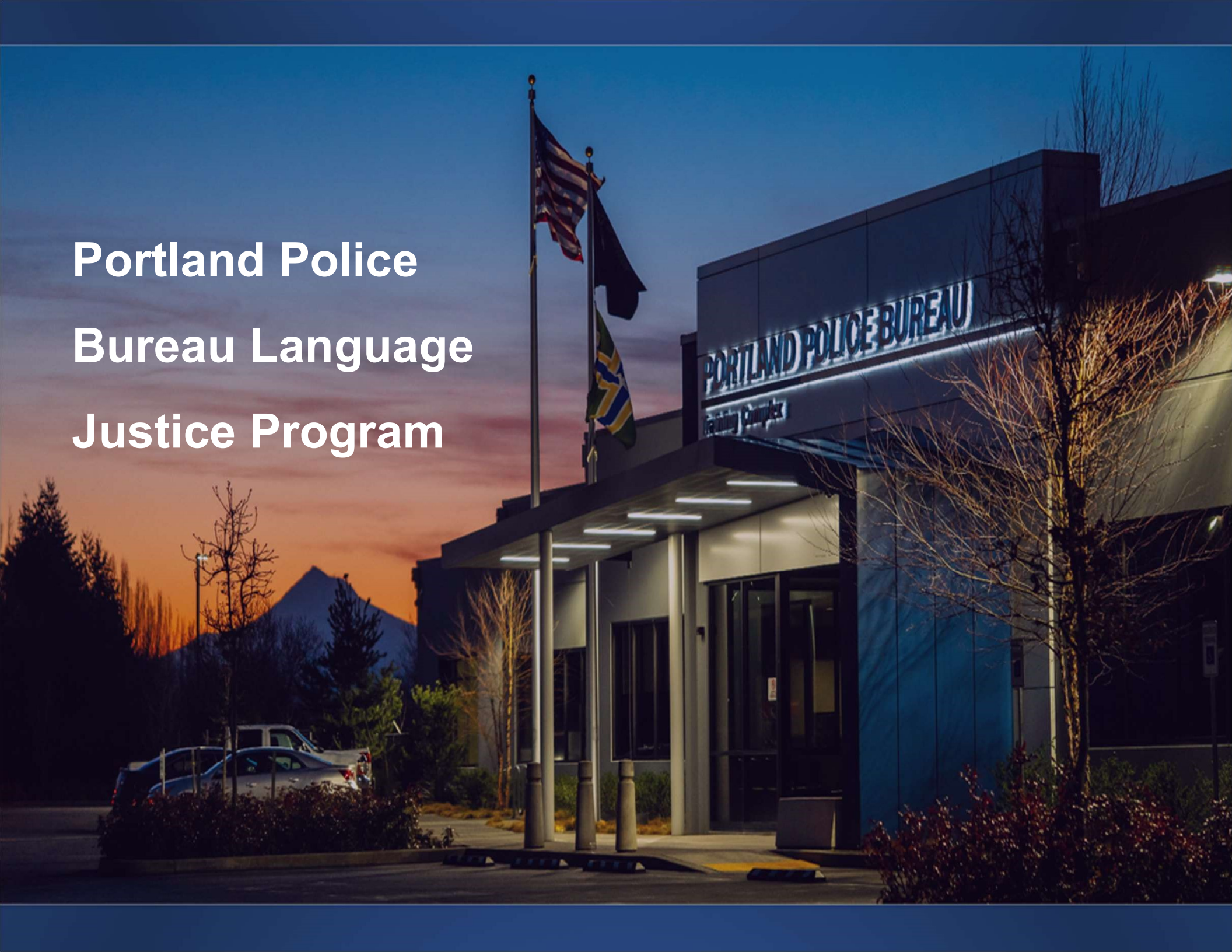
Federal Coordination and Compliance Section



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

**Portland Police
Bureau Language
Justice Program**



CASE STUDY: PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU LANGUAGE JUSTICE
(2017-2024)

