

CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING

2025 PLECET  NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Professionalizing Law Enforcement-Community Engagement Training
An Initiative of MOVEMENT FORWARD 
www.plecetconference2025.org

CONFERENCE-WIDE SESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2025

6:00pm-7:00pm **State and Regional Networking Conclave**
This opening session will bring attendees together by state and region to create connections that they will utilize throughout the conference and when they go back to their agencies.

7:00pm-9:00pm **Welcome Reception**
Join your fellow attendees for refreshments, hors d'oeuvres, welcoming remarks, and a chance to learn about the upcoming sessions.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

8:00am **Opening Ceremony and General Plenary**
This session will provide a general introduction to the conference and highlight the critical role attendees play in keeping our communities safe! Law enforcement leaders will provide an overview of how to combat violence and protect our communities.

12:00pm **Panel Discussion and Luncheon**
Topic and Speakers TBD.

4:30pm-5:30pm **Breakout Workshops with Community Engagement Organizations**
Meet with and learn about the resources and approaches of a host of organizations that are dedicated to providing tools to connect with the community.

7:00pm **National Town Hall**
This Town Hall will explore practical solutions to bolster law enforcement agencies' efforts to partner with and protect their communities. Many of these solutions are already being used in communities across the country and showing real results. From real-time community survey technology to community mapping software, attendees will take away implementable strategies from this session and will learn about benefits, challenges, and implementation strategies.

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FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

8:00am

General Plenary

Keynote Speaker: To Be Announced

12:00pm

Panel Discussion and Luncheon

Topic and Speakers TBD

4:30pm-
5:30pm

Breakout Workshops with National Law Enforcement Organizations

An opportunity to learn from the expertise and resources made available by veritable law enforcement-serving organizations.

7:00pm

Colleague Connection - Partying with a Purpose

An important goal of the PLECET Conference is building strong professional networks; this session is aimed at just that. This is an off-site and largely social networking event with live entertainment, casino games, great food, dancing, cigars, bar, and more. It will include an introduction and overview of the Law Enforcement Community Engagement Network and will provide ample opportunity for meeting and learning from colleagues from across the nation. Attendees will be bused to this event from the conference convention center.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

9:00am

The 2025 Torch Awards

The Torch Awards recognize influential public figures who carry forward the torch of servant leadership and the spirit of service and nonviolent social change that the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his cohorts embodied. While icons of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s are rightly celebrated for their historic work to create a better world, each generation must produce its own leaders who forge justice. Mrs. Coretta Scott King often said, "Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation." For that reason, the Torch Awards recognize the contributions of national leaders born after April 4, 1968, the tragic day when Dr. King was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Each year, the Torch Awards honor prominent individuals who contribute to a better world in one of the following categories: Advocacy, Arts, Business, Civil Rights, Criminal Justice, Education, Entertainment, Government, Health, Law, Media, Philanthropy, Public Safety, Science, Sports, and Technology. By honoring recipients from all walks of life who light the way to improving humanity, the Torch Awards celebrate torchbearers building the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King, Ms. Clayton, Ambassador Young, and their counterparts envisioned - in communities of every kind.

This year's honorees are exemplary national leaders in the areas of public safety and criminal justice.

1:00pm

Community Service Projects

Conference attendees will participate in community service projects at seven sites across the Chicagoland area on Saturday, June 7, in partnership with prominent local non-profits, increasing conference visibility and fostering positive interaction between PLECET conference attendees and partners, local civic and community leaders, and law enforcement in service to the community at large.

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SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025

9:00am

State and Regional Caucuses

The State and Regional Caucuses will provide an unprecedented platform for law enforcement-community engagement practitioners to connect, exchange ideas, and develop strategies alongside their colleagues on a state and regional basis to enhance community engagement efforts. The session is dedicated to fostering collaboration and unity in the field and attendees will have the chance to come together with their peers from the same state and the same region, creating a forum for ongoing dialogue and collaboration. Participants will explore ways to leverage collective strengths, address common challenges, and share best practices for building trust and rapport.

