

Use of Force and De-escalation Training Pilot Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated June 2023

1. What type of training can be funded by this program? Will BSCC provide a list of pre-approved training that agencies must select from?

Answer: Authorizing budget language mandates that the funds be used for POST-approved Use of Force and De-Escalation Training (UFDT). Therefore, any training curricula developed or administered with these funds must be approved and certified by POST prior to instruction.

Trainings utilizing a mobile or simulation platform (generally defined as having a “hands-on” component) or trainings which uses bodycam footage as part of the training shall be prioritized.

The BSCC will not be identifying a list of training programs that meet the funding criteria. Each agency is encouraged to seek out and/or develop locally relevant training specific to the needs of the agency and its community. Agencies are encouraged to work with their POST Regional Consultant in the selection of a training program or programs.

Participating agencies who have already contracted for UOF and De-Escalation training with non-POST providers are similarly encouraged to work with their POST Regional Consultant to have appropriate courses POST certified so that grant funds can be used.

2. How does BSCC define “peace officer” for purposes of this program?

Answer: For purposes of this program, “peace officer” means employees of law enforcement agencies described in Penal Code section 830.1. Training funds may be used for any peace officer, whether in a custodial or field setting. Training funds may not be used for custodial officers or public officers, as described in Penal Code section 831, who are not peace officers.

3. The Sheriff's Office has two separate classifications, public officers and peace officers. Should we submit the agency's overall use of force statistics or only the ones that pertain to our peace officers?

Answer: The statute for the UFDT Pilot Program requires data that pertain to peace officers, as defined in Question 2, above.

4. The authorizing statute references the “purchase of equipment.” Is there a list of approved equipment or a list of equipment that is not eligible under this program?

Answer: Funds may be used to purchase equipment or technology *only* if it is required for the training program(s) implemented with these funds. For example, if the POST training course uses Axion camera footage, but your agency does not have the capacity to view this footage, you can purchase the software or video equipment needed to view the training materials. It is not the role of the BSCC to approve equipment or provide a list of equipment. Each agency will justify their expenditures at the conclusion of the grant with the submission of an expenditures report.

5. **The authorizing statute states that “no more than 10 percent of the funding may be used for staffing hours.” Is that 10 percent of the total amount awarded to our agency or 10 percent of the balance after subtracting the \$300,000 for BSCC? That is, has the \$300,000 already been deducted from our award or do we have to send anything back to BSCC?**

Answer: No more than 10 percent of the amount awarded to your agency may be used for staffing hours. (The \$300,000 for BSCC administration costs has already been deducted.)

6. **Can an agency submit their own compiled full report instead of the BSCC UFDT data reports?**

Answer: No, agencies must submit the BSCC UFDT Baseline Data Report, Annual Data Reports, and Expenditure Report. All reports are required and are available under the Reporting Requirements section of the UFDT webpage, link here: <https://www.bscc.ca.gov/use-of-force-and-deescalation-training-pilot-program/>. Agencies may include their own UFDT report as an attachment.

7. **Is backup documentation required for the number of use-of-force incidents submitted in the data reports?**

Answer: Agencies do not have to submit any backup documentation, but BSCC strongly recommends maintaining UFDT data in a safe and convenient environment, to ensure the data can be easily accessed and provided at a later time or when requested.