



# **What is the Role of States to Strengthen Law Enforcement Standards and Capacity Training?**

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**In the wake of recent incidents involving law enforcement in Baltimore, Ferguson, and other places across the country, state policy makers are debating reforms to improve law enforcement and community relations. Some of the proposed reforms include:**

- 1. Expanding the use of Technology –  
Body Worn Cameras**
- 2. Improving and Expanding Police  
Training**
- 3. Expanding and Implementing Best  
Practices in Community Policing**

# Expanding the Use of Technology by Law Enforcement - Body Worn Cameras

**Before 2015, just four states had state statutes that addressed body worn cameras:**

- 1. Vermont**
- 2. Pennsylvania**
- 3. Oklahoma**
- 4. New Hampshire**

**No states had laws that mandated body worn cameras for law enforcement entities.**

**As of May 2015, *34* states have proposed new body camera legislation.**

## Implementation of a Body Worn Camera Program

### Possible Benefits of a Body Worn Camera Program:

1. Reducing complaints and resolving officer incidents
2. Improving officer performance and training
3. Evidence documentation

### Considerations for Implementation of a Body Worn Camera Program:

1. Privacy concerns
2. Impact on community relationships
3. Addressing officer concerns
4. Managing expectations
5. Financial considerations

[Implementing a Body Worn Camera Program: Recommendations and Lessons Learned, Bureau of Justice Assistance and The Police Executive Research Forum \(2014\)](#)

# Expanding the Use of Technology by Law Enforcement - Police Body Worn Cameras

## Rialto, California Case Study

- A year-long study of body worn cameras in California (Population: 100,000)
- **Results:**
  - 88% decline in complaints against officers
  - 60% decline in the use of force by officers

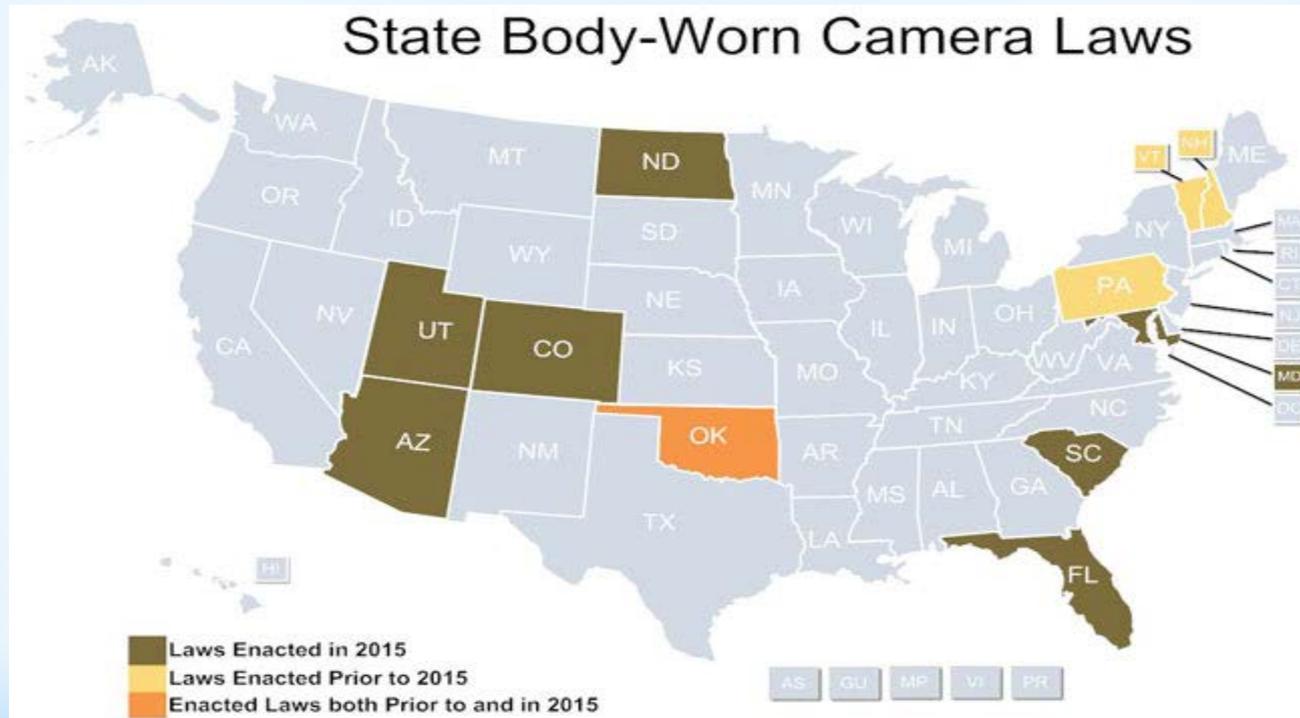
# Expanding the Use of Technology by Law Enforcement - Body Worn Cameras

## South Carolina



**First state to require body worn cameras for all law enforcement agencies in the state**

# Expanding the Use of Technology by Law Enforcement - Body Worn Cameras



As of May 2015 – Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

**Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, North Dakota, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah have passed new body worn camera laws in 2015**

## Federal Programs

- The President has announced a 3-year **\$75 million** grant program to expand body worn camera use across the United States
- The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) announced **\$20 million** will be available in 2015. This includes:
  - **\$17 Million** for competitive grants for the purchase of body worn cameras by local law enforcement
  - **\$2 million** for training and technical assistance
  - **\$1 million** for the development of evaluation tools and best practices
- BJA also announced that they will make a [toolkit](#) available for local law enforcement to implement body worn camera programs

### Law Enforcement Training in the States

- **49** states have commissions charged with developing, implementing, and overseeing law enforcement standards and training.
- The powers, duties, and responsibilities of these commissions vary across state jurisdictions.
- In the majority of states there are issue-specific training requirements for all officers.