10:30am

Closing Ceremony and Conferral of Training Certificates

This closing session will mark the culmination of several days of intensive learning, collaboration, networking, and inspiration, as dedicated law enforcement professionals from across the country come together to deepen their commitment to community-focused policing.

Central to the Closing Ceremony is the conferral of training certificates which will reflect the specific number of hours each attendee spent doing classroom training, seminar training, networking, and community service. Attendees are encouraged to submit their training certificates to the peace officers' standards and training council/authority in their respective states.

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POTENTIAL SEMINARS

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 from 4:30pm-5:30pm

The community-centric organizations listed below provide comprehensive programming that fosters partnerships between law enforcement and the public in various ways. Conference participants will have the opportunity to attend a one-hour seminar conducted by these organizations, aimed at familiarizing them with the specific services they offer and broader insights that can be applied universally.

- Coffee with a Cop, Inc.
- International Conference of Police Chaplains, Inc.
- National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc.
- National Citizens Police Academy Association, Inc.
- National Crime Prevention Council, Inc.
- National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
- Police Executive Research Forum, Inc. (PERF)
- Serve & Connect, Inc.
- United States Department of Homeland Security

FRIDAY, June 6 from 4:30pm-5:30pm

These specialized law enforcement organizations have extensive resources, strategies, and/or technologies that support law enforcement agencies in fostering positive relationships with the community. The seminars organized by the entities listed below will offer a valuable opportunity to familiarize oneself with the particular methodologies of each organization and to integrate them into the operations of one's own agency.

- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)
- United States Marshals Service
- Joint Session of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)
- ***Researchers Caucus***

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2024 TRAINING TOPICS

PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE, MAY 2024, ATLANTA, GA

Thriving Together: The Wellness Equation for Law Enforcement & Community

Proactive engagement, communication, and problem-solving are key to fostering effective law enforcement - community relationships. Healthy law enforcement personnel and organizations are necessary to execute these critical tasks. The field cannot attract and retain personnel, build relationships with their communities, or sufficiently keep their communities safe without ensuring the wellness of their people. During this session, panel members will explore the intersection of wellness, police culture and organizational health, recruiting and retention, diversity and inclusion, and community engagement. Attendees will walk away with useable information on how to foster healthy personnel, police organizations, and community relationships.

Beyond Buzzwords: Demystifying Community Engagement in Law Enforcement

Community engagement is a related but distinct concept from other community-focused terms and concepts. During this session, presenters will discuss the definition of community engagement and what it means for law enforcement personnel assigned to community engagement roles. The session will highlight the differences between community engagement, community outreach, community intervention, community events, and community policing. Session presenters will provide instruction on the fundamentals of engagement; creating a results-oriented engagement strategy; and how it relates to, and often complements, events, outreach, enforcement, strategy, and communication. Finally, the session will focus on practical, innovative community engagement practices from agencies across the country.

Creating Connections: Designing High-Impact Law Enforcement Events

This training will offer instruction on strategic creation or selection of community events for your agency - to host or to participate in - based on public safety priorities. Presenters will examine best practices for event planning and organization; strategic cultivation of event partnerships; managing logistics; and communicating before, during, and after the event for maximum impact. The session will provide a deep dive into categories of events and offer specific examples. Training will also review the fundamentals of securing funding from police foundations, businesses, private foundations and other stakeholders.

Bridging the Divide: Using Contact Theory to Build Trust with Communities

This session will provide instruction on integrating the tenants of Intergroup Contact Theory into community engagement efforts. Intergroup Contact Theory states that through meaningful, institutionally supported collaborative interactions between members from different social identity groups, prejudice can be decreased. Presenters will provide an overview of the theory and supporting research and will offer guidance on how it can inform community engagement and methods for collaboration with various perspectives, backgrounds, and ideologies of all stakeholders. This session will focus particularly on working in communities that have historically had distrustful or distant relationships with law enforcement. Speakers will provide practical guidance on ways to lean into community dissent; hold constructive conversations; and build relationships that have a foundation of respect.

