

Chicago Police Department's 2026 Community Engagement Plan



Introduction

The Chicago Police Department (CPD or "the Department") is proud to release this engagement plan, which highlights the anticipated topics CPD intends to address through community engagement in 2026. This plan focuses on CPD's community engagement reform efforts, primarily on reviewing and developing CPD policies, training curricula, and related strategies and protocols. This plan will only briefly highlight additional regular community engagement opportunities, such as Beat meetings, District Advisory Committee meetings, and other district-specific community policing activities.

In 2025, CPD published its [Framework for Community Engagement](#), which outlines how the Department conducts community engagement across the Department, including how certain topics are identified for review or community engagement. The Framework also provides examples of how CPD can engage with communities on different topics. As part of this framework, CPD committed to providing annual plans for community engagement activities in the upcoming year. Additionally, information on community engagement activities completed in each calendar year will be included in the Office of Equity and Engagement's annual report. Updates on CPD's community engagement around reform efforts in 2025 will be included in the 2025 OEE annual report, expected to be published during the first quarter of 2026.

Chicago Police Department's Definition of Community Engagement

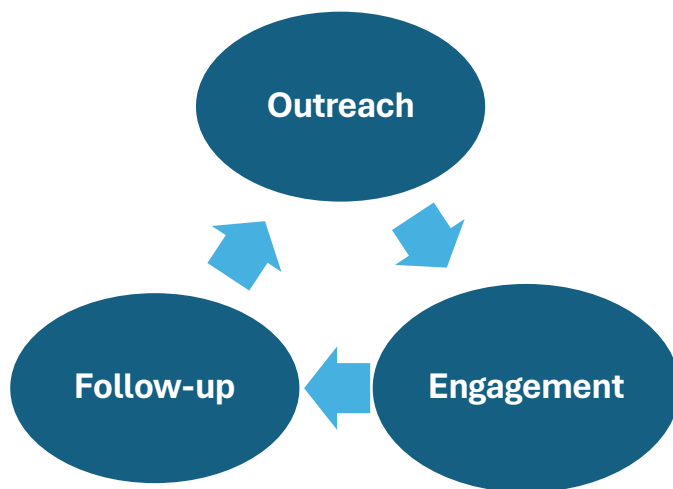
"Community engagement" for the Chicago Police Department (CPD) refers to the proactive involvement, collaboration, and partnership-building between the Chicago Police Department, its members, and the diverse communities they serve throughout Chicago. It encompasses a range of initiatives, programs, and strategies aimed at fostering open dialogue, soliciting input, and building trust between the Chicago Police Department and residents. Community engagement efforts seek to empower individuals and neighborhoods to play an active role in shaping public safety priorities, addressing concerns, and co-creating effective policing strategies. By prioritizing transparency, accountability, and mutual respect, CPD's community engagement initiatives aim to strengthen relationships, enhance public trust, and promote collaborative problem-solving to ensure safer and more resilient communities.

Special Order S02-08

In June 2025, CPD published Special Order S02-08 Community Engagement in Policy and Training Development. The new policy embeds CPD's Framework for Community Engagement within the Department's policy. It formalizes a framework for involving community members in the development, review, and refinement of Department policies and training. The directive underscores CPD's commitment to transparency, collaboration, and trust-building by outlining structured processes for public outreach, feedback, and dialogue, particularly for directives with broad impact or significant public interest. It emphasizes inclusive participation, ensuring that diverse community perspectives, especially those historically underrepresented, are considered, and promotes accountability by documenting and considering community input before finalizing policies and training materials.

Engagement Cycle

Every engagement conducted by CPD will follow a similar three-step process to ensure it reflects Chicago's diverse communities, that participants are engaged in a safe and meaningful way, and that follow-up is provided so participants see the impact of their work. These three steps are considered the Process of Engagement that CPD will follow.



Outreach – public outreach while ensuring engagement with individuals who have real or direct experiences.

Engagement – Variety of opportunities that allow for different types of feedback.

Follow-up - report back to the community on what was heard from the engagement and how the community's input was incorporated.

Tiered Approach to Community Engagement

CPD's three-tiered community engagement framework is designed to connect with residents at every level of interaction, from citywide initiatives to individual, day-to-day contacts. This approach embeds community engagement throughout CPD operations,

ensuring residents have multiple, meaningful opportunities to provide input, collaborate, and build trust with the Department.

