

TO: Hon. Herron Gaston, Senate Chair, Public Safety and Security Committee
Hon. Patrick S. Boyd, House Chair, Public Safety and Security Committee
Hon. John W. Fonfara, Senate Chair, Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
Hon. Maria P. Horn, House Chair, Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee
Hon. Patricia Billie Miller, Senate Chair, General Bonding Subcommittee
Hon. Ronald A. Napoli, House Chair, General Bonding Subcommittee

FROM: Daniel Karpowitz, Undersecretary, Office of Policy and Management, Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division

DATE: December 31, 2025

RE: Community Engagement Training Update Pursuant to Public Act 20-1

I. Background

An Act Authorizing and Adjusting Bonds of The State for Capital Improvements, Transportation and Other Purposes, And Concerning Municipal Reports on Certain Property Tax Exemptions, Validation of a Referendum and Highway Projects (Public Act 20-1) was signed into law. Section 32(a)(3) of Public Act 20-1 authorized the creation of a Community Engagement Training (CET) program for law enforcement agencies in towns with a population of over one hundred thousand and towns adjacent to towns with a population of over one hundred thousand (please see Table 1). The Connecticut State Bond Commission allocated \$3 million dollars to fund the program and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) was tasked with administering the program.

Table 1 Eligible Towns and Cities Pursuant to PA 20–1 Sec. 32

Bloomfield	Naugatuck	Thomaston
Bridgeport	New Canaan	Trumbull
Cheshire	New Haven	Waterbury
Darien	Newington	Watertown
East Hartford	North Haven	West Hartford
East Haven	Orange	West Haven
Fairfield	Plymouth	Wethersfield
Greenwich	Prospect	Windsor
Hamden	South Windsor	Wolcott
Hartford	Stamford	Woodbridge
Middlebury	Stratford	

Section 4-68gg of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Secretary of OPM to submit an annual report describing the content of the training provided pursuant to subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 32 of Public Act 20-1, and provide data on the number of trainings provided and number of police officers trained, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the (1) joint standing

committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety and security and finance, revenue and bonding, and (2) general bonding subcommittee of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to finance, revenue and bonding.

II. Research into Community Engagement Training Programs

In 2021, OPM contracted with the Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) to review existing CET literature and programs to provide recommendations regarding: (1) how CET models would be responsive to the needs, goals, and size of the eligible Connecticut municipalities, (2) recommendations for the CET curriculum that technical assistance providers should deliver, and (3) outputs and outcomes to be tracked by the municipalities that receive the training that will aid in evaluating the success of the program.

IMRP provided analysis to help OPM design the implementation of a meaningful CET program for Connecticut. Research identified The National Initiative for Building Community Trust & Justice (“National Initiative”), a multi-year project supported by the U.S. Department of Justice to improve relationships and increase trust between communities and the criminal justice system across six national sites. The program largely consisted of three pillars:

1. Enhancing Procedural Justice¹,
2. Reducing the Impact of Implicit Bias, and
3. Fostering Reconciliation.

Research and practical experience suggest these three components “could generate measurable improvements in officer behaviors, public safety, and community trust in the police.”² OPM seeks to provide eligible cities a CET program employing the National Initiative’s three pillars.

III. Program Implementation

Using analysis provided by IMRP, OPM has developed an outline to implement a CET program in Connecticut with the aim of improving trust between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. OPM entered into a contract with the Yale Justice Collaboratory for project implementation. The contract is divided into three phases.

1. CET Curriculum Development,
2. CET Implementation and Training, and
3. CET Program Final Report and Recommendations.

¹ The Yale Justice Collaboratory, “Procedural Justice,” <https://law.yale.edu/justice-collaboratory/procedural-justice>

² Urban Institute, *The National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice*, <https://www.urban.org/research/publication/national-initiative-building-community-trust-and-justice>.

Each phase of the contract contains several deliverables to implement the CET program.

Phase One: CET Curriculum Development

The contract is currently in Phase One, CET Curriculum Development. Deliverables in this phase include:

1. Create a CET curriculum for use by law enforcement training officers.

Creating a curriculum for training officers creates long-term sustainability for this program after the contract ends. Curriculum development is often one of the most costly components of training programs. The State will own the curriculum developed through this contract, allowing for statewide and long-term utilization, with the option for modifications by law enforcement entities.

2. Devise a method for training providers on the delivery of CET to officers and their respective police departments.
3. Gather information from community members in eligible municipalities to consider when creating the curriculum.

