



U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service

Working with American Indian and Alaska Native Communities to Address Conflict and Tension

When disputes or tensions arise among American Indians or Alaska Natives and surrounding communities, the U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service (CRS) works with and brings together diverse parties – including federal, state, and local officials; tribal leaders; law enforcement; civil rights groups; and others – to facilitate common understanding and strengthen community relations. CRS also helps parties identify underlying issues to develop mutually agreeable solutions and build local capacity to prevent and resolve future conflicts.



▼ Under Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, CRS responds to community conflicts arising from differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or disability. CRS does not have law enforcement or prosecutorial authority. Rather, CRS works with communities in conflict to help rebuild relationships, facilitate mutual understanding, and encourage the development of local solutions.

CRS provides four unique services to communities ▼

Facilitated Dialogue: CRS facilitates dialogues between community stakeholders to open lines of communication between parties. Frequently addressed topics include alleged discrimination, police-community relations, hate crimes and hate incidents, tribal conflicts, protests and demonstrations, and other issues important to community members.

Mediation: CRS provides mediation services to help communities resolve conflicts and tensions through face-to-face negotiations between stakeholders. The goal of mediation is to develop agreements between community members that increase trust, improve community partnerships, and build local capacity to prevent and respond to future conflicts.

Training: CRS training programs bring together representatives from state and local government agencies, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, advocacy groups, and other groups to develop common understanding and identify collaborative approaches for reducing community conflicts.

Consultation: CRS offers consultation services to help communities respond more effectively to conflicts. These services include technical assistance in the formation of human relations commissions; best practices for engaging with diverse communities and coaching on issues of communication, dispute resolution, and joint problem-solving.

CRS assists tribal communities in ways including:

- ▶ Mediating disputes surrounding the use of tribal lands, including environmental encroachment or development on or around sacred indigenous sites
- ▶ Facilitating dialogue between tribal leaders and local law enforcement to address perceived racial profiling or hate crimes
- ▶ Training demonstration organizers on how to plan safe public events
- ▶ Facilitating dialogue between tribal leaders and federal and state agencies to improve communication and services in Indian Country

About CRS ▼

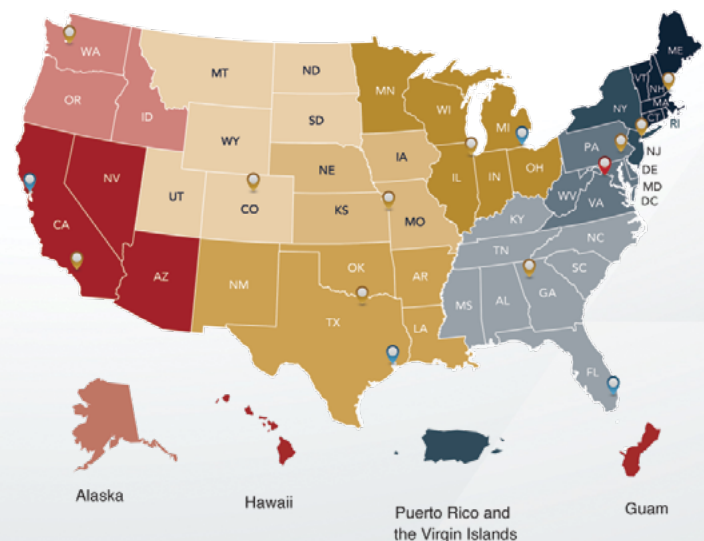
Established by Title X of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and expanded by the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009, CRS serves as “America’s Peacemaker” for communities facing tension or conflict based on differences of race, color, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. CRS services aim to enhance the ability of local communities to independently and collaboratively prevent and resolve future conflicts through the use of problem solving, increased knowledge, and improved communication.

CRS Services and Programs ▼

CRS provides an array of programs to communities experiencing tension that cultivate understanding, improve collaboration, and prevent future conflicts. CRS staff are professional mediators, facilitators, trainers, and consultants experienced in bringing community members together to help enhance their ability to resolve existing conflict and prevent future conflicts.

Where We Work ▼

- New England Region
- Northeastern Region
- Mid-Atlantic Region
- Southeastern Region
- Midwestern Region
- Southwestern Region
- Central Region
- Rocky Mountain Region
- Western Region
- Northwestern Region
- Field Offices
- Regional Offices
- CRS Headquarters Offices




Find us, connect with us ▼

www.justice.gov/crs www.justice.gov/hatecrimes

 [facebook.com/DOJCRS](https://www.facebook.com/DOJCRS)

 [@DOJ_CRIS](https://twitter.com/DOJ_CRIS)

 askcrs@usdoj.gov

 202.305.2935

For more information on this program or other CRS services, please contact your local CRS office:

<https://www.justice.gov/crs/about-crs/regional-and-field-offices>