

California Accreditation for Public Safety

CALIFORNIA POLICE ACCREDITATION: WHAT THE NEW STANDARDS MEAN FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT IS CAPS?

California Accreditation for Public Safety

CAPS is:

- A structured framework for reviewing and organizing core operations
- A California focused set of professional standards
- A system for continuous review and validation
- A tool that creates alignment between policy, practice, and oversight

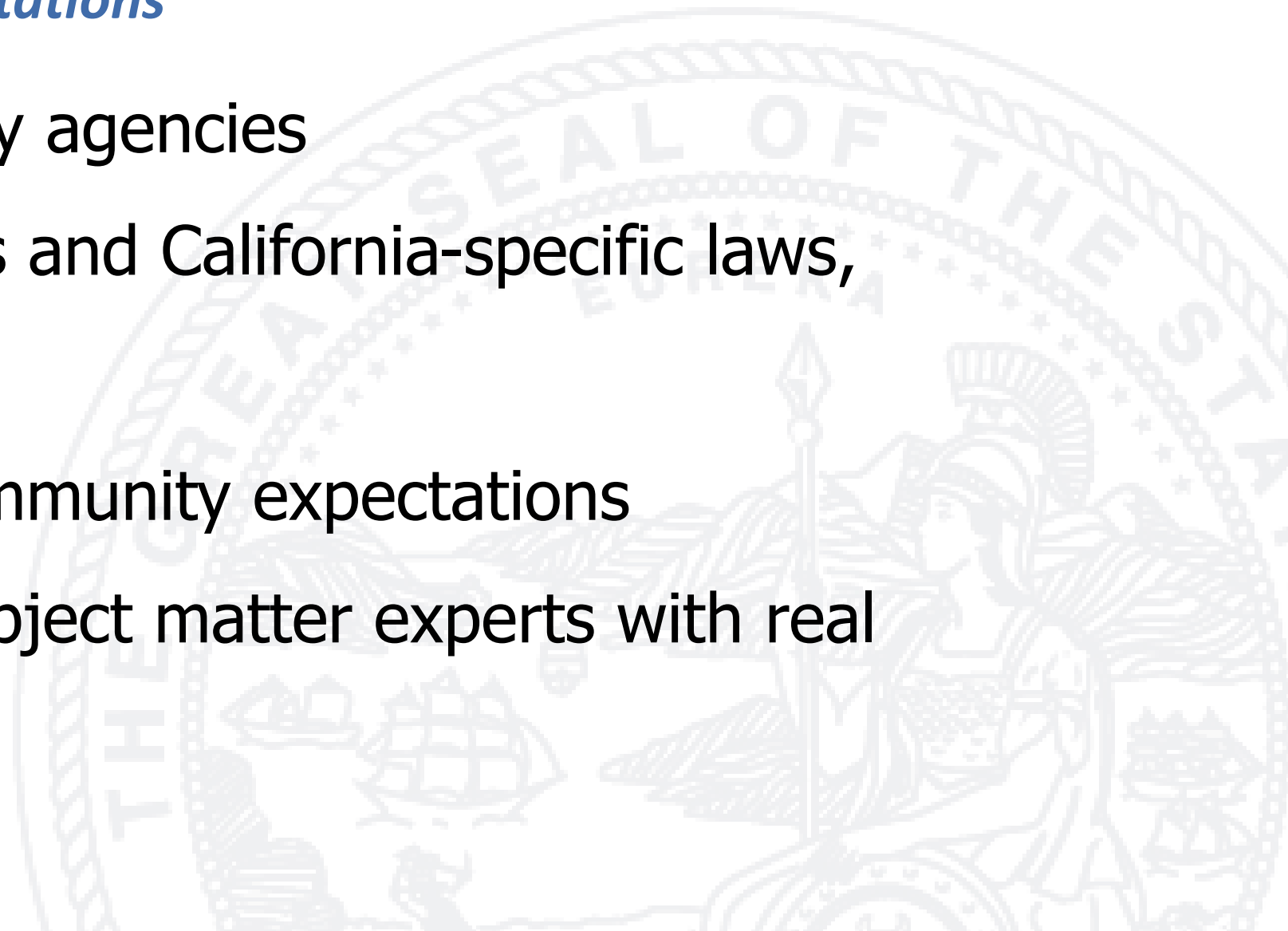




BUILT FOR CALIFORNIA, BY CALIFORNIA

Tailored to California's unique legal environment or public expectations

- Designed specifically for California public safety agencies
- Addresses the gap between national standards and California-specific laws, practices, and oversight
- Reflects California operational realities and community expectations
- Built by California public safety leaders and subject matter experts with real operational experience



Setting the Standard for Public Safety in California.

