

NEW ERA OF PUBLIC SAFETY

A GUIDE TO FAIR, SAFE, AND EFFECTIVE
COMMUNITY POLICING

CONCLUSION

To realize a vision of public safety that respects and protects human life and ensures safety for all, communities and police departments should work together to advance 21st-century best practices. By coproducing public safety, communities and police departments can develop policies and practices that reflect community values and interests.

As noted at the outset, the American public and its law enforcement system share the same general goal: to live in safe communities. Determining the role of police and in achieving that goal must be done collaboratively.

Bear in mind that many of the issues that give rise to problematic policing practices are societal problems that must be dealt with collectively and by imagining solutions beyond policing and the criminal justice system. Policing reform, in other words, is not the only answer to improving public safety.

But it is one piece of the puzzle toward realizing a fairer and safer society. And change happens one community and one department at a time. By integrating community voices into police policies and practices, developing a shared language to restore trust between communities and departments, and bringing people with diverse perspectives to the decision-making table, communities, law enforcement, and elected officials can coproduce public safety in a way that best services communities' interests.

The recommendations in this report can achieve this goal. Not all are appropriate for every department and community. Indeed, public safety needs vary across communities large and small; urban, rural, and suburban; homogenous and diverse. Nevertheless, the principles of fairness, equity, procedural justice, legitimacy, transparency, and accountability apply to every department.

By working together, communities and police departments can articulate a vision for a new era of policing that respects the dignity and humanity of all people — and can ultimately ensure that all people, of all backgrounds, are truly safe in America.

New Era of Public Safety: A Guide to Fair, Safe, and Effective Community Policing © 2019

New Era of Public Safety is a product of The Leadership Conference Education Fund, the education and research arm of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and was supported by the Google.org.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all people in the United States. Through advocacy and outreach to targeted constituencies, The Leadership Conference works toward the goal of a more open and just society — an America as good as its ideals.

The Leadership Conference is a 501(c)(4) organization that engages in legislative advocacy. It was founded in 1950 and has coordinated national lobbying efforts on behalf of every major civil rights law since 1957.

The Leadership Education Fund is a 501(c)(3) organization that builds public will for laws and policies that promote and protect civil and human rights of every person in the United States. The issues the Education Fund works on have deep roots in its organizational history and across the communities it represents.