

Talking Points for Chiefs

What does the Recognition Program Provide?

Provides a benchmark for professional Texas Law Enforcement and facilitates an agency's pursuit of professional excellence.

Assures the citizens of a community, the Manager, Mayor and Council of a high quality of service from their police agency.

Ensures well developed policies and procedures that meet or exceed the Best Practices for Texas Law Enforcement and that employees are provided clear and appropriate guidance.

Because the department provides proper guidance with appropriate policies, officers are less likely to act in a manner that will result in legal action. If legal action is encountered, the department can easily show it did act with due diligence in the development of appropriate policy and training thereby strengthening the department's defense against complaints and lawsuits.

Ensures the agency has policies and procedures in place to comply with all state laws regarding law enforcement.

Ensures appropriate and required training is provided to officers and employees.

Requires a preparedness program to ensure the agency is prepared for natural or man-made disasters.

Ensures preparation of necessary reports and analyses needed by Chiefs to make informed management decisions.

Enhances employee's pride in their agency, and improves relationships with the community.

Enhances recruitment and retention of qualified staff.

Compliance with Best Practices reduces both physical and financial risk by assuring agency policies address the twelve most critical areas of law enforcement that form basis of legal action against police, including:

- Use of Force
- Emergency Vehicle Operation and Pursuits
- Search, Seizure, and Arrest
- Care, Custody and Restraint of Prisoners
- Domestic Violence and agency employee domestic misconduct
- Off-Duty Conduct
- Selection and Hiring
- Sexual Harassment
- Complaint and Internal Affairs Management
- Narcotics, SWAT, and High Risk Warrant Service
- Dealing with the Mentally Ill and Developmentally Disabled
- Property and Evidence

Once an agency reaches Recognized status, continued participation:

Provides for continuous periodic review of agency's policies and procedures, operations and services, verified by a team of independent outside trained assessors.

Continuous notification of critical law enforcement issues which require policy modification to remain in compliance with Best Practices.

Continuous ability to utilize the "Recognized" title and identifications.

Continuous ability to participate in the User's group's law enforcement forum providing access to Police Department policies from throughout the state.

Provides the agency with options for continuous improvement.

Why can't I just use the Standards, fix my policies and get the same benefit?

To some extent, you can. Review and acceptance of these standards would benefit any department. However, having outside trained and experienced law enforcement executives review your compliance, assures those skeptics in your community that you actually do meet the standards. It also provides a formal authority which has reviewed and accepted your proofs of compliance.

Current Numbers:

165 Agencies Recognized

30 Agencies in the Submission Phase