

Department of Justice (DOJ) Mandates for Federal Funding.

Overview

In the face of increased public expectations and scrutiny, the challenges for modern law enforcement agencies to gain and retain public trust are significant. Objective independent assessment and validation of policies, procedures and operations provide a method for law enforcement agencies to compare their practices against best practices elsewhere. Currently, there are approximately 36 states that have a functioning state law enforcement accreditation program. These accreditation programs are typically non-profit consortiums comprised of the executive law enforcement associations. Most of the accreditation programs operate on thin margins to just cover their costs in order to keep accreditation fees as low as possible for the stakeholders. Consequently, enhancements to state law enforcement agency accreditation programs are often difficult. To maintain credibility and public trust, accreditation standards should be available, accessible, and relevant to today's policing environment.

Through Presidential Executive Order 13929, the U.S. Attorney General, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, will allocate Department of Justice discretionary grant funding only to state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies that have obtained (or are in the process of seeking) credentials certifying that they meet certain mandatory and discretionary standards for safe policing, to be set by the U.S. Attorney General.

The U.S. Attorney General has released a guidance document titled Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Safe Communities to inform law enforcement agencies and credentialing bodies of these requirements. The guidance document is available online at [Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities](#).

Goals and Objectives

Within the guidance document, there are two *Safe Policing Principles that Independent Credentialing Bodies Must Consider When Assessing Certification of Applying Law Enforcement Agencies*:

1. Adherence to Applicable Laws: The applying agency maintains use of force policies that adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
2. Prohibition of Choke Holds: The applying agency maintains use of force policies that prohibit the use of choke holds, except in situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law.

These principles are required. In addition, there are specific requirements related to data collection and reporting by the credentialing bodies.

Within the guidance document, there are also additional *Safe Policing Principles that Independent Credentialing Bodies Should Consider When Assessing Certification of Applying Law Enforcement Agencies*. Note that the following principles are not required for agencies to be certified as eligible for DOJ funding, however, certifying bodies may consider them in conducting their own work. While these principles are not required, credentialing agencies should consider whether the applying agency incorporates the following safe policing principles within its policies and procedures:

Use of Force and De-escalation Techniques

- Termination of Use of Force Policies
- Duty to Intervene Policies
- Training Protocols on Use of Force and De-Escalation
- Appropriate Medical Care Policies
- Warn Before Shooting Policies
- Shooting at or from a Moving Vehicle Policies
- Warning Shots Policies
- No-Knock Warrant Policies

Performance Management Tools

- Early Intervention Systems policies, procedures, and training protocols
- Hiring of Personnel policies, procedures, and training protocols

Community Engagement

- Community engagement plans that address the particular needs of the community

The Utah Chiefs of Police Association, Accreditation Alliance is the credentialing body within the State of Utah. All law enforcement agencies wishing to apply for federal funding should submit the attached form:

<https://ucpa.memberclicks.net/assets/docs/DOJ/Chiefs%20Attest%20Letter%20for%20Certification%20Utah%20Short%20Form.docx>

to the Utah Chiefs of Police Association, vshupe@utahchiefs.org on or before January 15, 2021. All agencies that have submitted their compliance forms will be placed on a data base which will be sent to the DOJ and COPS offices on January 31, 2021. Letters of compliance will be sent to all agencies after the January 31st deadline. Any questions should be addressed to:

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