



ABLE

Active Bystandership
for Law Enforcement

GEORGETOWN LAW

PREVENTING HARM.

TRANSFORMING CULTURE.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES.

ABLE's MISSION



Ensure every police officer in the United States has the opportunity to receive meaningful, effective active bystandership training.



Serve as a clearing house for research, thoughtful and sound training materials, and model policies.



Provide guidance to police agencies and communities that want to develop active bystandership programs and build the cultures that sustain them.



Establish standards and benchmarks for effective active bystandership programs.



Connect ABLE partners, agencies, and community groups across the U.S.



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WHAT IS ACTIVE BYSTANDERSHIP?



Authorizes and empowers law enforcement to intervene in another officer's action, regardless of her/his rank



Teaches officers how to successfully intervene



Protects those who do intervene



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THE STAKES. AND THE STAKEHOLDERS.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Individuals, especially members of marginalized groups, bear the brunt of police mistakes and misconduct.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Negative interactions between residents and local law enforcement are hurting officer careers, job satisfaction, and health and wellness.



THE COMMUNITY AT LARGE

The relationships between communities and law enforcement are strained, creating distrust and harm to one another.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Incidents between residents and local law enforcement are creating civil unrest, creating poor perceptions of cities, and contributing to economic hardship and community instability.



BUSINESSES

Communities, where your employees live and you do business, are distressed by tense relationships with law enforcement.



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WHAT IS ABLE?



OFFICER SUPPORTED



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED



PREVENTS PROBLEMS BEFORE THEY ARISE



DE-ESCALATES PROBLEMS AFTER THEY ARISE

Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement – ABLE – is an evidence-based program housed within the Georgetown University Law Center empowering and educating officers to:

- Prevent misconduct
- Reduce mistakes
- Promote officer health and wellness



REDUCES HARM TO CIVILIANS AND OFFICERS

- Community members are protected
- Officers are protected
- Cities and agencies are protected



IMPROVES POLICE/COMMUNITY RELATIONS

- Builds trust
- Fosters cooperation
- Creates a safer environment for all



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IT'S A COMMITMENT - A PROMISE TO CHANGE CULTURE

ABLE is not just training. ABLE is a holistic recipe for cultural transformation – in a package strongly supported by law enforcement and the communities they serve.



COMMUNITY
SUPPORT



OFFICER
WELLNESS



DEDICATED
COORDINATION



MEANINGFUL
TRAINING



MEASURING
EFFICACY



PROGRAM
AWARENESS



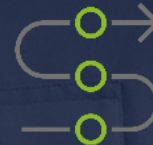
ACCOUNTABILITY



REPORTING



PAYING IT
FORWARD



FOLLOW-
THROUGH



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HOW ABLE WORKS



ABLE COMMITMENT

- Agencies must commit to **10 standards** designed to foster cultural transformation
- Agencies must submit **4 letters of support** (including 2 from community groups) to be considered for ABLE



ABLE TRAINING

- **8 hours of training** for agency officers AND leaders
- **2 hours** of annual refresher training
- **Incorporation of ABLE core principles** throughout other Academy programs



ABLE CULTURE

- ABLE requires “tone at the top,” **dedicated program support**, a meaningful communications plan, and more



EVIDENCE-BASED RESULTS

ABLE is based on decades of research and field studies by Professor Emeritus Ervin Staub and other experts

Similar active bystandership programs have proven successful in other professions, including the medical profession

EPIC, the predecessor to ABLE, has been in effect in New Orleans since 2015 and, by all accounts, has been remarkably effective at reducing police mistakes and misconduct

“[Active bystandership] training requires a culture change. The meaning of good teamwork has to be redefined, from its usual meaning among police officers that you support anything your fellow officer does, to protecting everyone by stopping a fellow officer from unnecessarily harming people.”

-Dr. Ervin Staub

ABLE Project Board of Directors
Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts- Amherst
Founding Director, Program on Psychology Of Peace And Violence



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TESTIMONIALS



CORPORATION

“Active bystandership is a technique that has safeguarded lives in healthcare, aviation and communities. We’ve seen the positive impact it’s had on police-community relationships in New Orleans. Scaling the ABLE program now can help support social justice across the country and save Black and police lives alike.”