1. Policy Development (Directive

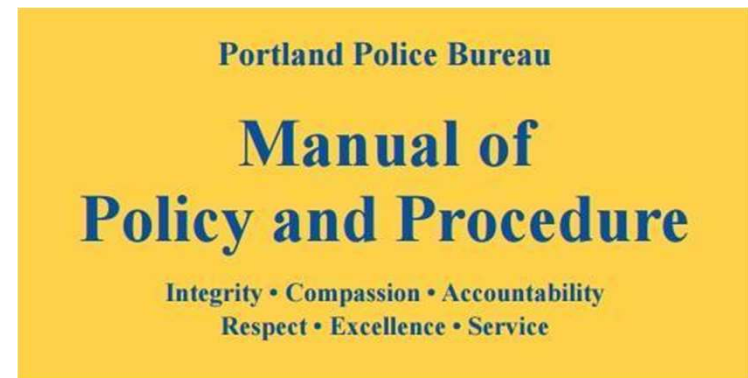
2. Training Curriculum Development



CASE STUDY: PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU LANGUAGE JUSTICE

1. Policy Development Roadmap

- a. - survivor-led participation
- b. - community-based language experts
- c. - bi-lingual members participation
- d. - public review process
- e. - City Attorney's involvement



**Portland Police needs to
ensure language services
are equitable and consistent**

2020 PPB LANGUAGE SURVEY



NON-POLICE PARTNERSHIP AND SUPPORT

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY SMEs

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY FOREIGN LANGUAGE
DEPARTMENT

CASE STUDY: Training Development Roadmap

- a. - police video training
- b. - community SMEs involvement
- c. - bilingual members involvement
- d. - community-based language experts
- e. - bi-lingual members participation



SURVIVOR-LED STORYTELLING



City of Portland Language Access Infrastructure

- 1. Equity and Language Access Analyst/Language Access Program Manager**
- 2. [City of Portland Resolution No. 37525](#)**
- 3. Citywide Language Access Program Technical Assistance**

DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

DPD LANGUAGE ACCESS COORDINATORS

Sergeant Emily Bastien

Sergeant Stacy Schantz

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Management Analyst Senior

Hannah Sowell



THE BEGINNING

What does your department already have in place for Language Assistance?

Do you have resources for your officers, when they contact an individual who is an LEP (Limited English Proficient) person?

Would they have the means to communicate with them effectively, efficiently and equitably?

Most police departments have some type of Language Assistance line already in place, that they have been utilizing for some time, but is it efficient and is it continually adapting and improving.

Are the resources you have working? Is it sufficient or could it use improvement?

Language Assistance Services
Video Remote Interpreting / Over the Phone
On-site Interpretation
Document Transcriptions
(Transcribe reports, citations, vital forms and community flyers)

Identify Top Languages

New Updated Training

Bi-Lingual Officer Program

Language Access Website

Language Access Committee

Community Engagement Activities

Language Access and Grant Projects at DPD

Current Grant Overview

Total Active Grants: 34

Community-Focused Grants: 25

Youth interventions

Mental health crisis support

Crime interventions (e.g., auto theft, fentanyl investigations)

Traffic interventions

Community engagement

Victim services

And more

Upcoming Initiatives

- **COPS Community Policing Development Grant:**
 - **Goal:** Enhance training and public information with AI video technology
 - **Features:** Department-approved content in multiple languages
 - **Status:** Approval pending
-

Future Plans

- **2025 Expansion:** Enhance language access plan through additional grant funding
 - Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant
 - FEMA Preparedness (Non-Disaster) Grants
 - COPS CHP Grant Program
 - Justice and Mental Health Grant Programs
 - COPS CPD Grant Program



Language Access Importance

74% of Grants Involve Public:
Equitable service delivery is essential.

We are continually developing new ideas and additions to further enhance our Language Assistance programs. If you have any questions or great ideas, please contact us at:

DPDLANGSERVICES@denvergov.org

or visit the DPD Language Assistance Website at:

<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Police-Department/Language-Assistance-Services>

Funding Available At From States

- The role that State STOP and VOCA Administrators Play in Language Access Funding



Language Access Equals
Access to Justice.

- What does having the resources to ensure everyone can fully participate mean?
- What can you do to leverage local, state, and federal funds to increase access within your agency?