Tier 1: Department-wide Engagements focus on citywide priorities, including public safety, community relations, and policy development. These efforts include town halls, public forums, and advisory partnerships that invite broad community participation and inform CPD's overall strategies and reforms.

Tier 2: District-level Engagements address neighborhood-specific needs and priorities within each police district. Through District Advisory Committee meetings, beat meetings, and local events, district leadership works directly with residents to share information, address concerns, and co-develop solutions that enhance public safety and quality of life.

Tier 3: Member Interactions consist of daily, individual engagements between CPD members and community residents. These routine interactions—ranging from informal conversations to collaborative problem-solving—help build trust, strengthen relationships, and reinforce CPD's commitment to respectful, responsive, and community-centered policing.

Community Engagement on Department Policies

The following policy topics have been identified as areas CPD intends to engage the community on in 2026. Additional policies and topics may be added to this list throughout the year, as needed or required. CPD will continue to conduct policy reviews, as required by paragraph 636 of the consent decree¹, and topics identified in these reviews may be added for community engagement.

Gender-based Violence

In 2025, CPD published its new policy, G02-06 Gender-Based Violence Incidents. This policy was developed through extensive engagement with advocates and organizations in the gender-based violence community, and the policy builds on that collaboration. CPD is continuing discussions to expand department policies within the gender-based violence framework, including those addressing domestic violence and sexual assault.

CPD began meeting monthly with community stakeholders from the gender-based violence community in 2025, and these meetings will continue monthly throughout 2026. In early 2026, the group will start to review existing policies, including:

- G04-04 Domestic Incidents
- S04-29 Incidents of Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse
- S04-13-02 Anti-stalking Statute

Additional policies identified by the group may also be reviewed throughout the year.

Proposed Method of Engagement: The Office of Victim Services will lead monthly meetings with community members from the gender-based violence community, with support from the OEE, Research and Development, Training Division, and other Department units as needed.

Timeline: CPD will continue to meet monthly with stakeholders from the gender-based violence community. These meetings will continue throughout 2026.

- Quarter 1 2026:
 - Review and revise G04-04 Domestic Incidents
 - Review and revise S04-29 Incidents of Sexual Assault and Sexual Abuse
- Quarter 2 2026:
 - Review and revise S04-12-02 Anti-stalking statute

¹ *State of Illinois v. City of Chicago*, No. 17-cv-6260 (N.D. Ill. Jan. 31, 2019), Final Consent Decree ¶ 636, <https://www.chicagopoliceconsentdecree.org/Page-Attachments/CPCD/Resources/CONSENT/FINAL-CONSENT-DECREE-SIGNED-BY-JUDGE-DOW.pdf>.

- Review and revise additional policies identified by the group
- Quarter 3 2026:
 - Finalize revised policies for submission to the Independent Monitoring Team and Office of the Attorney General
- Quarter 4 2026:
 - Publish finalized updated policies

Community Policing

Since mid-2024, CPD has been conducting a comprehensive assessment of its community policing program, with assistance from the Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA). Throughout this process, eight community-based organizations were selected to conduct widespread, robust community engagement across two phases of the project. Additional engagements were held with community stakeholders, including CPD Beat Facilitators, District Advisory Committee members, District Council members, and Commissioners from the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability. The focus of their engagements was to gather public feedback on areas for improvement to CPD’s existing community policing structure and programming. Public reports on community feedback are available on the Chicago Police Department's website. As a result of these engagements, CPD anticipates revising several community policing policies throughout 2026. Revisions to these policies will be made available for public review and comment via draft policies posted on the CPD website. CPD will also share an implementation plan of its changes to its community policing strategy based on the recommendations from CCA’s assessment.

Impacted CPD policies may include:

- G02-03 Community Policing Mission and Vision
- S02-03 The Community Policing Office
- S02-03-01 Beat Community Meetings
- S02-03-02 District Strategic Plans
- S02-03-14 District Advisory Committee (DAC)

Additional policies may also be revised following the completion of CCA's assessment.

