



# Fact Sheet

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## Safe Policing for Safe Communities

### Section 2. Standards for Certification

#### Implementation of the Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities

On June 16, 2020, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order (EO) 13929 on Safe Policing for Safe Communities.<sup>1</sup> The EO's goal is to ensure that law enforcement agencies continue striving to provide transparent, safe, and accountable delivery of services to communities. This delivery will enhance community confidence in law enforcement and facilitate the identification and correction of internal issues before they result in injury to the public or to law enforcement officers.

Pursuant to authority vested in the Attorney General by the EO, a group of designated organizations will serve as the independent credentialing bodies. An independent credentialing body will be responsible for certifying that an applying law enforcement agency is in compliance with two mandatory safe policing principles in the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) *Standards of Certification*. A list of approved certifying agencies and the DOJ Standards of Certification can be found at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>.

#### Contact the COPS Office

For more information about COPS Office programs and resources, please call the COPS Office Customer Care Center at 800-421-6770 or by email at [AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov](mailto:AskCopsRC@usdoj.gov) or visit the COPS Office website at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).

The DOJ *Standards of Certification* identifies two **safe policing principles that independent credentialing bodies must consider**<sup>2</sup> when assessing certification of applying law enforcement agencies:

- 1. Adherence to applicable laws.** The applying agency maintains use of force policies that adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws.<sup>3</sup>
- 2. Prohibition of choke holds.** The applying agency maintains use of force policies that prohibit the use of choke holds,<sup>4</sup> except in situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law.

Certification of adherence to the two required principles is a prerequisite to a law enforcement agency's eligibility for DOJ discretionary grant funding. Agencies will be required to be certified or in the process of certification at the time of grant application in order to be eligible for DOJ discretionary grant funds in that year's funding cycle. Certifications will be good for three years from their date of issue. The credentialing body will maintain a list of certified agencies within its jurisdiction and submit this list **by January 31** to the DOJ's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), which will serve as the repository for the list of all eligible law enforcement agencies.

Independent credentialing bodies in each state will be able to provide agencies with guidance on how they can obtain certification. Agencies should contact their state bodies directly for this information. Agencies in areas where there is not an independent credentialing body should contact the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST).

1. The White House, *Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities*, Executive Order 13929, June 16, 2020, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-safe-policing-safe-communities/>.

2. The DOJ *Standards* document identifies other factors that the credentialing bodies may also consider in their own reviews.  
3. Policies apply to both paid and volunteer law enforcement officers.  
4. A *choke hold* is a physical maneuver or technique that restricts an individual's ability to breathe for the purpose of incapacitation.