MaryEllen Garcia, CEO
New Mexico Coalition Against
Domestic Violence
maryellen@nmcadv.org

Funder Panel

- Education
 - culturally competent victim services
 - translation & Interpretation
 - safety plans, resources in the languages needed in their communities
 - brochures, flyers, posters, etc.
- Community Outreach
 - building trust and engagement with culturally specific communities

Resources

- Website:
 - api-gbv.org
- Resource Library:
 - api-gbv.org/Resource-Library
 - <https://www.api-gbv.org/language-access-hub/>
- API Services Directory:
 - api-gbv.org/Directory

Contact Information

Hildegard Koenig

Language Access VOCA & Courts Program Manager

Asian Pacific Institute on Gender Based Violence

Email: hkoenig@api-gbv.org

Federal Funding Opportunities

U.S. Department of Justice

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING
SERVICES (COPS OFFICE)

Funding Language Access Initiatives for Law Enforcement

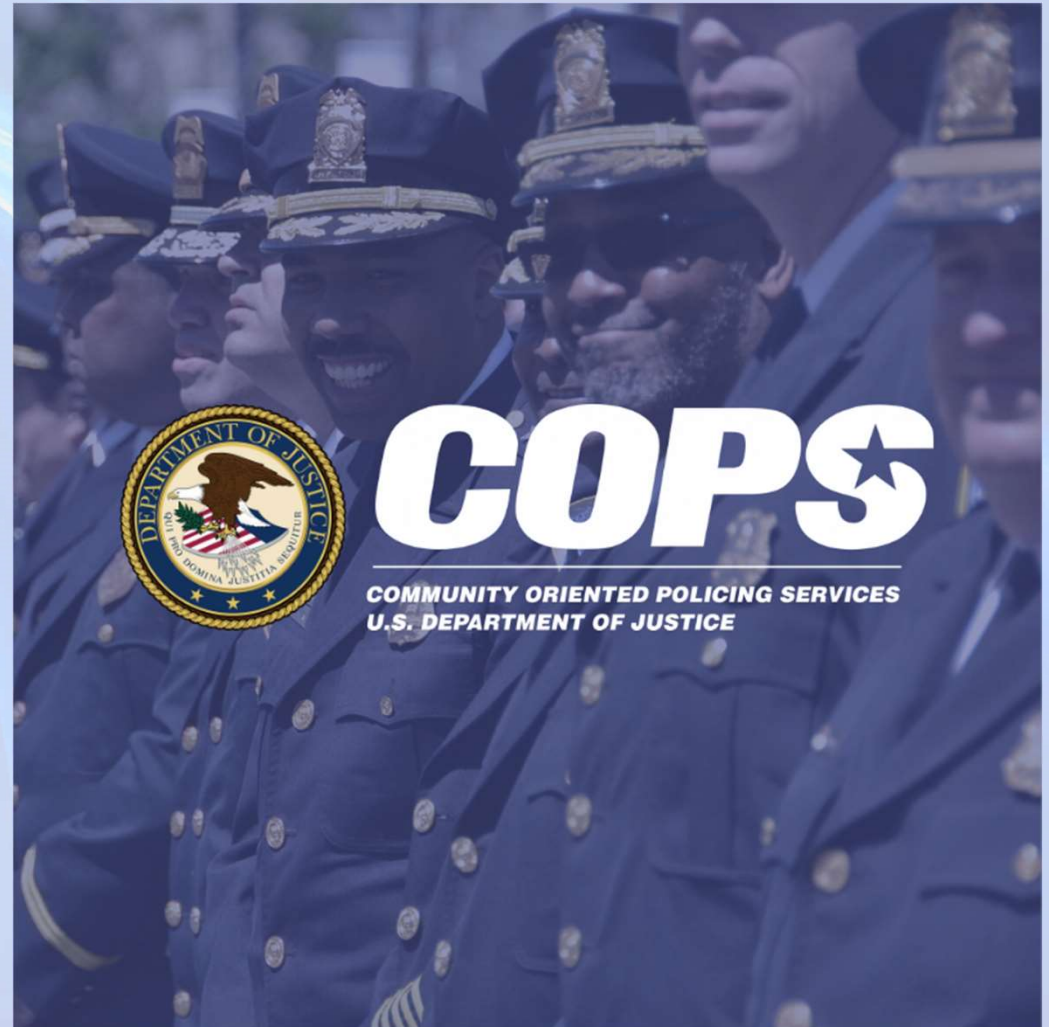


COPS

Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

COPS Office Overview

- Established by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994.
- Mission is to advance public safety through community policing.
- Community policing focuses on collaborative efforts to prevent and respond to crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.
- Since 1994, the COPS Office has been appropriated more than \$20 billion to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and provide training and technical assistance to help advance community policing.
- The COPS Office has funded over 138,000 additional officer positions for more than 13,000 of the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country in small and large jurisdictions alike.