## Improving and Expanding Police Training

### The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing

The President convened a Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century policing practices. The [final report](#) produced by the task force recommended a number of federal, state and local actions to improve police training. These included:

- Engaging community members in the training process
- Recommending that training commissions require officers to be trained in social interaction and de-escalation skills
- Recommending that training commissions require basic and in-service training in recognizing and confronting cultural and racial bias
- Recommending the creation of an enhanced federal government support program to provide states with resources for enhanced officer training

## Improving and Expanding Police Training

**Law enforcement training nationwide generally includes:**

- **58** hours of training on how to appropriately use a firearm
- **49** hours of defensive techniques
- **8** hours of de-escalation techniques
- **8** hours of crisis intervention training

**After recent high profile incidents, states and municipalities are examining their training programs to reexamine use of force, racial bias, de-escalation tactics and other training.**

# Improving and Expanding Police Training

## Existing State CIT Training Laws

**Florida** – Grants for CIT programs

**California** – Training content but not hours

**Arkansas** – Grants for CIT programs and CIT training standard

**Indiana** – 1) CIT TA Center; 2) recruits receive six hours of CIT

**Kentucky** – Standards for CIT training curriculum, but does not mandate CIT training

**Montana** – Grant program for agencies to establish CIT programs

**New Mexico** – 1) 40 hour CIT for new officers; and 2) 2 hours for in-service training

# Improving and Expanding Police Training

**Pennsylvania** – POST to incorporate mental health training into officer continuing education, but no hourly requirement

**Texas** – Peace officers and constables complete a CIT training course as part of their basic licensing requirements

**Washington** – 1) All peace officers to complete eight hours of CIT training; 2) at least 40 hours of advanced CIT training be made available and that 25% percent of officers should receive this advanced training; 3) two hours of CIT in-service training for peace officers every two years; and 4) POST to reimburse local agencies for sending officers to CIT training.

**Wisconsin** – Grant program for training officers in CIT

**Mississippi, Montana, Virginia** – Authorize the establishment of CIT programs

## Improving and Expanding Police Training

### State Law Enforcement Training: Legislation and Proposals

- **Connecticut** – New law that requires all law enforcement officers be trained in “bias-free” policing.
- **Ohio** - Legislation has been introduced in Ohio that would require law enforcement officers to have additional hours of basic and advanced training and have at least a high school diploma.
- **Colorado** – New law that requires training including anti-bias, community policing and de-escalation courses.
- **Municipalities**
  - **New York City** - Launched a retraining of 20,000+ police officers on appropriate arrest tactics and interaction with the community. Implementing de-escalation training for 5,000 officers.
  - **Salt Lake City** – Salt Lake City is moving forward on a program to have all front line officers trained in crisis intervention techniques.

## Community Policing

***Community Policing*** is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies that support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

***Community Policing*** requires:

- Active building of positive relationships with the community
- Collaborative partnerships with agencies outside law enforcement
- Collaborative problem solving with community members

## The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing

The President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing's [Final Report](#) contained recommendations to improve community policing including:

- **Recommending that law enforcement agencies develop policies and strategies that reinforce the importance of community engagement**
- **Infusing community policing throughout the culture of the law enforcement agency**
- **Recommending the establishment of a formal citizen advisory committee**
- **Recommending that agencies target youth as a key demographic for engagement to both help reduce crime amongst a vulnerable population and built trust**

# Expanding and Implementing Best Practices in Community Policing

## U.S. Conference of Mayors : *Strengthening Police-Community Relations in America's Cities (2015)*

The U.S. Conference of Mayors Working Group of Mayors and Police Chiefs produced a report of recommendations of best practices in developing community policing strategies and restoring police-community relations.

- **Building trust between law enforcement and the community**
  - **Engaging with community leaders**
  - **Daily interaction by law enforcement with the community**
  - **Developing problem solving relationships with the community**
- **Improving police department practices**
  - **Making law enforcement agencies demographics reflective of the communities they serve**
  - **Sufficient training including training in the role of officers in a democratic society**
  - **Metrics to measure success that reflect the community policing culture**
- **Ensuring timely and accurate communication with the community**
- **Conducting independent investigations into deaths related to police encounters**
- **Addressing racial and economic disparities and community frustration with government**
- **Increased technical and financial support from the federal government**

# Preventing Sexual Assault on Campus

## Federal Initiatives

The White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault issued its first recommendations on April 2014 and the administration has moved to implement the recommendations over the last several months.

- helping campuses assess their climate
- help train law enforcement to deal with sexual assault crimes on college campuses
- require schools to take appropriate action when sexual assault crimes are reported

The Department of Education also recently introduced new regulations that require colleges and universities to report on incidents of sexual assault.

# Preventing Sexual Assault on Campus

## State Initiatives

**Virginia:** Virginia created a state-wide task force focused on preventing sexual assault on campus. The task force produced a series of recommendations including training law enforcement and administrators to handle sexual assault cases, minimizing barriers to reporting, and changing the climate on college campuses. Virginia also has several new laws on campus sexual assaults – including new reporting requirements and a law that requires that universities note on a transcript when someone is accused of sexual assault.

**New York:** The Governor recently signed an “Enough is Enough” law. The new law requires colleges and universities to have a set of comprehensive procedures and guidelines for handling campus sexual assaults, and expands law enforcement involvement to decrease incidents of campus sexual assault.

**Thank You!**



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