THE ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGING

- Expectations of public safety agencies are increasing
- Transparency standards are expanding
- Oversight mechanisms are evolving
- Communities expect clarity and consistency



Setting the Standard for Public Safety in California.

THE QUESTIONS AGENCIES AND THEIR PARTNERS ARE FACING

How do we ensure that:

- Our policies reflect current standards
- Our practices align with our policies
- Our documentation supports our actions
- Our leadership has visibility into risk
- Our systems are clear and consistent for the partners who support and oversee us



WHY STRUCTURE MATTERS

Without Structured Review:



- Policies drift
- Documentation becomes inconsistent
- Institutional knowledge gets lost
- Oversight becomes reactive

With Structured Review:



- Expectations are clear
- Roles are defined
- Review cycles are predictable
- Leadership has visibility



CALIFORNIA ACCREDITATION COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

The Commission is responsible for:

- Reviewing and approving accreditation awards
- Maintaining program integrity
- Advising on policy and procedural updates
- Providing oversight and governance to ensure CAPS operates independently

The Commission consists of **eleven members** representing municipal and county law enforcement, university or transportation or special district police, public members, legal or risk professionals, labor representation, a standards or accreditation specialist, and an at-large member.

Accreditation is **infrastructure**

Just like financial audits, strategic planning processes, and internal control systems

It creates structure that **supports leadership**

WHAT CAPS DOES NOT DO

- It does not eliminate mistakes
- It does not replace leadership
- It does not guarantee outcomes

Policing is a human profession.

Risk cannot be eliminated, but it can be minimized.





ACCREDITATION TIMELINE

The initial accreditation cycle is 2 years. An accreditation award is valid for 3 years.

SELF-ASSESSMENT PHASE

- About 18-20 months, depending on agency need.
- It is recommended that agencies conduct a mock assessment about 6 months before their formal assessment.

COMMISSION HEARING AND DECISION

- 30 days after the formal assessment, the assessment team will submit their report to CAPS.
- Commission hearings will be held during the quarter following the formal assessment.

ENROLLMENT AND ONBOARDING

- 1-3 months
- Onboarding with PowerDMS
- Internal Planning
- Attending Orientation and Accreditation Manager Training

FORMAL ASSESSMENT PHASE

- Must be completed by month 24 of the initial accreditation cycle.
- The remote file review will take place about 45 days before the on-site assessment.
- The on-site assessment will take 2 days.

HOW AGENCIES SUCCEED



Internal Approach

- Leadership support
- Dedicated coordinator
- Shared workload
- Consistent progress
- Build from existing work



CAPS Support

- Training
- Peer network
- Ongoing guidance

A SHARED INTEREST

Regardless of role, everyone in this room shares an interest in:

- Stability
- Accountability
- Professional consistency
- Reduced uncertainty

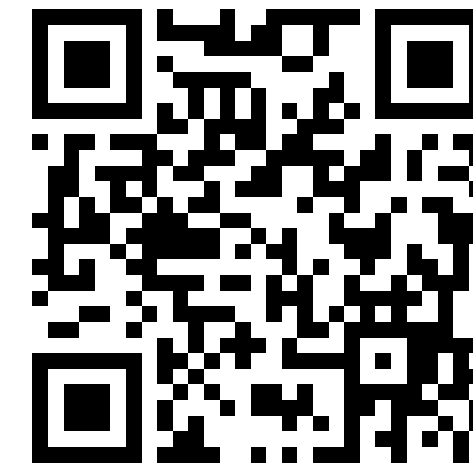


Setting the Standard for Public Safety in California.

WHEN YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT IMPROVES, YOUR COMMUNITY BENEFITS.

CAPS HELPS AGENCIES...

- Improve organizational accountability
- Strengthen public trust
- Demonstrate responsible governance
- Reduce organizational risk
- Support consistent, professional policing
- Build confidence with community members and city leadership



***Your City. Your Community. Your Police
Department.***

***Connect with CAPS to see how accreditation can better
your community. Because great public safety
organizations never stop improving.***

BETTER SYSTEMS CREATE BETTER PROTECTIONS

CAPS helps agencies build defensible, transparent, and consistent operational practices that support risk reduction and strengthen claims defense.



Connect with us and see how your risk pool can support accreditation efforts and partner in advancing safer, more accountable public safety agencies across California.

California Accreditation for Public Safety

THANK YOU!

Cohort 4 begins January 1st
Application deadline December 15, 2026

Cohort 5 begins April 1st
Application deadline March 15, 2027



LEARN MORE AT [CAPUBLICSAFETY.ORG](https://capublicsafety.org)