GRANTS

- Direct funding to agencies and to organizations supporting law enforcement professionals
- Respects the importance of local control of policing
- Provides funding for the hiring or rehiring of sworn entry-level law enforcement positions
- Other COPS Office grants provide assistance to tribal law enforcement, support school safety, and target the distribution of heroin and other opioids as well as methamphetamine



TRAINING

- Live in-person and train-the-trainer courses
- Active shooter response, tools for tolerance, drug endangered children, school resource officers, de-escalation
- COPS Training Portal
- Bringing on-demand, self-paced learning options to busy professionals

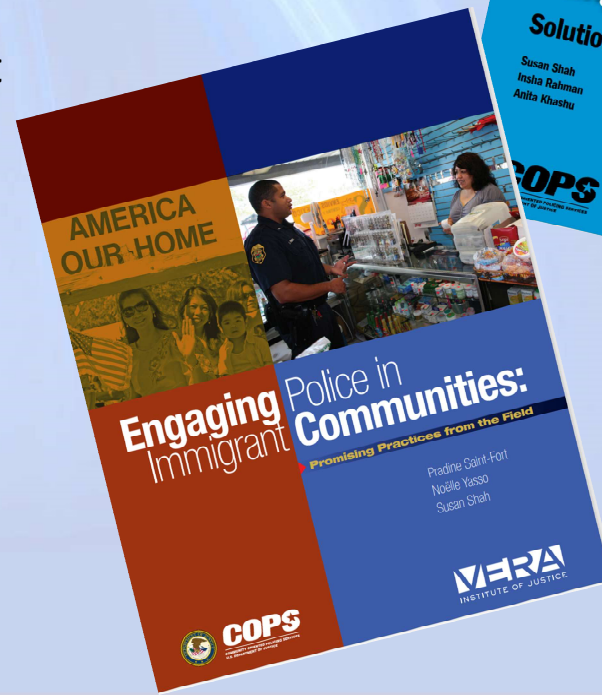
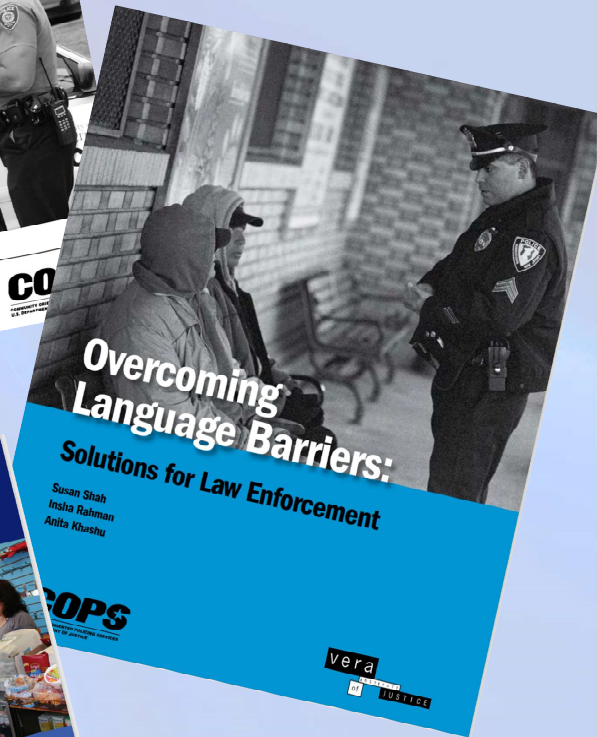
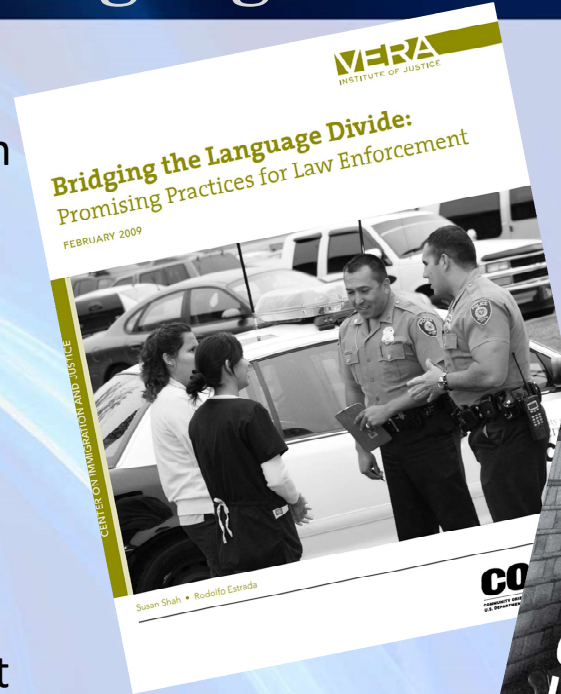


TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC), part of the Collaborative Reform Initiative continuum
- National Blue Alert Network
- Publications and knowledge products: 500+ guidebooks and toolkits available covering different aspects of modern American policing, based on real practice; nearly 100,000 resource requests filled last year

COPS Longstanding Commitment to Language Access

- Communication is essential to the development of partnerships that make community policing an effective strategy for ensuring public safety.
- Community policing programs, in which law enforcement officers partner with community members to identify and solve problems, cannot work well when officers and residents fail to understand each other.
- Without dialog, police cannot effectively conduct investigations, build community trust, or ensure that victims will report crime. If police do not get an accurate description of problems, their responses may be unsuccessful or counterproductive.
- Over the years the COPS Office has disseminated a number of resources on the topic of language access to assist law enforcement agencies develop strategies for addressing language barriers to communicate effectively with the communities they serve.



CPD MICROGRANTS

- CPD Microgrants program funds are used to develop law enforcement's capacity to implement community policing strategies by providing funding to local, state, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. When properly applied, community policing improves the identification and prioritization of community problems; builds trust and relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve; and enables an agency to build a culture toward accountability, transparency, open communication, and mutual trust.
- Applicants are invited to propose demonstration or pilot projects to be implemented in their agency that offer creative ideas to advance crime fighting, community engagement, problem solving, or organizational changes to support community policing in one of several engagement areas. In 2024, those proposed areas are (1) community violence interventions, (2) officer recruitment, retention, and workforce diversification, (3) hate crimes and domestic extremism, (4) underserved populations, (5) building trust and legitimacy with the community and (6) open topic areas
- The COPS Office encourages law enforcement agencies to partner with community groups, institutions of higher education, and other stakeholders to implement the proposed project.
- The COPS Office also encourages agencies to consider evidence-based practices or an evaluation component based on the type of activities.

