

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMMING

**2026 PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
 Professionalizing Law Enforcement-Community Engagement Training  
 An Initiative of **MOVEMENT FORWARD**  
[www.plecetconference2025.org](http://www.plecetconference2025.org)

## 2026 TRAINING TRACKS

PLECET NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
 MAY 27-31, 2026 | DALLAS, TX

### TRAINING TOPICS

Descriptions included on the following pages.

	DEFENDER	DUTY	GUARDIAN	HONOR	PROTECTOR	SENTINEL	SERVANT	VALOR
	TRAINING TOPIC COHORTS							
Activating Community Partnerships for Recruitment	✓				✓	✓		✓
Blueprints for Engagement: Designing a Community Relations Action Plan	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Collective Commitment: Making Community Engagement a Core Value Across the Agency	✓	✓		✓				✓
Community Engagement 101: Defining the Discipline as a Specialized Function			✓	✓	✓			✓
Community Sentiment & Needs Assessments: Using Data to Drive Engagement Strategy			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Developing Community Allies: Building Resident-Led Public Safety Partnerships			✓	✓		✓		✓
Force-Multiplication: Leveraging Multi-Agency Partnerships	✓	✓					✓	✓
Funding the Mission: Practical Strategies for Grants and Donor Support		✓	✓		✓		✓	
Measuring What Matters: Establishing Clear Metrics and Meaningful Outcomes	✓	✓			✓			✓
Navigating Social Determinants and Public Discord: Impacts on Trust and Legitimacy		✓	✓	✓				✓
Organizing and Executing High-Impact Events		✓			✓	✓	✓	
The Science of Connection in Practice: Applying Contact Theory in Law Enforcement	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Shared Stories and Strategic Messaging: Proactive Communication and Digital Engagement		✓		✓			✓	✓
Strategic Communication Under Pressure: Neuro-Communication, Structured Dialogue, and De-escalation	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Transforming the Foundation: Embedding Engagement in the Training			✓	✓		✓	✓	
Utilizing AI and Technology for Community Engagement: Tools, Ethics, and Practical Deployment	✓				✓	✓	✓	

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### Activating Community Partnerships for Recruitment

This course explores how law enforcement agencies can strengthen recruitment pipelines by strategically engaging community leaders, influencers, and trusted local partners as “proxy recruiters.” Participants will learn how to identify credible community figures, build referral relationships, and develop outreach initiatives that attract high-quality candidates who reflect the diversity, values, and lived experiences of the community.

### Blueprints for Engagement: Designing a Community Relations Action Plan

A practical build session for law enforcement personnel creating an engagement strategy that is measurable, aligned to public safety priorities, and operationally realistic. Participants will translate community priorities into a workable plan that fits staffing realities, approval pathways, and risk review requirements. The session emphasizes strategy as an operational product — audiences, methods, cadence, and outcomes — rather than a collection of events. Attendees will leave with an implementation-ready 90-day plan that supports agency objectives and strengthens coordinated execution across units.

### Collective Commitment: Making Community Engagement a Core Value Across the Agency

Shows how to embed engagement into policies, supervision, patrol expectations, performance management, and leadership behaviors — so it is not siloed in one unit. Designed for supervisors, engagement leads, training staff, and agency leadership teams (including agency heads), the session focuses on the operational levers of culture change: incentives, accountability, training integration, and cross-unit coordination. Participants will learn how to align engagement expectations with enforcement and crime reduction priorities while strengthening officer wellness and organizational health.

### Community Engagement 101: Defining the Discipline as a Specialized Function

Clarifies community engagement as a distinct professional discipline — separate from public relations, enforcement, and “events” — and equips sworn and civilian law enforcement attendees to define function, scope, and outcomes inside their agency. The session emphasizes engagement as an agency capability and provides practical definitions and boundary-setting tools that strengthen internal alignment and execution. Participants will work from common operating challenges — activity without strategy, inconsistent follow-up, and unclear ownership — and leave with a minimum viable operating model appropriate to agency type and size.

### Community Sentiment & Needs Assessments: Using Data to Drive Engagement Strategy

Teaches practical methods for law enforcement personnel to understand what communities need and how they perceive safety—while staying ethical, lawful, and credible—and then translating findings into action. Participants will learn mixed-method assessment options (interviews, focus groups, surveys, listening sessions) and when to use each, plus how to avoid biased sampling and over-reliance on the most engaged participants. The session emphasizes privacy, informed consent, transparency, and safe storage, and it concludes with a decision-to-action workflow that supports prioritization, resource allocation, and communications planning.

### Developing Community Allies: Building Resident-Led Public Safety Partnerships

Moves law enforcement agencies from “engagement as events” to authentic, resident-led collaboration that increases cooperation, prevention capacity, and shared ownership of safety. Participants will learn how to identify and cultivate credible community emissaries and partners, build partnership structures that survive personnel changes, and co-design initiatives that support public safety outcomes. The session includes practical tools for evaluating partnership health and documenting outcomes without tokenizing participation.

