

FACT SHEET: STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON EMPOWERING LOCAL PARTNERS TO PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE UNITED STATES

“Sadly, the threat of violent extremism in America is nothing new. Throughout our history, misguided groups – including international and domestic terrorist organizations, neo-Nazis and anti-Semitic hate groups – have engaged in horrific violence to kill our citizens and threaten our way of life. Most recently, al-Qa’ida and its affiliates have attempted to recruit and radicalize people to terrorism here in the United States, as we have seen in several plots and attacks, including the deadly attack two years ago on our service members at Fort Hood.”

*– President Barack Obama
August 3, 2011*

In August 2011, President Obama approved the National Strategy for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States (the “Domestic CVE Strategy”), which is the first U.S. Government strategy to address ideologically-inspired radicalization to violence in the homeland. Today we are releasing a Strategic Implementation Plan, which will serve as the blueprint for how we will implement the Domestic CVE Strategy. As such, the plan lists the specific current and future actions the U.S. Government will take in support of the Domestic CVE Strategy’s locally-focused, community-based approach to preventing violent extremism in the United States.

- Both the Domestic CVE Strategy and the Strategic Implementation Plan prioritize al-Qa’ida and its affiliates and adherents as the preeminent terrorist threat we face today. However, our approach applies to all forms of violent extremism. As the tragedy in Norway shows, free societies face a variety of terrorist threats. Our own experience with the Oklahoma City bombing underscores this point.
- Both the Domestic CVE Strategy and the Strategic Implementation Plan emphasize that communities are the solution not the problem; they are on the frontlines and best positioned to push back against violent extremists. Actions and statements that promote hatred or cast suspicion toward entire communities reinforce violent extremist propaganda and feed the sense of disenchantment that may spur violent extremist radicalization.

Our Ultimate Goal is to prevent violent extremists and their supporters from inspiring, radicalizing, financing, or recruiting individuals or groups in the United States to commit acts of violence.

Our Approach underscores the strength of communities. We are fortunate that our experience with community-based problem solving, local partnerships, and community-oriented policing provides a basis for addressing violent extremism as part of a broader mandate of community safety. We therefore are building our efforts from existing structures, while creating capacity to fill gaps as we implement programs. Rather than creating a new architecture of institutions and funding, we are utilizing successful models, increasing their scope and scale where appropriate. Specifically, the Strategic Implementation Plan provides detailed information on our three main lines of action: (1) Enhancing Federal engagement with and support to local communities; (2) Building expertise for countering violent extremism; and (3) Countering violent extremist propaganda while promoting our ideals.

- **Enhancing Engagement.** 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 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.** 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.

As the activities described in the SIP are executed, there will be major and long-lasting impacts:

- There will be platforms throughout the country for including communities that may be targeted by violent extremists for recruitment and radicalization into ongoing Federal, State and local engagement efforts;
- The Federal Government will support that engagement through a task force of senior officials from across the government;
- Community-led efforts to build resilience to violent extremism will be supported;
- Analysis and production will increase in depth and relevance, and will be shared with those assessed to need it, including Governor-appointed Homeland Security Advisors, Major Cities Mayors’ Offices, and local partners;
- Training for Federal, State, tribal, and local government and law enforcement officials on community resilience, countering violent extremism, and cultural competence will improve, and that training will meet rigorous professional standards; and
- Local partners, including government officials and community leaders, will better understand the threat of violent extremism and how they can work together to prevent it.