

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: The Future of Community Engagement in Policing**

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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

8:00am **General Plenary**

12:00pm **Panel Discussion and Luncheon: Building a Community of Practice**

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.

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CONFERENCE-WIDE SESSIONS

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

1:00pm

Community Service Projects

Conference attendees will participate in community service projects at fifteen 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.

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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PROSPECTIVE 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.
- Clippers and Cops
- International Conference of Police Chaplains, Inc.
- Law Enforcement Against Drugs and Violence (L.E.A.D.)
- Learning for Life
- National Association of Police Athletic/Activities Leagues, Inc.
- National Citizens Police Academy Association, Inc.
- National Crime Prevention Council, Inc.
- National Criminal Justice Association
- National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)
- Police Executive Research Forum, Inc. (PERF)
- Police2Peace
- Shop with a Cop
- 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)
- Drug Enforcement Agency
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Federal Law Enforcement Association
- International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives
- National Sheriffs' Association
- Major County Sheriffs Association
- Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security
- United States Marshals Service
- Joint Session of the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)

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2025 TRAINING TOPICS

PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2025, CHICAGO, IL

BLUEPRINTS FOR ENGAGEMENT: Developing and Scaling Community Strategies

This interactive training will provide a platform for law enforcement professionals to share, develop, and refine community engagement strategies and action plans. Participants will collaborate in small groups to exchange successful practices and generate new ideas to implement in their agencies.

COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT: Making Community Engagement a Core Value Across the Agency

This session explores how law enforcement agencies can build a sustainable, organization-wide culture of community engagement by embedding it into every level of operations—from frontline interactions to executive decision-making. Participants will learn how to move beyond isolated programs and make engagement a shared value rather than a specialized function. The course will examine proven strategies for shifting agency mindsets, aligning internal structures, and empowering all staff to play an active role in building public trust.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: A Missing Link in Officer Wellness and Retention

This course will address the intersection of officer wellness, law enforcement culture, recruiting and retention, and community engagement. Participants will learn practical strategies to foster organizational health and support mental well-being by strengthening relationships between law enforcement and communities.

CONTACT THEORY IN ACTION: Building Trust Between Law Enforcement and Communities

This session explores Intergroup Contact Theory and its application in community engagement. Developed in the 1950s by pioneering psychologist Gordon Allport in response to widespread social division, Intergroup Contact Theory (ICT) proposes that, under certain conditions—such as equal status, shared goals, cooperation, and institutional support—direct contact between members of different groups can reduce prejudice and foster mutual understanding. Participants will learn how to utilize the tenets of ICT to foster trust, address community concerns, and engage in meaningful collaboration between law enforcement and residents.

DATA-DRIVEN ENGAGEMENT: Conducting Community Assessments and Engagement Strategies

This course empowers participants with practical tools and ethical frameworks to conduct meaningful community sentiment and needs assessments, comprehensive environmental scans, and data-informed engagement efforts. Blending research methodology with inclusive outreach practices, the session explores how law enforcement can identify community priorities, uncover gaps, and develop responsive, measurable strategies that build trust and improve public safety. Special emphasis is placed on ethical data use, collaborative practices, and turning insights into action.

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY ALLIES: Strategies for Public Safety Partnerships

This session will focus on strategies where law enforcement can move beyond traditional models of outreach to embrace authentic, community-centric partnerships. Participants will learn how to build meaningful relationships with key local public voices, identify and cultivate leadership potential, and create opportunities for community members to advocate for public safety initiatives and foster a culture of shared responsibility. The session will also explore how agencies can empower trusted community emissaries to engage with residents in ways that law enforcement may not be able to—particularly in contexts where lived experience, cultural familiarity, or historical mistrust present unique challenges.

FROM IDEA TO IMPACT: Crafting High-Impact Community Events

This training will provide guidance on strategically creating or selecting community events for agencies based on public safety priorities. Topics include event planning, forming partnerships, logistics management, and effective communication strategies before, during, and after events to maximize engagement and impact.

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PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE, JUNE 2025, CHICAGO, IL

FUNDING CONNECTIONS: Finding and Securing Resources for Community Engagement

This session will provide law enforcement and public safety professionals with practical tools and strategies to secure funding for community engagement programs and initiatives. Participants will learn how to identify and pursue a wide range of funding sources—including governmental, business, and philanthropic opportunities—while gaining insight into the fundamentals of grant writing, proposal development, and relationship-building with funders. The session will also explore sustainable funding models and innovative approaches to ensure long-term impact, scalability, and accountability in engagement efforts.

PROTESTS AND PARTNERSHIPS: Engaging Protest Organizers for Peaceful Outcomes

This course will equip law enforcement professionals with the skills and strategies inherent in strong community engagement that can manage protests and demonstrations effectively, focusing on de-escalation, communication, and the protection of constitutional rights. Participants will learn how to build relationships with protest organizers, understand crowd dynamics, and implement tactics that prioritize safety and minimize conflict.

SHARED STORIES: Building Community Trust Through Collaborative Communication

Effective communication through both social and traditional media is essential for maintaining public trust, managing crises, and shaping agency reputation. This session provides research-informed strategies and real-world applications for leveraging media to build transparency, strengthen community engagement, and proactively shape public perception. Participants will examine case studies and develop practical skills to enhance their agency's community presence while reinforcing their commitment to professionalism, accountability, and service.

TRAUMA-INFORMED ENGAGEMENT: Understanding and Responding to Community Trauma

Law enforcement professionals frequently encounter individuals and communities affected by trauma. Understanding how trauma shapes behavior, perception, and trust is essential to effective policing. This session introduces a trauma-informed approach to community engagement, emphasizing strategies for escalation prevention, behavior management, and defusing techniques. Participants will explore the psychological and physiological effects of trauma, learn practical techniques for interacting with impacted individuals, and examine how partnerships with mental health professionals and social service providers can support safer outcomes.

TRUST UNDER PRESSURE: Building Crisis-Ready Community Engagement Plans

This class will equip attendees with the tools to develop a comprehensive community outreach strategy that is effective to prevent and respond to a crisis. Participants will learn how to build trust both proactively and reactively, manage high-stress situations with transparency and empathy, and engage communities in meaningful ways that support long-term recovery and resilience. Emphasis will be placed on communication, collaboration, and consistency as essential components of crisis leadership and strong community partnerships.