



**Policy statement for the State of Ohio standard for Community Engagement**

**Purpose**

It is the shared responsibility of law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve to work together to build relationships based upon trust and mutual respect. A strong relationship between law enforcement agencies and the community will improve public safety and allow communities to thrive and prosper.

**Standard**

Agencies must adopt a community engagement strategy with a primary focus on improving Police – Community relations.

**Commentary**

Agencies shall utilize proven strategies or develop their own strategies that are focused on community engagement. Strategies may address any or all of the following or other related areas: youth programs, educating the community on police policy and procedures, understanding the communities agencies serve, sharing, receiving and providing information to the public, jointly identifying areas of concern, and communicating, when appropriate, significant changes in agency operations.

The intent of this standard is to establish agency accountability for the community involvement function in writing. The function should be developed and operated to effectively meet the needs of the agency, with consideration of the department size and budget, as well as the community it serves.