



# Developing a Standards-Based Approval Process for Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training

**POLICYMAKERS, COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND EXPERTS** have long recognized de-escalation training as an essential tool for helping officers respond effectively, build trust, and minimize the use of force during interactions. However, existing de-escalation training curricula vary considerably in their content, delivery methods, and duration.

The National Policing Institute (NPI), in partnership with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR), will assist the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) and other Department of Justice (DOJ) partners in establishing a process and platform to review, approve, and continually assess de-escalation training programs as outlined by the bipartisan Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act of 2022. This collaboration aims to create evidence-informed support for law enforcement agencies as they select and implement de-escalation training programs from the wide variety of existing curricula. Over 24 months, NPI and IIR will achieve the following goals:

**1. Contribute to the development of national standards to guide the approval of de-escalation training curricula.**

The current gap in guidance around evidence-informed and best practices for de-escalation training highlights the value of a comprehensive national framework for certifying de-escalation training programs. NPI will contribute to the development of national standards, complementing ongoing work<sup>1</sup> with the Department of Justice.

**2. Develop a process for de-escalation training review.**

NPI will develop and pilot a process to review, approve, and continually assess de-escalation training curricula with subject matter experts. This process will also be supported by public-facing, complementary tools and resources.

**3. Develop and maintain an online platform.**

NPI, in collaboration with IIR, will build an online platform for training curricula submission, review, and approval. The website will be pilot-tested and include resources relevant to de-escalation training implementation and delivery.

**4. Create a public catalog of approved de-escalation training curricula.**

Information on approved de-escalation training curricula will be publicly available via the online platform, which expert reviewers will continually update.

**For more information, visit**

**[www.policinginstitute.org/projects/developing-a-standards-based-approval-process-for-law-enforcement-de-escalation-training/](https://www.policinginstitute.org/projects/developing-a-standards-based-approval-process-for-law-enforcement-de-escalation-training/) or contact**

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1. For more information on NPI's related DOJ project, visit [policinginstitute.org/projects/crisis-intervention-and-effective-de-escalation/](https://policinginstitute.org/projects/crisis-intervention-and-effective-de-escalation/).



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