Proposed Method of Engagement: Building on the extensive community engagements that were conducted throughout 2024 and 2025 as part of the CCA’s assessment of community policing, CPD will revise its suite of community policing policies in 2026 and share the draft policies with the public for their review and input.

Timeline: CPD will continue the community policing assessment begun in 2024 and use its recommendations to update policies.

- Quarter 1 2026:
 - Public release of final CCA assessment and recommendations report
 - Begin identifying revisions on policies based on the finalized CCA assessment
- Quarter 2 2026:
 - Share updated draft community policing policies for public review
- Quarter 3 2026:
 - Finalize revised polices for submission to the Independent Monitoring Team and Office of the Attorney General
- Quarter 4 2026:
 - Publish finalized updated policies

Stops & Interactions

CPD will conduct dedicated community engagements related to investigatory stops and traffic stops, bringing both efforts together under a unified “Stops & Interactions” theme. Through this approach, CPD aims to create clearer, more transparent conversations about how officers engage with community members during these common points of contact. One goal of this engagement will be to clearly explain the differences between investigatory stops and traffic stops and the policies CPD uses to guide officers in both interactions. In addition to raising awareness of investigatory and traffic stops, CPD will hear from the community about their experiences and use this feedback to inform future revisions to the policies.

Investigatory Stops

In August 2015, the City of Chicago, CPD, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois (ACLU) entered into the Investigatory Stop and Protective Pat Down Settlement Agreement.² In June 2023, a consultant report³ was published, providing updates on the agreement, including descriptions of extensive community engagements conducted by the parties as part of CPD's efforts to revise investigatory stop and protective pat-down policies and training. A multi-phase engagement process was implemented, including public meetings, facilitated listening sessions, surveys, and targeted outreach to community organizations and residents most affected by investigatory stops. These engagements were designed to solicit feedback on lived experiences, perceptions of police interactions, and recommendations for improving stop practices, documentation, and accountability. The report emphasizes that community input was intentionally incorporated into policy and

² ACLU of Illinois, *Consultant Report on Investigatory Stops and Protective Pat Downs*, June 14, 2023. Relevant footnote and supporting documentation are included in the appendix. https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/2023.06.14_consultant_report_0.pdf

³ ACLU of Illinois, *Consultant Report on Investigatory Stops and Protective Pat Downs*, June 14, 2023, https://www.aclu-il.org/sites/default/files/2023.06.14_consultant_report_0.pdf

training revisions, underscoring CPD’s commitment to transparency, inclusive participation, and sustained community involvement in reform efforts.

On June 21, 2023, the City of Chicago and the Office of the Illinois Attorney General submitted an amended stipulation regarding investigatory stops, protective pat-downs, and enforcement of loitering ordinances (the Stipulation). The Stipulation adds paragraphs 800 through 877 to the Consent Decree and was approved by the Court on June 27, 2023. CPD anticipates publishing a new investigatory stops policy in the first half of 2026 and launching community engagements on the policy to inform future revisions.

Traffic Stops

CPD and the Chicago Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) are collaborating on a new traffic stops policy that could be incorporated into the Consent Decree. The policy would govern how CPD conducts, reviews, and trains officers on traffic stops, and how it would be assessed and potentially modified in the future. A draft policy was publicly shared in April 2025, and the CCPSA provided feedback to CPD. Additionally, the CCPSA has been conducting extensive community engagement on traffic stops, which CPD is also reviewing for policy consideration. CPD, the CCPSA, and the Consent Decree Monitoring Team continue discussions on next steps to complete a traffic stops policy.

Proposed Method of Engagement: CPD will combine educational efforts, dialogue, and participation activities to support this topic. Educational components will include a public website that provides transparent information on both the investigatory stops policy and the draft traffic stops policy. This may include a video explaining both policies in more detail. Components of the investigatory stops and traffic stops will also be enhanced within CPD’s ‘Know Your Rights campaign’, to ensure there is constant information about the public’s rights when interacting with police during an applicable stop.

Timeline: CPD will begin its public awareness efforts early in 2026 to ensure meaningful information is widely available about investigatory stops and traffic stops. Once the new policy is published, CPD will create opportunities for the public to learn about it and provide feedback.

