

Trust Policy 2.0



Strengthening Community Trust & Governance

Presented by:

*BRIDGE & its CEO Gwendolyn VanSant with Community
Activists, Leaders and Partners*





Why Trust Matters

Understanding the vital role trust plays in communities today

*Trust is essential for **collaboration and connection** in today's society.*





Why Trust Matters

Public safety works when people trust government.

Trust allows residents to:

- Call for help without fear
- Report harm and seek protection
- Access services and civic life
- Participate fully in the community

When trust breaks down:

- Fear increases
- Silence replaces communication
- Harm is compounded





Why BRIDGE Is Stewarding This Work

BRIDGE brings:

- Deep community trust & relationships
- Trauma-informed & equity-centered practice
- Long-standing partnerships & experience
- A public-health and care-based lens

We provide CSVS (Culturally Specific Victim Services) funded by MOVA and advocacy is part of our CHIP priorities to center equity

*This work reflects years of community leadership,
engagement & advocacy*





Trust Policy Overview

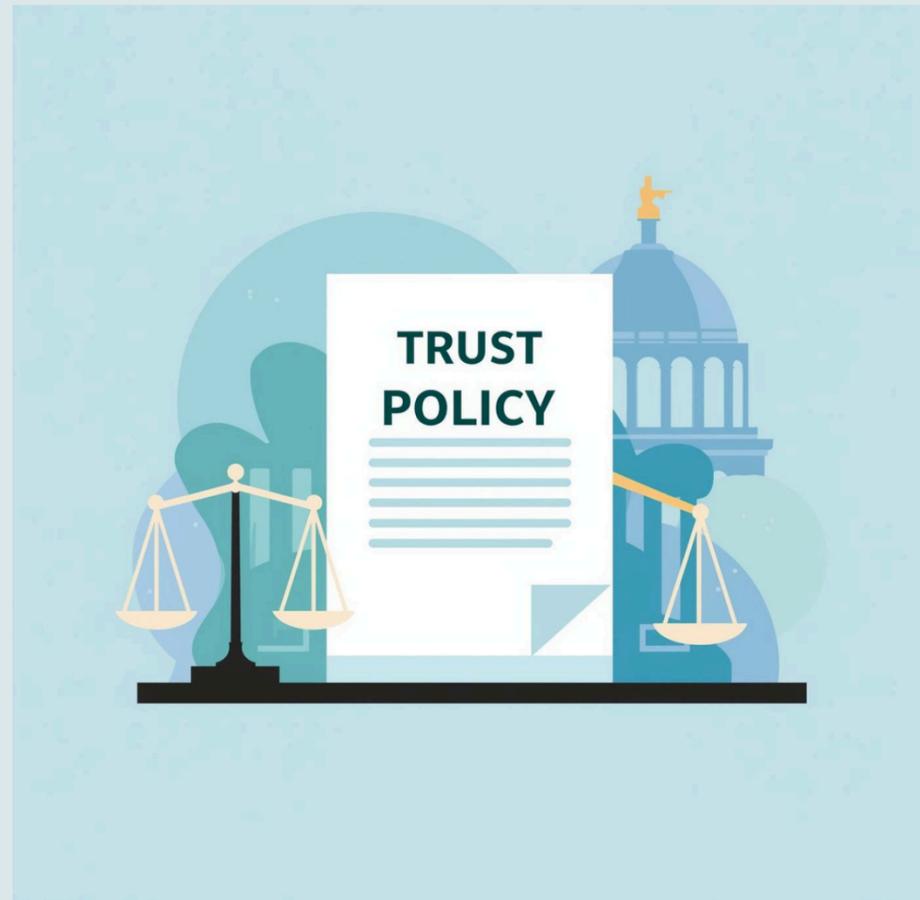
Understanding the foundational trust policy from 2017

*The Trust Policy established guidelines to foster community **confidence and collaboration.***





Trust Policy Overview



What the Trust Policy Is (2017)

The [2017 Trust Policy](#) is *advisory* in nature and affirms that Great Barrington:

- Protects civil rights and due process
- Prohibits discrimination and profiling among diverse groups
- Limits local involvement in civil immigration enforcement
- Ensures access to Town services regardless of status

It established values.

Trust Policy 2.0 seeks to illustrate how those values work in practice today.



Who This Serves

Trust Policy 2.0 supports residents who may experience vulnerability due to:

- Immigration status
- Mental health needs
- Disability
- Trauma or crisis
- Religious identity
- Unhoused/Homelessness
- Racialized harm, especially Black and African American communities

These protections strengthen safety for everyone.