The Multi-Channel Mix: Mastering Media for Positive Outcomes

Session attendees will hear from communications experts who will explore the use of social and traditional media resources as part of law enforcement agencies' community engagement strategy. Whether your agency has a designated communications unit or a single public information officer, community engagement is a vital part of the organization's communications strategy. Conversely, strong communication is vital to effective community engagement. This session will highlight messaging through diverse media platforms to convey honest and transparent public safety information to bolster trust and support relationships with your community.

From CAD to Community: Mastering Data to Tell Your Agency's Story

Finding ways to tell your agency's story to the community is critical. Using data, statistics, and storytelling provides valuable and compelling performance and impact information to stakeholders. During this session, speakers will present information on tracking, compiling, analyzing, and presenting information that tells your agency's story. From the importance of using Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) systems to track and measure effectiveness to establishing meaningful ways present data and information to stakeholders, this training will help even the most non-technical attendee better understand and use data to support community engagement efforts.

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2024 TRAINING TOPICS

PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE, MAY 2024, ATLANTA, GA

From Pulpit to Precinct: Practical Steps for Building Law Enforcement-Faith Partnerships

Faith-based organizations and leadership usher genuine connections and communication with diverse segments of every community. They also provide faith-based support for the law enforcement family. This session will focus on partnering with faith-based organizations, including aligning priorities, communicating effectively, managing conflict, supporting each other, and fostering long-term trusting relationships. Speakers will focus on practical steps and partnerships that are working in communities across the nation today.

How Can I Help? Are you Okay? Introducing 'Make the RIGHT Choice and Intervene' Training

Use of force has long been a topic of national discussion, especially when a high-profile case heightens community tension. It is a complex issue that includes policies and procedures, training and education, community awareness, accountability measures, leadership, investigations, outreach, and data collection, reporting, and analysis. The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) with IACP and IADLEST developed training to empower officers to intervene to prevent colleagues from committing procedural errors up to criminal conduct. These peer intervention techniques are critical for officer safety and wellness and community trust with the ultimate goal to improve community and officer safety. This session will provide a training module from the 8-hour duty to intervene/active bystandership training.

From Siloed to Strategic: Building a Unified Community Engagement Culture

This training will focus on building an internal culture of community engagement throughout a law enforcement agency, including securing buy-in and garnering support. Effective community engagement requires a strategy of holistic, agency-wide integration rather than what has historically been assigned to a one unit, individual, or activity with limited resources or support. Speakers will provide an overview of research, strategies, and outcomes that serve as a catalyst for organizational change toward making community engagement a department-wide priority.

Disrupting Cycles of Violence: A Workshop on Evidence-Based Intervention Strategies

Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention (CBVIP) programming uses evidence-informed strategies to reduce violence through tailored community-centered initiatives. This session will instruct attendees on multidisciplinary strategies that engage individuals and groups to prevent and disrupt cycles of violence and retaliation and establish relationships to deliver services that save lives, address trauma, provide opportunity, and improve the physical, social, and economic conditions that drive violence. Presenters will use research to support the need for and outcomes of this work.

Innovation Incubator: Cultivating & Sharing Successful Community Policing Strategies

This will be a working session that sets the stage for sharing ideas between PLECET conference attendees. Working in small groups, participants will share and expand on current programs that are successful in their communities. They will discuss ideas for new, innovative future initiatives and will come away with something they can implement in their own agency or community that was successful in another. Come prepared to share and learn from your colleagues!

Evolving Together: Meeting Community Needs Through Continuous Innovation

With an eye toward the future, this session will focus on ways to encourage and implement innovative approaches to working with communities. In a time of ever-increasing division across the nation, and ever-decreasing numbers of law enforcement officers to do this important work, how do agencies change the dynamic of police and community relationships toward one of true collaboration? Presenters will discuss technology and innovation that promises to revolutionize how police and communities work together to foster truly collaborative relationships, and strategies to continually evaluate and innovate to meet our communities' changing needs.