



2025
2030



NCLEA
Strategic
Plan

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Executive Summary



The Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission approved the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (NCLEA) program in June 2023. In addition to the NCLEA Standards Manual (Edition 1.1 approved in 2024), a Program Guide was adopted by both Commissions.

The NCLEA program was developed to assist North Carolina law enforcement agencies in meeting their professional obligations to the citizens of North Carolina. The NCLEA Accreditation Committee, which is comprised of chief executive officers, law enforcement professionals, and other critical partners identified by the two Commissions, developed the NCLEA program and identified the standards for North Carolina law enforcement agencies. The NCLEA Accreditation Committee conducts reviews of the accreditation standards, an agency's efforts towards achieving accreditation, and the accreditation process, with assistance from the Accreditation Advisory Group.

Being accredited means the agency meets or exceeds all the identified standards for North Carolina law enforcement agencies. These standards encompass essential aspects of law enforcement operations, including the use of force, personnel, training, property and evidence management, as well as patrol and investigative operations. While being accredited does not guarantee employees will avoid mistakes, it does ensure that the candidate agency has carefully considered critical issues and developed policies and procedures to address these issues. Participating agencies have also established systems to identify and correct deficiencies.

Accreditation is beneficial to law enforcement agencies, their officers, and the communities they serve. Sworn officers are the front-line representatives of Police Departments and Sheriff's Offices throughout the state of North Carolina, serving as ambassadors for maintaining the public trust. The training, policies, and procedures associated with accreditation are critical to ensure officers understand the current best practices adopted by their agencies and to ensure proper adherence to these standards.

NCLEA assures local governments and the community that their law enforcement agencies are operating in a manner that reflects the current best practices of law enforcement. It can help to reassure citizens, improve community relationships, reduce agency risk, and lead to improved agency performance. To date, over 80 applications have been received for enrollment. Accreditation is growing in North Carolina, and we are expanding into public safety communications and detention.

The NCLEA program has also benefited from State and Federal grants. The program was awarded a NC Governor's Crime Commission Grant in 2021 that assisted with getting the program off the ground. In 2022, we were awarded a Federal COPS grant to launch the Accreditation mentoring program at no cost to agencies. Through this program, we hired ten part-time mentors to provide mentoring to accreditation managers in small/rural areas to assist with the accreditation process. This program has been invaluable to our success. We have also started an assessor training program, so we will have an assessor pool to draw from during the assessment phase of the accreditation process.

Mission Statement

It is NCLEA's Mission to:

Offer a voluntary and free method of achieving professionalism through the accreditation of law enforcement agencies.

Enhance the quality of NC law enforcement by establishing and maintaining a body of standards that assists agencies in better serving their communities.

Manage an accreditation process based on those standards to foster consistency in NC law enforcement training.



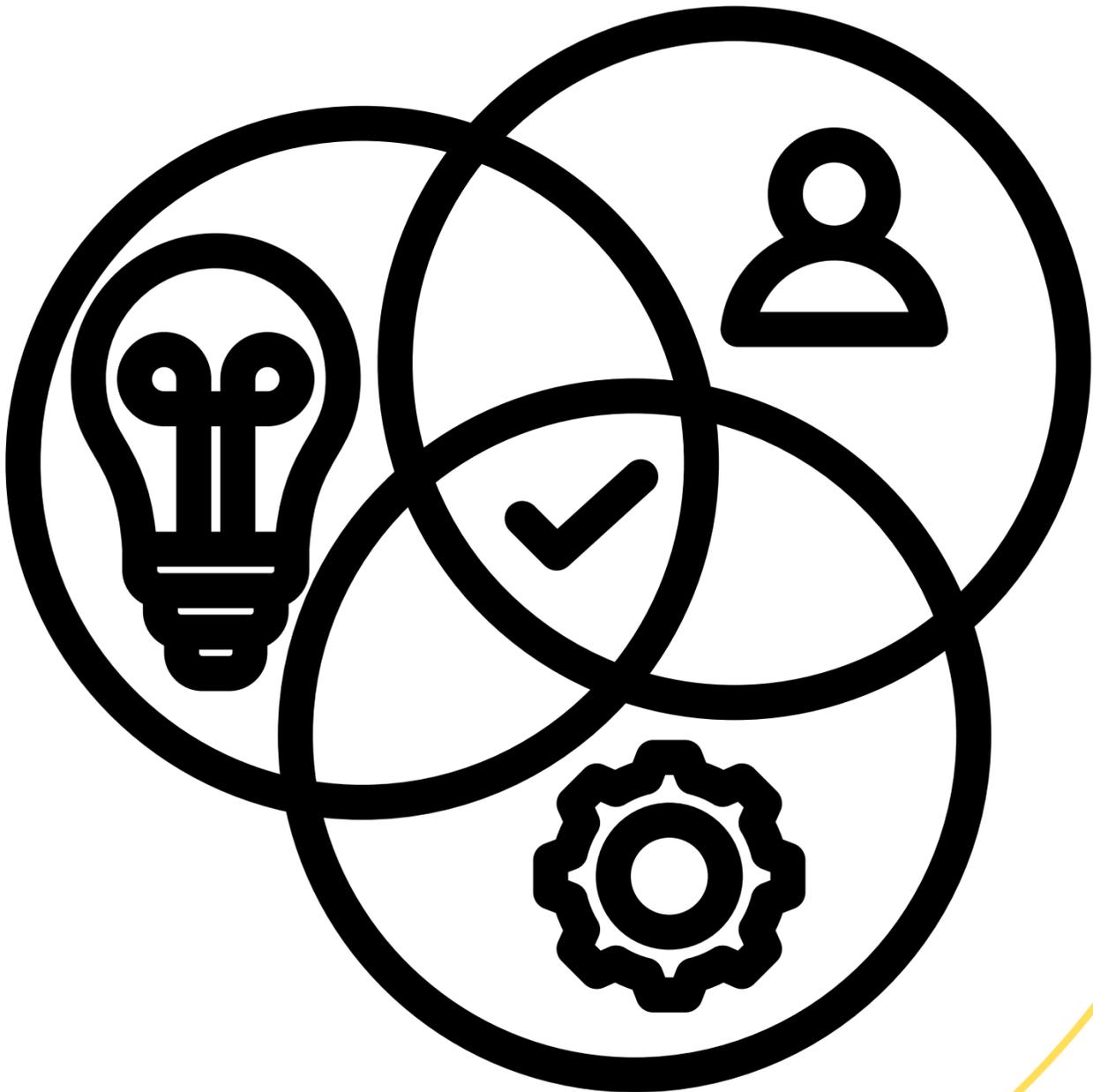


Vision Statement

NCLEA envisions advancing North Carolina law enforcement agencies by promoting professionalism, quality, and proficiency in training throughout North Carolina's law enforcement community.

Goal #1

Support Accreditation and Reaccreditation of NC Law Enforcement and build NCLEA program capacity



Objectives:

To grow NCLEA program enrollments and secure funding to continue the mentoring program.

Recruit, train, and retain qualified assessors.

Clearly define and maintain accreditation standards and consistently apply the assessment and review process.

Continually revise standards for clarity and relevance.

Goal #2

*Establish Accreditation for
Public Safety
Communications*

Objectives:

To receive approval of the Public Safety Communications Program Standards from the Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

To roll out the NCLEA Public Safety Communications program.



Goal #3

*Develop & Roll Out
Accreditation for
Detentions*



Objectives:

To develop the NCLEA Detention Centers program and standards manual with the Detention Advisory Group.

To receive approval of the Detentions Program Standards from the Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission and the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

To roll out the NCLEA Detentions program.

The Team



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