

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

According to the FBI, a violent extremist is a person who advocates for, intends to engage in, engages in, or supports ideologically motivated terrorist activities in furtherance of political or social objectives.

In the effort to prevent violent extremism the Administration seeks to fulfill three main objectives:

- I. Enhance Federal involvement with and support to local communities that may be the target of violent extremists.
- II. Strengthen government and law enforcement capabilities for preventing violent extremism.
- III. Counter violent extremist propaganda while promoting our ideals and values.

Government and law enforcement efforts to counter violent extremism should be understood as dual-purpose. Officials should engage communities about security issues to raise awareness, establish partnerships, and empower local stakeholders, while encouraging community integration through platforms that deal with CVE and non-CVE related issues alike.

Applicable Programs for CVE

The following federal programs and are available to assist state and local governments, law enforcement, and community efforts on a variety of issues, including Countering Violent Extremism.

Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL) - DHS

- Regular location-based meetings include representatives from federal, state, and local government agencies as well as individuals from the private sector and community leaders whose communities have civil rights concerns.

The Somali-American Initiative—DHS

- This initiative has involved Department of Homeland Security officials engaging Somali communities and organizations. Issues discussed in these meetings have included fighting in the Horn of Africa and other items relevant to the local Somali communities.

Youth Programs—DHS, DOJ

- A variety of youth programs may be used for purposes of locally-based initiatives to facilitate the integration of youth minority groups into the community.

Building Communities of Trust Initiative (BCOT)—DOJ

- This is a locally-based initiative which provides guidance for the development of trust among three sets of actors—fusion centers, law enforcement, and the communities in which they operate.

Further Reference Materials:

Department of Homeland Security—www.dhs.gov/cve

Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Training Guide—<http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/cve-training-guidance.pdf>

Fusion Process Program/Fusion Liaison Officer—http://www.ncirc.gov/documents/Fusion_Process_Catalog_of_Services.pdf

Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota “Blue Print for Action”

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@jhealth/documents/webcontent/convert_278139.pdf

Applicable Grants for CVE

The following grants have been used by state and local government and law enforcement personnel to address Countering Violent Extremism in their communities. Of note, the FY 12 DHS grant guidance listed these grants as applicable for CVE purposes. The below information includes the title of the grant, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number and the federal agency/office that sponsors the grant, as of February 17, 2012:

- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP) —CFDA No. 97.073— Department of Homeland Security
- State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) —CFDA No. 16.614— Department of Justice
- Community –Based Violence Protection Program –CDA No. 16.123- Department of Justice
- Public Safety Partnership and Community Policing Grants —CFDA No. 16.710— Department of Justice
- Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program —CFDA No. 16.738— Department of Justice
- Civil Rights training and Advisory Services –CFDA No. 84.004- Department of Education

Local CVE Success Stories

.....*Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota* Recognizing that youth violence is a public health epidemic that requires a holistic, multi-faceted response, Minneapolis has promoted an “enterprise-wide” approach to the challenge. Drawing on a mix of law enforcement and public health strategies, the city, in partnership with a host of community stakeholders, created the “Blueprint for Action Plan.”

The Blueprint’s goals are, to connect every youth with a trusted adult, to intervene at the first sign that youth are a risk for violence, to restore youth who have gone down the wrong path, and unlearn the culture of violence in the community. The Minneapolis Police Department is actively involved in community outreach initiatives and has fulltime liaisons to the different ethnic communities. In 2009, the city established the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department staffed with outreach specialists who speak several of the native languages.

.....*New York, New York* The New York City Police Department (NYPD) is involved in outreach efforts that impact the city’s diverse communities. NYPD’s Community Affairs Bureau, New Immigrant Outreach Unit, works with several of these ethnic groups, and institutes the following objectives:

Initiate programs that enhance the relationship between the immigrant communities and the police, initiate programs that address the needs and concerns of the immigrant communities, encourage participation in community programs, reduce fear by establishing open lines of communication and encourage dialogue, and educate the new immigrant communities on Rights and Responsibilities. The New Immigrant Outreach Unit also offers “terrorism awareness training” as one of its community participation programs. The NYPD has provided this training to 15,000 community members.

.....*Los Angeles, CA* – The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) has developed an outreach program for the Muslim Community in Los Angeles County. It has grown to include a training program for the Muslim community on law enforcement issues such as hate crimes, domestic violence, gangs and identity theft. In addition to training and engaging with the community, the Muslim Community Affairs unit also trains Department members about Islam, Muslims, and related cultures, customs, and beliefs.