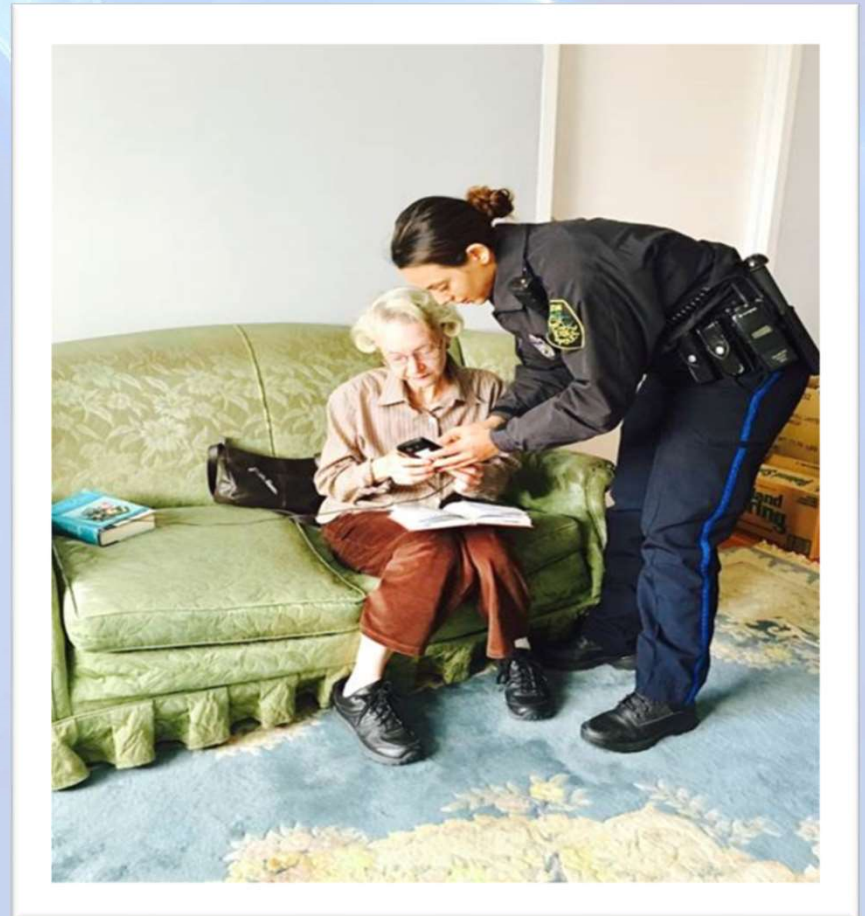
Village of Harwood Heights, IL

- In FY15 the COPS Office provided funding through the microgrant program to the Village of Harwood Heights to address crimes against their growing senior citizen and Polish-speaking populations through crime prevention seminars.
- With this program, they were able to build positive relationships with these residents, who were normally less likely than other populations to call the police.

Lessons learned

Outreach to the Polish community required a customized approach.

To develop and conduct the Polish crime prevention seminars, the department leveraged a Polish-speaking detective. She translated the crime prevention seminar into Polish and delivered two sessions of the seminar to the Polish community. Outreach was a challenge for the HHPD—the department publicized the seminars at the local Polish church mass and online, but these outreach efforts did not result in a large turnout. Those who did attend, however, were very engaged and asked many questions of the Polish-speaking detective. The police department likely would not have had contact with these attendees without the seminars.



Supporting Language Access

- Community policing programs, in particular, require police and the communities they serve to be able to trust each other and cooperate.
- Achieving this kind of relationship presumes effective and open communication between officers and residents, including those who are not fluent in English. The task of communicating and developing trust with LEP individuals may seem especially formidable, yet many law enforcement agencies are figuring out how to do this.
- The COPS Office is proud to continue to support law enforcement agencies increase their department's ability to communicate with and serve LEP individuals; to develop strong, trusting relationships with all community members; and to ensure that officers can do their jobs effectively.



Thank You!



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COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND LANGUAGE ACCESS

September 25, 2024



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



Brent J. Cohen

Acting Assistant Attorney General

Office of Justice Programs

BJA - Bureau of Justice Assistance

BJS - Bureau of Justice Statistics

NIJ - National Institute of Justice

OVC - Office for Victims of Crime

OJJDP - Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

SMART - Office of Sex Offender
Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending,
Registering, and Tracking



Bureau of Justice Assistance
Karhlton F. Moore
Director

Policy Office

Programs Office

PSOB Office

Operations Office

Leadership and Service to Achieve Safer Communities

BJA helps to make American communities safer by strengthening the nation's criminal justice system through grants, training, technical assistance, and policy development



DISCRETIONARY

- Awarded directly by BJA to eligible recipients
- Applicants apply directly to BJA
- Most often awarded on a competitive basis

FORMULA

- Administered and managed by State Administering Agencies or other fiscal agents
- Are most often on a noncompetitive basis
- Distribution of funds to eligible recipients is either statutorily defined or defined by a distribution process that is specified by BJA



JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTHY COLLABORATION

- Supports innovative cross-system collaboration to improve responses and outcomes for individuals with mental illnesses or co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders
- Connect and Protect Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Responses



OPIOIDS, STIMULANTS, AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

- Implement or expand comprehensive efforts to identify, respond to, treat, and support those impacted by illicit opioids, stimulants, and other drugs