- Quarter 1 2026:
 - Publish new investigatory stops policy
 - Launch Investigatory Stops webpage
 - Update Know Your Rights campaign
- Quarter 2 2026:
 - Conduct community conversation around stops and interactions
- Quarter 3 2026:

- Conduct community conversation around stops and interactions
- Quarter 4 2026:
 - Conduct community conversation around stops and interactions

De-escalation, Response to Resistance, and Use of Force

CPD began conducting community engagement on its policies around de-escalation, response to resistance, and use of force (DRU) through several mechanisms. These included launching a new public webpage that provides simplified information about CPD’s DRU policies, a history of policy changes over the last several years, and a learning video that provides more detailed explanations of the policies. Additionally, all nine of CPD’s DRU policies were posted for public review and comment. Finally, CPD partnered with Creer Un Espace, a consulting firm that helps organizations build trust and strengthen community partnerships through dialogue, leadership development, and strategic engagement, to host three community conversations around CPD’s DRU policies.

Proposed Method of Engagement: In 2026, CPD will continue to provide public engagement opportunities on its DRU policies through various mechanisms. The public website launched in 2025 will remain on the CPD website and accessible, and all nine DRU policies will remain available for public review throughout the year. Additionally, CPD will organize at least three community conversations throughout the year to invite the public to learn about CPD's DRU policies and provide feedback.

Timeline: CPD will continue conducting community engagement on DRU throughout 2026. In addition to the 2025 DRU engagement report being shared in early 2026, opportunities for public engagement will be available.

- Quarter 1 2026:
 - Publish Creer Un Espace report on DRU engagement in 2025
- Quarter 2 2026:
 - Conduct community conversation around DRU
- Quarter 3 2026:
 - Conduct community conversation around DRU
- Quarter 4 2026:
 - Conduct community conversation around DRU

Community Engagement on Department Training

The following training topics have been identified as areas CPD intends to engage the community on in 2026. Additional opportunities and training topics may be added to this list throughout the year, as needed or required.

Community-focused Policing Training

Building on the CCA assessment of CPD's community policing and in conjunction with the review and revision of existing community policing policies, CPD will also develop an eight-hour in-service training curriculum on community-focused policing. This training will cover problem-solving, impartial policing, communication skills, and other cultural competencies. CPD will begin developing the curriculum in early 2026 and will invite community stakeholders to review and provide feedback.

Proposed Method of Engagement: CPD will lead the curriculum drafting. Once drafted, CPD will invite community-based organizations that are involved in the CCA community policing assessment to review and provide feedback on the curriculum. CPD will invite members of the Community Policing Advisory Panel, District Advisory Committee, and District Council to review and provide input on the training.

Timeline:

- Quarter 1 2026:
 - Begin developing draft training curriculum
- Quarter 2 2026:
 - Share draft curriculum with identified community stakeholders
- Quarter 3 2026:
 - Revise curriculum based on community feedback
 - Produce draft curriculum to IMT and OAG for review
- Quarter 4 2026:
 - Finalize training curriculum
 - Begin beta-testing training
- Quarter 1 2027:
 - Launch in-service training

Training Community Advisory Committee (TCAC)

The Training Community Advisory Committee (TCAC) is part of the Department-wide strategy to meaningfully engage a diverse range of community-based stakeholders. The

TCAC enables us to regularly solicit community feedback on training curricula and delivery and ensures that varied expertise and lived experiences inform the training development and implementation process. CPD held 11 TCAC meetings in 2025 and intends to continue regular meetings in 2026, with the potential to expand TCAC to include new members.

Community Training Observation Days (CTOD)

In 2025, CPD launched a new community engagement program - Community Training Observation Days. Open to the public, the observation days offered half-day sessions of the annual classroom and scenario-based training that all sworn CPD officers receive. The four CTODS conducted in 2025 were highly successful and received exceptionally positive feedback from participants both during the classes and in post-observation surveys. CPD looks forward to hosting additional dates and continuing this transparency-focused program in 2026.

Ongoing Reform Community Engagement Efforts

CPD has identified additional community engagement efforts that will continue to occur in 2026. These engagements may include feedback on CPD policies or training materials, but are currently focused on overall operational efficiency. Additional engagement efforts may be added throughout the year, as needed.

Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Community

For the past several years, CPD has partnered with advocates and stakeholders from the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing communities, including the Chicago Hearing Society, to improve CPD's response and support for individuals who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing. Through this partnership, CPD published a brand-new policy in 2025, S02-09 Interactions with Persons who are Deaf, DeafBlind, or Hard of Hearing. CPD also contracted with the Chicago Hearing Society to provide training videos, which CPD has incorporated into its in-service training in 2026. In 2026, CPD plans to meet with this stakeholder group quarterly to continue discussing how CPD can better support people in the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing community.

Chicago Council on Mental Health Equity (CCMHE)

The CCMHE comprises community mental or behavioral health professionals, advocacy group members, mental or behavioral health service providers, persons living with mental or behavioral health conditions, first responders, Chicago Department of Public Health personnel, and Cook County justice system personnel. The Crisis Intervention Unit (CIU) recognizes the expertise of its diverse committee members and seeks recommendations on policies and training, informed by the experience and challenges they face in their respective roles. The committee's feedback provides the CIU with a broader perspective on the City's response to individuals experiencing mental or behavioral health crises.

The CIU developed a process that uses the CCMHE Consent Decree Subcommittee to review and draft feedback on policies and/or training, and to present draft recommendations to the full committee at quarterly meetings. The three-step process includes:

1. Internal and external outreach with Department members and CCMHE members
2. Engagement with the CCMHE subcommittee members (Consent Decree) - this phase will also include the Research and Development and Training Division sections to evaluate any committee input and feedback to ensure the

recommendations fall within state law, policy, and/ or collective bargaining agreements.

3. CIU will provide a written response to CCMHE on the implementation of the committee's recommendations

Engagement meetings are held with one or two subcommittee members to gather as much feedback as possible and allow ample time for questions. In addition, the CIU recognizes that the CCMHE is subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA) and, as such, has specific requirements to meet for public notice of meeting schedules, agendas, and items for discussion/presentation. The CCMHE bylaws include the review process format for the full committee and its subcommittees, which is subject to all requirements of the Illinois OMA.

Ongoing District-level Engagements

Beat Meetings

Beat Meetings are hyper-local community forums held within individual police beats, allowing residents to engage directly with district leadership and patrol officers on crime trends, quality-of-life concerns, and neighborhood priorities. These meetings foster transparency, trust, and collaborative problem-solving and will continue to be held bi-monthly to ensure consistent communication between CPD and the community. Each beat is supported by a Beat Facilitator, a community volunteer who partners with district leadership to organize meetings, guide discussions, elevate resident voices, and help advance community-driven action plans between meetings.

District Advisory Committee

The District Advisory Committee (DAC) is a standing body of community stakeholders, including residents, business owners, faith leaders, and organizational partners, that meets monthly with district leadership to address broader district-wide public safety strategies and community concerns. Through ongoing dialogue and feedback, the DAC helps ensure that policing strategies, resource allocation, and engagement efforts reflect the district's needs and priorities while supporting effective, community-oriented policing.

Other District-level Engagements

Each police district maintains the discretion to implement district-specific engagement initiatives tailored to local needs, such as safety workshops, youth outreach, community forums, and neighborhood events. This flexibility allows districts to respond to unique neighborhood dynamics while fostering dialogue, collaboration, and problem-solving with residents. In addition, CPD regularly participates in community-hosted engagements held by neighborhood groups, organizations, and stakeholders, allowing officers and leadership to connect with residents in familiar, community-led settings. By attending neighborhood association meetings, community forums, business and merchant gatherings, cultural and religious events, youth programs, and public health and safety fairs, CPD reaches residents who may not participate in police-hosted meetings, builds trust, and gains direct insight into community priorities and concerns. These engagements demonstrate CPD's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and meeting residents where they are. Community-hosted and district-specific engagements will continue to occur regularly throughout 2026, supporting sustained relationships and community-informed public safety efforts.

Get Involved

CPD invites all members of the public to participate in any of the community engagements CPD coordinates.

CPD Community Engagement Calendar

<https://www.chicagopolice.org/community-engagement-calendar/>



CPD's Office of Equity and Engagement

<https://www.chicagopolice.org/equity/>



To learn more about ways to get involved, you can contact the Office of Equity and Engagement by:

Email: Engage@ChicagoPolice.org

Call: (312) 745- 5011