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### **Force-Multiplication: Leveraging Multi-Agency Partnerships**

This training explores how multi-agency partnerships enhance outcomes, improve service delivery, and strengthen communities. Participants will examine how collaboration between agencies leads to more coordinated, efficient, and person-centered support. Participants will develop a sustainable model for multi-agency collaboration in their own communities to improve community satisfaction, trust, efficiency, legitimacy, and retention of personnel. Attendees will reflect on barriers to effective partnerships in their own communities and identify practical strategies to strengthen inter-agency collaboration.

### **Funding the Mission: Practical Strategies for Grants and Donor Support**

This session equips law enforcement and public safety professionals with practical tools to secure, manage, and sustain funding for engagement initiatives. Participants will learn how to identify viable funding sources across federal, state, local, corporate, and philanthropic channels; craft competitive grant proposals; and cultivate long-term relationships with funders and donors. The session emphasizes sustainable financing models, accountability practices, and impact reporting methods that support scalability and long-term program success.

### **Measuring What Matters: Establishing Clear Metrics and Meaningful Outcomes**

Moves agencies beyond vanity metrics (likes, attendance) into credible measures that reflect trust-building, collaboration, prevention outcomes, and legitimacy. The session teaches how to select key performance indicators that leadership will actually use, build simple dashboards, and create feedback loops that improve programs continuously. Participants will also learn how to communicate outcomes transparently to internal audiences and the public without overstating causality or weakening credibility.

### **Navigating Social Determinants and Public Discord: Impacts on Trust and Legitimacy**

Rather than treating social determinants (e.g., homelessness, poverty, substance use disorders, and mental health challenges) and public discord (e.g., protests, demonstrations, and civil unrest) as isolated operational issues, this session situates them within the broader social environment shaping public safety outcomes.

Participants will examine how these factors influence community perceptions of law enforcement legitimacy and will explore strategies that promote safety, uphold constitutional rights, and strengthen public trust. Emphasis will be placed on relationship-based policing, multidisciplinary problem-solving, and trauma-informed engagement practices that balance enforcement responsibilities with community partnership.

### **Organizing and Executing High-Impact Events**

Well-designed engagement events require clear objectives, strong partnerships, and measurable outcomes. This session provides law enforcement professionals with practical tools to plan, fund, execute, and evaluate high-impact community engagement events aligned with public safety and agency priorities. Participants will learn how to establish measurable objectives, coordinate logistics and partnerships, secure resources, and evaluate results using structured performance indicators. Emphasis is placed on ensuring events support operational goals, strengthen collaboration, and produce documented outcomes that inform future planning.

### **The Science of Connection in Practice: Applying Contact Theory in Law Enforcement**

This session integrates decades of social science research with practical application for law enforcement professionals. Participants will examine why certain forms of structured contact strengthen cooperation and trust while others reinforce negative assumptions. This session highlights four key conditions—equal status, common goals, cooperation, and institutional support—that help create effective engagement strategies that are trustworthy, can be used repeatedly, and match the goals of the agency.

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### **Shared Stories and Strategic Messaging: Proactive Communication and Digital Engagement**

This session equips law enforcement professionals with practical strategies for proactive communication, narrative alignment, and multi-channel engagement that strengthen credibility before a critical incident occurs. Participants will learn how to align communication and engagement strategies, combine narrative and data to reinforce transparency, and use digital platforms to support operational priorities. The session emphasizes building two-way communication systems, managing misinformation, and maintaining consistent messaging across channels to support professionalism, trust, and institutional legitimacy.

### **Strategic Communication Under Pressure: Neuro-Communication, Structured Dialogue, and De-escalation**

This session integrates neuroscience, behavioral science, and structured dialogue methods to strengthen law enforcement communication during high-stress and high-visibility interactions. Participants will examine how physiological threat responses influence behavior and decision-making and how strategic rapport-building and facilitation techniques can reduce escalation and support productive outcomes. The session focuses on practical tools for engaging skeptical or critical stakeholders, managing tense public interactions, and sustaining credibility through structured follow-up. Emphasis is placed on communication as an operational skill that supports safety, cooperation, and institutional legitimacy.

### **Transforming the Foundation: Embedding Engagement in the Training**

Research indicates that recruit socialization is a critical phase for culture setting. This session provides a blueprint for moving community engagement from a limited elective block into a thread woven across law enforcement training environments, including tactics, defensive skills, scenario-based instruction, and legal modules. This session addresses how training design and informal norms shape day-to-day community-facing performance. Participants will leave with tools to integrate engagement expectations into evaluations and operational practice in ways that are measurable and durable.

### **Utilizing AI and Technology for Community Engagement: Tools, Ethics, and Practical Deployment**

Covers how law enforcement agencies can use technology (survey tools, engagement platforms, mapping, dashboards, SMS updates, and related systems) to strengthen transparency and collaboration—without privacy missteps. Participants will learn how to select tools that match engagement goals and local realities, deploy them ethically and transparently, and integrate outputs into decision-making and communications. The session emphasizes governance practices—consent, retention, transparency, and adoption—so technology supports daily workflows rather than adding parallel work.