Reducing Violent Crime



BJA STOP SCHOOL VIOLENCE PROGRAM

- Grants to K-12 schools
- To implement holistic and comprehensive school violence prevention and security measures
- Companion COPS Office program

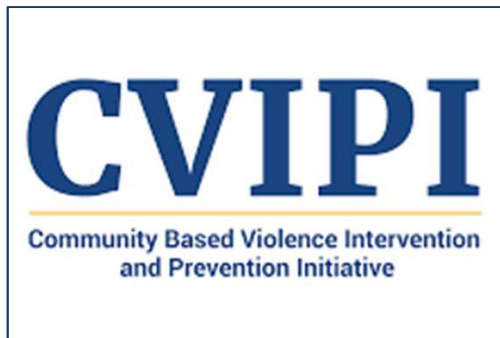


SMALL/RURAL VIOLENT CRIME INITIATIVE

- Funding and technical assistance to small and/or rural agencies
- To launch crime reduction initiatives
- Improve organizational capacity
- Rural as defined by Census Bureau

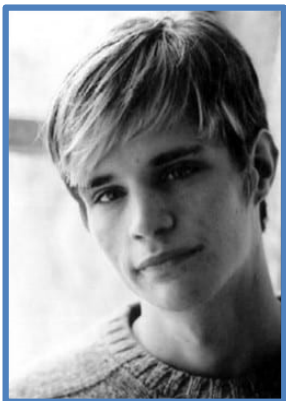


CVI and Hate Crimes



COMMUNITY BASED VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

- supporting comprehensive, evidence-based community-based violence intervention and prevention programs/partnerships
- Local government agencies, victim service providers, community-based organizations, law enforcement, hospitals, etc.



MATTHEW SHEPPARD / JAMES BYRD HATE CRIME PROGRAMS

- Supporting outreach, educating practitioners and the public, enhancing victim reporting tools, and investigating and prosecuting hate crimes
- Crimes based on race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability



FORENSICS PROGRAMS

- Sexual Assault Kit Initiative
- Prosecuting Cold Cases using DNA
- Post-Conviction Testing of DNA Evidence
- Forensics Training and Technical Assistance
- Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement
- Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System
- DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction



BJA Forensics programs are powerful tools for reducing violent crime that have aided more than 200,000 criminal investigations



Officer Safety and Wellness



Sergeant Robert Wilson III

Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR)

- Named in honor of Sergeant Robert Wilson III
- Training and technical assistance (TTA)
- Suite of officer safety and wellness programs
- Safety, wellness, suicide prevention, resiliency, roadway safety
- Built on national partnerships
- Largest program nationally with biggest reach
- Safer Together – NEW





Safer Together Initiative

SAFER TOGETHER – NEW

- New approach to officer safety and wellness
- Identifies and leverages the link between officer safety and wellness, community trust, and crime reduction
- Taps into the unique ability that frontline officers have to influence and improve local community climate
- Provides officers with an individualized blueprint for making the most of every interaction while minimizing stress
- Reinvigorates the ideals of community building through mutual trust and respect

The VALOR Initiative's Safer Together Campaign emphasizes and strengthens the link between officer safety and wellness and community trust

Among all safety and wellness factors, a healthy and positive community climate vis-à-vis police-community relations may be one of the most important universal safeguards against harmful stress and physical dangers

AT A GLANCE

- Law enforcement training course designed to strengthen the foundations of safety and wellness
- Promotes positive interactions and mutual trust
- Inspires police and community members to contribute to each other's safety and well-being
- Promotes public confidence in law enforcement
- Builds positive partnerships between police and communities with the shared goal of reducing crime and ensuring safety and wellness for all

OFFICER SAFETY & WELLNESS

HEALTHY & POSITIVE COMMUNITY CLIMATE

MUTUAL TRUST & COOPERATION

CRIME REDUCTION

The graphic features a central circular diagram with four quadrants: Officer Safety & Wellness (top-left), Healthy & Positive Community Climate (center), Mutual Trust & Cooperation (bottom), and Crime Reduction (top-right). The center contains an illustration of a diverse community. The top of the graphic includes the BJA logo and the text 'SAFER TOGETHER' in large blue letters, accompanied by photos of police officers and community members.



