



SCLEA

South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc.

November 12, 2020

Dear Sheriff / Chief / Director:

Recently, the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced *Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities* that will be used to determine South Carolina law enforcement agencies' eligibility for DOJ discretionary grant funding. The *Standards of Certification* are a result of President Trump's Executive Order [13929](#) (June 16, 2020), *Safe Policing for Safe Communities*.

South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (SCLEA) was named as a State certifying authority by the Department of Justice. Although policy certification and accreditation are separate and distinct functions, SCLEA is prepared to provide South Carolina agencies with the resources necessary to understand the DOJ initiative and support agency efforts to comply with the credentialing requirements. SCLEA does not charge a fee for this service.

SCLEA has been working with State and Federal agencies within South Carolina to prepare for this new endeavor. We have created a process that will allow South Carolina agencies to seamlessly respond to the mandates presented in this latest initiative. Our goal is to make this process as easy as possible. Please note that policy credentialing does not accredit an agency; it will, however, allow the agency to apply for DOJ discretionary grant funds.

Agency policies regarding use of force must adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws; and the agency must maintain use of force policies that prohibit the use of choke holds, except in those situations where use of deadly force is allowed by law. Agencies that meet these requirements are eligible to submit a copy of their policies to SCLEA for review, along with a Confirmation Letter. (See attached template.) Submissions should be emailed to info@sc-lea.org.

The SCLEA Council will review your policies and, if approved, will include your agency in the COPS database of certified agencies. A certification letter will be provided to you and the COPS Office. If your policies do not meet the mandatory conditions for certification, you will be notified. SCLEA will submit the list of approved agencies to the COPS Office each year by January 31.

Sample use-of-force policies and a template of the required Confirmation Letter are available for download on the SCLEA website at <https://www.sc-lea.org/accreditation-resources>.

If you have any questions concerning the SCLEA credentialing process, do not hesitate to contact me either by email at jtucker341@aol.com or by phone at (803) 360-0956. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John B. Tucker
SCLEA Chairman

Attachments: Additional Resources
Confirmation Letter of Applying Agency (template)

Additional Resources

COPS Office Website:

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/SafePolicingEO>

Implementation Fact Sheet:

https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/executive_order/Fact_Sheet.pdf

Principles on Safe Policing for Safe Communities:

[https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/executive_order/Principles on Safe Policing and Use of Force.pdf](https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/executive_order/Principles_on_Safe_Policing_and_Use_of_Force.pdf)

List of Designated Independent Credentialing Bodies:

https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/executive_order/List_of_Credentialing_Bodies.pdf