

Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance: 2017-2018 Overview

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) originally created the Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance (“Collaborative Reform”) in 2011 in response to requests from the law enforcement community for a proactive, non-adversarial, and cost-effective form of technical assistance for law enforcement to make organizational and policy reforms. The intended purpose of Collaborative Reform was to improve trust between agencies and the communities they serve by assisting local law enforcement agencies on topics requested by the agency.

Over the past several years, Collaborative Reform evolved to include much broader ranging assessments of law enforcement agencies, identifying criticisms of agency practices as a basis for the COPS Office to recommend significant changes and monitor the adoption of those changes. This led to the unintended consequence of a more adversarial relationship between DOJ and the participating law enforcement agencies.

On March 31, 2017, Attorney General Sessions directed DOJ to review all of its programs involving local law enforcement, including Collaborative Reform, to ensure that they aligned with the goals of promoting “officer safety, officer morale, and public respect for their work,” as well as ensuring that public safety remains under “local control and local accountability.” In conducting this review, the COPS Office and DOJ leadership recognized the need to remodel Collaborative Reform so that its focus is on best practices, crime reduction, and the needs of the field as specifically requested by law enforcement agencies.

The COPS Office is pleased to announce that Collaborative Reform now will provide technical assistance to local law enforcement agencies who request subject matter expertise on any of the topics identified below. These technical assistance resources more consistently reflect the COPS Office authorizing statute and appropriations language regarding the delivery of technical assistance to law enforcement agencies across the country. To accomplish this, we plan to partner with one or more of the nation’s leading law enforcement professional groups to provide practical, “by the field, for the field” technical assistance from leading experts in public safety and policing. These partners will be selected based on a competitive application process that will be open to law enforcement membership associations and groups. We are looking forward to working hand-in-hand with law enforcement agencies to implement this new vision.

Collaborative Reform Initiative for Technical Assistance: 2017-2018 Topics

- Problem solving techniques and strategies targeting crime reduction, and in particular violent crimes, such as those involving gang activity and drugs
- Use of gun violence prevention best practices to reorient from a reactive policing and crime response approach to proactive policing

- Focused deterrence approaches to support broader public safety goals (expanding beyond gun violence reduction to include drug markets, domestic violence, at-risk-youth, and gangs)
- Prevent gang participation and violence by working with schools and youth for deterrence and intelligence gathering
- Coordination with prosecutors, other public sector stakeholders, and private sector stakeholders, when appropriate, to insure the right people are at the table and participating in the discussion
- Effective intelligence and information sharing between Federal and local law enforcement to support public safety goals (including counter-terrorism and homeland security)
- Mass Casualty Response
- Active Shooter Response
- Police Response to Mass Demonstrations
- 21st Century COMPSTAT to support state of the art management principles, cutting edge crime analysis, and GIS to support crime reduction
- Officer safety and wellness
- Training (i.e. in-person, web-based, train-the-trainer) for de-escalation strategies, crisis intervention, and citizen engagement to address violent crime
- Crime reduction strategy support for Tribal law enforcement
- Shared service models for smaller jurisdictions to support effective crime reduction efforts (including investigations and crime analysis)