.....*Los Angeles, CA* The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has established community forums hosted by the Department’s Chief to bring together community leaders and police from throughout the greater Los Angeles area to enable the LAPD to better understand how it can protect and serve their communities. LAPD maintains that community mobilization, an essential part of fighting crime, is particularly important when applied to populations that may feel targeted by society or the police.

Key Points on DHS Approach to Countering Violent Extremism

- We face a threat environment where violent extremism is neither constrained by international borders, nor limited to any single ideology.
- We know that foreign terrorist groups affiliated with al-Qa'ida, and individual terrorist leaders, are actively seeking to recruit and/or inspire individuals living in communities within the U.S. to carry out attacks against U.S. targets.
- However, this is not a phenomenon restricted solely to any one particular community and our efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) are applicable to all ideologically motivated violence.
- DHS is a risk-based organization and we prioritize the utilization of resources based on what intelligence and analysis tells us presents the greatest threat to the Homeland.
- At DHS, we believe that local authorities and community members are best able to identify those individuals or groups residing within their communities exhibiting dangerous behaviors—and intervene—before they commit an act of violence.
- Everyone has a role to play in the safety and security of our nation, and time and again we see the advantage of public vigilance and cooperation, from information-sharing, community-oriented policing, and citizen awareness.
- Countering violent extremism is a shared responsibility, and DHS continues to work with a broad range of partners to gain a better understanding of the behaviors, tactics, and other indicators that could point to terrorist activity, and the best ways to mitigate or prevent that activity.
- The Department's efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) are three-fold:
 - **Better understand the phenomenon of violent extremism**, and assess the threat it poses to the Nation as a whole, and within specific communities;
 - **Bolster efforts to address the dynamics of violent extremism** and strengthen relationships with those communities targeted for recruitment by violent extremists; and
 - **Expand support for information-driven, community-oriented policing efforts** that have proven effective in preventing violent crime across the Nation for decades.

Key Points on the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)

- The White House CVE strategy was released in August, 2011. On December 8, 2011, after 5 months of planning and consultation with interagency partners, the White House released the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Administration's CVE Strategy.

- The SIP lists the current and future actions the USG will take in support of a locally-focused, community-based approach, in three broad areas:
 - **Enhancing Engagement with and support to local communities:** Our aims in engaging with communities to discuss violent extremism are to (1) share sound, meaningful, and timely information about the threat of radicalization to violence with a wide range of groups and organizations; (2) respond to concerns about government policies and actions; and (3) better understand how we can effectively support community-based solutions.
 - **Building Government and Law Enforcement Expertise:** We are building robust training programs to ensure that communities, government, and law enforcement receive accurate, intelligence-based information about the dynamics of violent extremism. Misinformation about the threat and poor training harms our security by sending stakeholders in the wrong direction and creating tensions with communities.
 - **Countering Violent Extremist Propaganda while Promoting our Ideals:** We will aggressively counter violent extremist ideologies – including on the Internet – by educating and empowering communities and promoting our ideals. In the case of our current priority, we will, through our words and deeds, rebut al-Qa’ida’s lie that the United States is somehow at war with Islam.
- The SIP underscores the strength of community-based problem solving, local partnerships, and community-oriented policing. We are building our efforts from existing structures, while creating capacity to fill gaps as we implement programs.

IF ASKED:

What has DHS done to work across the homeland security enterprise to counter violent extremism and other threats?

- The Department has worked with state, local and tribal governments across the nation to incorporate homeland security and terrorism prevention efforts into day-to-day efforts to protect our communities from violent crime. These efforts include:
 - Establishing robust information sharing capabilities to provide state, local, and private sector authorities credible and specific, CLASSIFIED and UNCLASSIFIED, threat-related information;
 - Building analytic capacity at the grass-roots level by supporting state and major urban area fusion centers so that national intelligence can be viewed within the context of local conditions thereby allowing state, local and tribal authorities to better assess the risk to their communities;
 - Providing frontline personnel with Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) training as to the behaviors and indicators associated with specific threats and terrorism-related crime so that our 800,000 state, local and tribal officers can better recognize terrorism-related suspicious activities; and
 - Raising public awareness to the behaviors and indicators of terrorism and violent crime, and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper state and local law enforcement authorities., for example the Department’s nationwide launch of the “If You See Something, Say Something TM” campaign.

How has the Department's CVE strategy aided in recent terrorist plots?