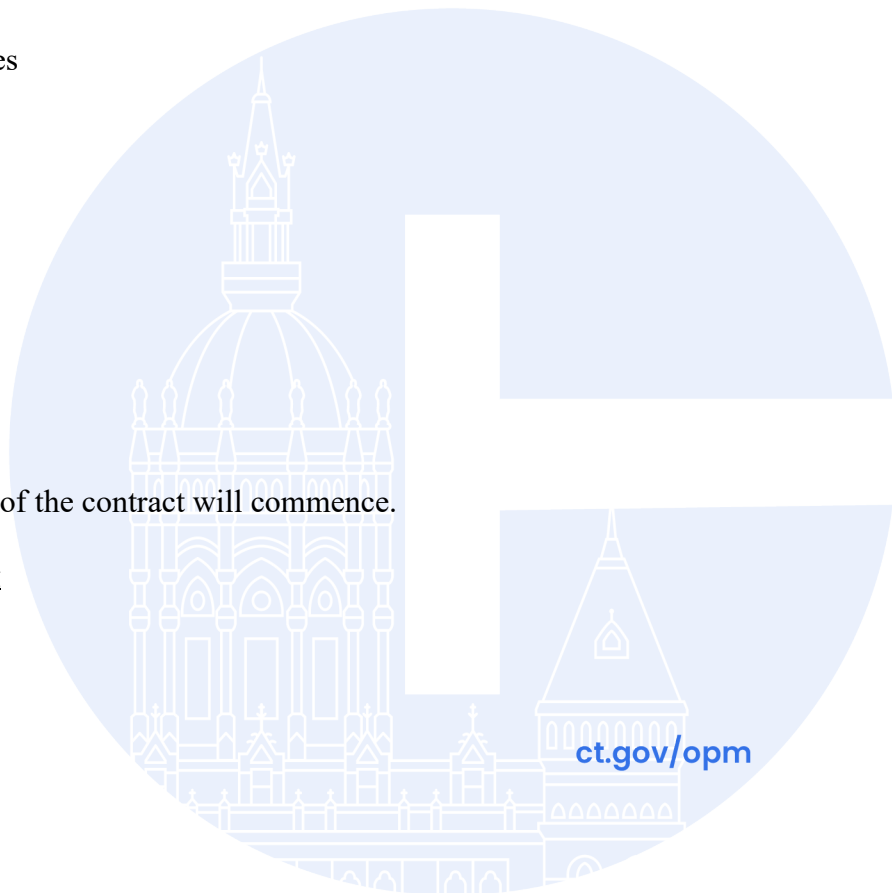
Community information gathering will include, but is not limited to, surveys and listening sessions. Any meetings have the option to be held in-person or virtually.

The Yale Justice Collaboratory will meet with OPM CJPPD three times during this phase and provide quarterly written updates, including the following information:

1. CET curriculum development status
2. Engagement with eligible municipalities
3. Community engagement activities
4. Subcontractor activities
5. Successes/Challenges
6. Financial Overview
7. Staffing

Once the curriculum is completed, Phase Two of the contract will commence.

Phase Two: CET Implementation and Training



The Yale Justice Collaboratory is actively completing the contracting process to provide training on the CET curriculum, via a subcontractor(s), to participating law enforcement training providers. Once the contract is executed, the Yale program team and the subcontractor will meet with OPM CJPPD to provide a status update on program implementation. Deliverables in this phase include:

1. Educate eligible law enforcement units about the CET program and encourage participation.
2. Convene at least three CET curriculum training sessions for participating training officers.
3. Develop a mechanism to track statutorily required reporting requirements.
4. Provide consultation to OPM on the creation of a survey instrument for officers and community members who attend the training sessions, and review and analyze results.

The contractor will meet with OPM quarterly to discuss the implementation of the training, survey results, successes, and challenges.

Phase Three: CET Program Final Report and Recommendations

The final phase of the contract is the submission of a final written report including the delivery and outcomes of the program. The report will assist OPM to provide the information required in C.G.S. § 4-68gg (2024). Additionally, the report will include content of the training sessions, curriculum materials, participating towns, and any contact information collected throughout program implementation.

IV. Timeline

OPM completed two rounds of Request for Proposals (RFP) before beginning the contracting process with the Yale Justice Collaboratory. OPM signed a contract with the Yale Justice Collaboratory in September 2025 and had the first formal check-in meeting with the project team on December 10, 2025. OPM CJPPD will collect quarterly progress reports which are due March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1, in addition to status update meetings.

At this time, deliverables for the project shall be completed no later than December 31, 2027. Yale will submit a final report to OPM upon completion of deliverables and expiration of the contract. The report will include training descriptions as well as data on the number of trainings held and the number of officers trained, pursuant to Section 4-68gg of C.G.S, including development, delivery, and outcomes of the CET program.