– Ajay Banga,
MASTERCARD
EXECUTIVE CHAIR



ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

“We created the ABLE Project to ensure every police officer in the United States has the opportunity to receive meaningful, effective active bystandership training, while helping law enforcement agencies transform their approach to policing.”

– Christy Lopez
PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN
LAW CENTER, CO-DIRECTOR,
INNOVATIVE POLICING
PROGRAM



SOCIAL ACTIVIST

“Active bystandership creates stories that will never be told because nothing happened.”

– Ted Quant
SOCIAL ACTIVIST, NEW ORLEANS



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LEADERSHIP TESTIMONIALS



“I did not know exactly what to expect when I came to class. However, it became clear to me early on that ABLE is something special and different. It is because of that specialness and differentness that sets it apart from other types of training that try - but fail - to establish a mindset of accountability for not only ourselves, but our brothers and sisters as well. The ‘Top - Down / Bottom – Up’ approach will change the traditional way of thinking: ‘Rock - Paper – Rank.’ Why? Because it empowers all of us to be ‘Active Bystanders.’ One person can make a difference. I consider myself to be ‘ready, willing and ‘ABLE.’”

– Academy Director
NEW HAMPSHIRE

“[ABLE] teaches officers how to intervene when they see potential problems so they don’t become real problems. And in the process, [ABLE] redefines loyalty from ‘I’ll protect you by covering for you’ to ‘I’ll protect you by keeping you from causing harm in the first place.’”

– Deputy Chief
NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT



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OFFICER TESTIMONIALS



“At first I did not believe this topic would be embraced by officers at all. But now [after my training] I feel that these concepts could actually be the cornerstone of teamwork and morale building for the officers of any Police Department.”

– Officer
YONKERS, NY POLICE DEPARTMENT

“The ABLE program gives law enforcement personnel a clear process to do what we claim to do, ‘Take care of each other, while serving the community.’”

– Officer
NORTHERN VIRGINIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

“As a road Deputy this training will help my peers as well as myself to change the mindset of the public and win back the trust that Law Enforcement so righteously deserves.”

– Deputy
CINCINNATI, OH SHERIFF’S OFFICE

“ABLE has answered the call from the community and law enforcement professionals in developing curriculum that is beneficial in repairing the trust between citizens and officers.”

– Officer
BURLINGTON, NC POLICE DEPARTMENT



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HOW CAN YOU HELP?

For More Information Visit
www.law.georgetown.edu/IPP/ABLE



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Educate yourself about active bystandership in general and ABLE in particular
- Introduce ABLE to your local law enforcement agency
- Begin galvanizing your network to promote and endorse ABLE in your community



FAITH ORGANIZATIONS

- Educate your congregation about ABLE, including the many police agencies across the country that have opted into the program
- Introduce ABLE to your local law enforcement agency
- Provide your agency with a letter of reference in support of its ABLE application



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- Talk to your elected officials, whose support will be necessary to implement ABLE
- Partner with law enforcement agency leaders to bring ABLE to your city/town



LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Visit the ABLE website to learn more
- Reach out to other agencies already committed to ABLE
- Gather your supporting materials and apply today



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SUPPORT LEVELS



INDIVIDUAL GIVING

We welcome gifts from individuals starting at the \$25 level.



COMMUNITY GIVING

We welcome gifts from community groups, faith organizations, small businesses, and other local organizations.

Community giving levels include:

- Friend (\$500)
- Supporter (\$1,000)
- Empowerer (\$5,000)
- Champion (\$10,000)



ORGANIZATIONAL GIVING

We have three levels for larger organizations and philanthropic groups who wish to support our project:

- Bronze (\$25,000)
- Silver (\$50,000)
- Gold (\$100,00)

Our organizational sponsors are critical to our ability to meet our mission.



ENDOWMENTS

If you have an interest in discussing the establishment of a named endowment fund that will support our program in perpetuity, please contact Gene Finn, Assistant Dean of Development, at 202.662.9521.



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