- If something is wrong, somebody locally may become aware. Our challenge is connecting those individuals with an appropriate response.
- A study from 2010 found that, between 1999 and 2009, more than 80 percent of foiled terrorist plots in the United States were thwarted because of observations from law enforcement or the general public.
- An examination of 86 terrorist cases in the U.S. from 1999 to 2009 by the Institute for Homeland Security Solutions shows that nearly half of those cases were related to al-Qaeda or al-Qaeda-inspired ideology, with the remainder due to a number of other violent extremist motivations
- By promoting public vigilance and community-policing efforts we are expanding our information sharing capabilities beyond local law enforcement, and by reporting suspicious behaviors we are able to intervene before there is an act of violence.

What is DHS doing to combat violent extremism?

- DHS CVE efforts include law enforcement training, community engagement, grievance resolution and enhanced efforts to understand the issue of violent extremism through S&T research and I&A analysis. These efforts are coordinated with the inter-agency and the NSS.
- DHS is expanding its support for local, information-driven community-oriented efforts to prevent violent crime and build safe, secure and resilient communities.
- Local community/government partnerships represent the best opportunity to identify and mitigate violence that may be ideologically motivated.

How is the federal government engaging frontline officers and community partners on countering violent extremism?

- Through our Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), DHS continues to educate tribal, state and local law enforcement on cultural awareness and how best to engage with communities.
- To date, CRCL has already trained more than 2,100 police officers on ways to better engage with their communities and on cultural demystification.
- DHS and the Department of Justice have also trained over 198,690 frontline officers through the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative and hope to reach all of America's officers on the frontlines.
- In addition to these training initiatives, DOJ and DHS, under the Building Communities of Trust Guidance, have coordinated engage our state and local law enforcement and community partners to share best practices on forming working partnerships and community based solutions in meetings across the country.
- DHS is working with state, local, tribal and federal partners to develop a CVE Curriculum for state, local, tribal, and federal law enforcement as well for use at academies.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Talking Points

- DHS's efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) are based on the understanding that local authorities and community members are best able to identify those individuals or groups residing within their communities exhibiting dangerous and violent behaviors associated with extreme ideological beliefs.
- Today, the Department operates with the understanding that as it relates to domestic violent extremism we face the greatest terrorist risk from those extremists who have either been recruited by Al-Qa'ida or its affiliates or inspired by their ideology.
- However, we also know that violent extremism can be inspired by various religious, political, or other ideological beliefs.
- Recognizing this, DHS has designed a CVE approach that applies to all forms of violent extremism, regardless of ideology.
- Through a variety of analytic, research, outreach and training efforts, DHS works closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement, other local government organizations, and community groups to incorporate efforts to counter violent extremism into pre-existing community-based violent crime prevention efforts.
- On December 8, 2011, the White House released the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Administration's CVE Strategy, which lists the current and future actions the USG will take in support of a locally-focused, community-based approach, in three broad areas:
 - Enhancing engagement and support to local communities
 - Building government and law enforcement expertise
 - Countering violent extremist propaganda
- The DHS CVE Approach, and in turn the SIP, were both informed based on the recommendations from the HSAC CVE Working Group that were issued in August, 2010.
- The Department is working with its Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial partners to fully integrate CVE awareness into the daily activities of law enforcement and local communities nationwide by building upon pre-existing partnerships and their existing practices, such as community policing, that have proven to be successful for decades.
- DHS was and continues to work closely with the White House, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI to develop and implement the SIP. Efforts include the following:

Better Understanding Violent Extremism through Analysis and Research

- DHS has conducted extensive analysis and research to better understand the threat of violent extremism in order to support State and Local law enforcement, fusion centers, and community partners with the knowledge needed to identify behaviors and indicators of violent extremism, and prevent violent crime in their communities.
- This includes over 75 case studies and assessments produced by the DHS Office for Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) since 2009 on homegrown violent extremist activities and potential material support activities in the U.S. on behalf of violent extremist groups or causes, including an in-depth study that looks at the common behaviors associated with 62 cases of Al-Qa'ida-inspired violent extremists.
- DHS/I&A and Europol are finalizing a joint case study on the 2011 Norway terrorist attacks, including an extensive analysis of the Anders Breivik manifesto, in order to help law enforcement understand what the behaviors and indicators of violent extremism were leading up to the attacks.
- DHS's Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) has produced a series of reports that have informed CVE work on Hot Spots of Terrorism and Other Crimes, Characteristics of

American Communities Where Terrorists Lived, Planned, and Conducted Their Attacks, and Organizational Dynamics of Far-Right Hate Groups in the United States: Comparing Violent to Non-Violent Organizations.