Stay Connected



BJA WEBSITE

<https://www.bja.gov>

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DOJBJA>
- X: <https://x.com/DOJBJA>
- RSS: <https://www.bja.gov/Connect.aspx>

Questions

- Email: grants@ncjrs.gov
- Call: 800-851-3420

Law Enforcement
Funding
Opportunities and
TTA opportunities

Aisha Battle,
Associate Director



U.S. Department of Justice
OVW
Office on Violence Against Women



Overview of OVW

Created in 1995 after the passage of the Violence Against Women Act in 1994, The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice. OVW implements the provisions of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and provides national leadership on the issues of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

OVW Grant Programs

Four Formula Programs

- Funding directly to States and U.S. Territories to issue their own Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs).
- Funding directly to State Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions.

Over 20 Discretionary Programs

- Profession specific such as law enforcement, advocacy, and courts
- Community specific such as the Tribal Affairs Division, Rural, Culturally Specific, and Underserved



Funding Specifically for Law Enforcement

- Improving Criminal Justice Responses Program (ICJR)
 - Enhancing Investigation and Prosecution Initiative (EIP)
 - Abby Honold Program
 - Tribal Government Program
 - Rural Grant Program
 - Campus Program
-



National Violence Against Women

**Law Enforcement Training
and Technical Assistance Consortium**

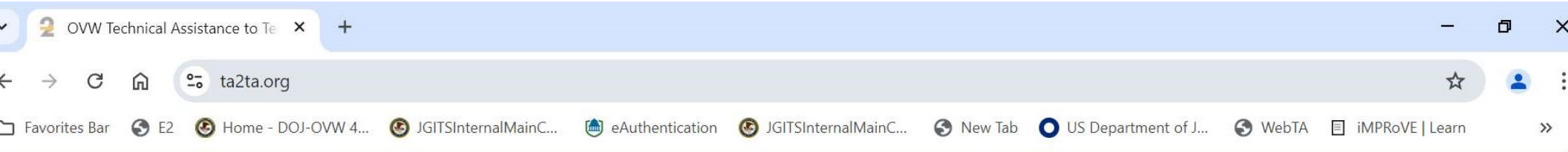
Serving Victims by Supporting Law Enforcement

ABOUT

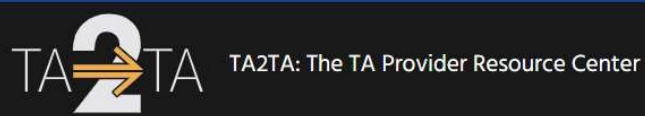
Training and Technical Assistance



Other Training and Technical



NEW Resources and Information on COVID-19 Response [FIND OUT MORE](#)



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**CHECK OUT
THE TA2TA CALENDAR**
for upcoming events that might benefit
your OVW grant!

[TA2TA Calendar](#)



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NEW! SHORT! INTERACTIVE! INFORMATIVE!

eLearning Courses

What is Stalking?

START >

SPARC TRAINING, EDUCATION, AND RESOURCE CENTER



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Identifying Stalking Behaviors



Please Visit the OVW Website for More Information about our Grant Programs!



<https://www.justice.gov/ovw> for more information about all OVW grant programs and resources!



FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunities will start to get release in mid-late November 2024.



Sign up for the pre-application webinars of the grant programs you are interested in submitting an application.



Prior year pre-application webinars are located on the OVW website: <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/pre-application-information-session-videos>

Contacting OVW



**Main OVW line:
202-307-6026**



**Main OVW email
address for
more
information:
OVW.Info@usdoj.
gov**



The ICJR Unit

OVW.ICJR@USDOJ.GOV

Feedback on State and Federal Funders Presentations

- Portland Police Bureau
- Denver Police Department

Audience Questions For Presenters



Resources

- Technical Assistance
 - Call: 202.274.4457
 - Email: niwap@wcl.american.edu
 - Web Library: <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/>
- Power Point presentations and materials for this webinar <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/language-access-lea-prosecutors/>
- Materials for law enforcement and prosecution agencies on best practices for working with immigrant victims
 - <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/law-enforcement-training-materials>

Evaluations

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LEAWebinarEvaluation9-25-24>



Thank You!