- DHS/S&T and the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism at the University of Maryland completed research on factors contributing to violent extremism and how to build community resilience to violent extremism among youth in the Somali community in Minnesota.
- DHS/S&T is conducting a series of focus groups with State and Local law enforcement officers at fusion centers and communities, to better identify their information and training needs; 20 locations have been selected and focus groups will begin on May 21, 2012.

Integrating CVE into Local Efforts to Prevent Violence through Training and Grant Prioritization

- **Overall Training:** DHS is in the final stages of implementing a CVE training for Federal, State, Local, and Correctional Facility law enforcement officers, as well as a training block for State Police Academies. The key goal of the training is to help law enforcement recognize the indicators of violent extremist activity and distinguish between those behaviors that are potentially related to crime and those that are constitutionally protected or part of a religious or cultural practice.
 - **State and Local Training:** DHS is working with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), and the National Consortium for Advance Policing (NCAP) to finalize a continuing education CVE curriculum for state and local law enforcement—the first pilot was held on Jan. 26, 2012 in San Diego, CA and the next pilot will be in Minneapolis at the end of July. The curriculum will be available online before the end of 2012. The Major Cities Chiefs Association also passed a motion to adopt and implement the DHS CVE curriculum in their training academies.
 - **Police Academy Training Block:** DHS is working with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to develop CVE curriculum for the recruit and field training officer (FTO) level which will be introduced into Police Academies and posted on an internet based platform before the end of 2012.
 - **Federal Training:** The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) has finalized a CVE curriculum for federal law enforcement that has been integrated into their existing training for new recruits. On February 16, 2012, DHS/FLETC hosted a full day symposium on this CVE curriculum and it is now incorporated in FLETC's training curriculum.
 - **Correctional Facility Training:** DHS is finalizing CVE awareness training for Correctional Facility, Probation, and Parole Officers in collaboration with the Interagency Threat Assessment Coordination Group (ITACG), Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and National Joint Terrorism Task Force (NJTTF)—the training was piloted on March 28, 2012 in the Maryland Public Safety and Corrections Training Center. The next pilot will take place on July 18, 2012 in Orange County, CA. FEMA is also developing a curriculum for rural correctional facility management.
 - **Training Standards:** Ensuring that State and Local law enforcement have access to operationally accurate and appropriate training is a top priority. DHS released the *CVE Training Guidance and Best Practices*, which was sent to all state and local partner grantors and grantees thereby tying to grant guidance policy on October 7, 2011. Both FEMA and FLETC are currently co-leading a DHS working group to determine how

CVE training offered by the Department and local partners is in line with DHS policy, that CVE trainers are accredited, and that state and local are held accountable for grant dollars that may be spent on CVE training.

- **Cultural Demystification Training:** DIIS is training local law enforcement on cultural demystification and how to best engage with communities via DHS CRCL's 46 separate training events. CRCL is integrating its training in to all CVE curriculum and training efforts.
- **Grants:** DIIS incorporated language into FY12 grant guidance that prioritizes CVE and allows funds to be used in support of State and Local CVE efforts.

Working with Local Communities and International Partners

- DHS works with non-governmental, state and local government, community, State and Local law enforcement, private sector and academic stakeholders, such as the DHS Homeland Security Advisory Council's (HSAC) CVE Working Group, which provided input that informed the DHS CVE approach.
- DHS hosted 50 State and Local law enforcement officials for a meeting at the White House on January 18, 2012 along with DOJ, FBI, and NCTC to hear feedback on how the federal government could better support their local CVE efforts.
- DIIS has also made significant advancements in operational CVE exchanges with international partners. For the past year, DHS, NCTC, DOJ, and the FBI, along with Europol and European Union partners, have held extensive discussions which have focused on exchanging: 1) case studies on specific instances of violent extremist activity and behaviors and indicators of violent extremism; 2) strategies used by local law enforcement to combat violent extremism; and 3) best practices in the area of CVE training.
- These discussions also explored how the internet and social media is used to facilitate violent extremist activity in that it is used as a tool for those terrorist organizations seeking to recruit individuals for violent activities and/or as a communication conduit for those seeking to inspire individuals to commit acts of violence. This has included the sharing of over a dozen case studies and exchanging training and fusion center best practices.
- DHS, Europol, and EU partners have developed a joint case study on the 2011 Norway attacks, including extensive analysis of the Anders Breivik manifesto. DIIS and Europol are also finalizing joint reports on training, and fusion center best practices, which will be distributed to law enforcement in the EU and the U.S.
- **Success Story:** DHS/Europol attended a briefing at the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center (PaCIC) on January 20, 2012 on how software is being used to counter-child pornography. French law enforcement was given access to this software, which led to an arrest of one of the largest child pornography sharing targets in Paris.