Why a 2.0 Addendum

Understanding the necessity for updating our Trust Policy framework

The **evolving landscape** of community needs necessitated enhancements to our Trust Policy.





Why now?



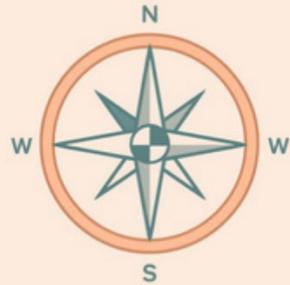
Since 2017:

- Community needs have evolved with sociopolitical context
- Misinformation spreads quickly
- Silence creates fear
- Police and residents need refinement & clarity

Trust Policy 2.0 provides:

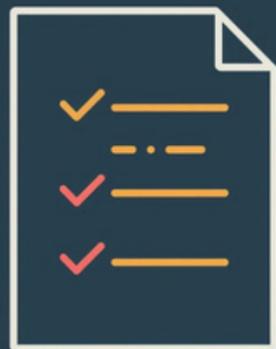
- Governance (who is responsible)
- Protocols (what happens when)
- Care pathways (how people are supported)
- Budget alignment (how trust is resourced)

Understanding Trust Policy 2.0 Proposal



Trust Policy 2.0 is:

- An implementation and governance **addendum**
- A proactive playbook, not a reaction
- Grounded in community voice, care, clarity, and accountability
- Designed intentionally for our rural community town



It **does not replace** the 2017 Trust Policy. Adds on and refines.





Assessment

Evaluate current practices and identify areas for improvement.

Planning

Develop a comprehensive strategy for implementing the policy.



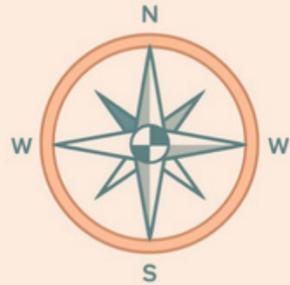
Execution

Implement the policy through coordinated community and agency efforts.

Evaluation

Assess outcomes and make adjustments for continuous improvement.

Selectboard Review



The Town of Great Barrington Selectboard & Police Chief will...

- Review Proposal/Executive Summary
- Give Feedback for Revisions
- Add Final Addendum to Warrant after BRIDGE, Police Chief and Town Manager are aligned



Sanctuary vs Trust Policy



Exploring models of
community, protection,
and guidance

Sanctuary vs GB Trust Policy



Sanctuary vs Trust Policies 1.0 (2017) & 2.0 (2026)



Sanctuary City:

- Immigration-specific
- Focused on enforcement limits

Trust Policy (2017):

- Broad civil rights and access
- Values-based commitment

Trust Policy 2.0:

- Governance and protocols
- Multi-vulnerability lens
- Care, accountability, and budget allocation
- Right-sized for a rural town's iterative trust-building with community



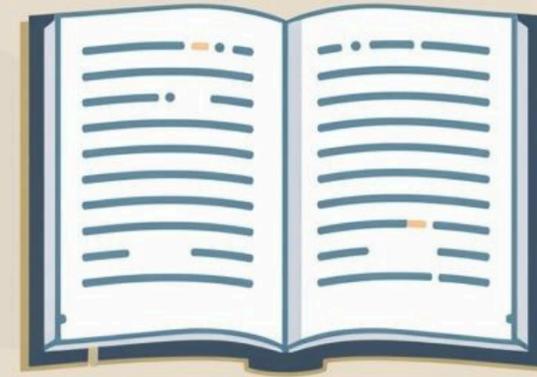
Pillars of Proactive Procedures

Trust Policy 2.0 clarifies ICE engagement procedures in advance:

In an ICE (or equivalent federal event), GB Police Department will pursue:

- Documentation
- Care activation
- Community information
- “Closeout” and review : *who was apprehended and where did they go?*

Preparedness protects people and municipal & town staff.



Documentation



Care activation



Community information



Closout and review



Pillar I:

Community Policing,
Relationships- Building
& Trust requires
sustained commitment

Trust Policy 2.0 aligns:

- Budget allocations for public health & safety
- Staffing and training: civil education
- Community partnerships & community policing

Annual activities might include :

- Civil Academy with Police Department (topics may include Procedural Justice, use of AI, De-escalation, Bias, Trauma-Informed)
- Police Trainings, community-engaged and mutual accountability
- Sustained community- focused engagement activities





Pillar II: Community Care Team & Trust Policy Partnership

An overview of our dedicated
community support initiatives

*The Community Care Team is essential
for fostering **trust and connection**.*





Community Care Team

Understanding the importance of community involvement and support

Engaging the community fosters trust and strengthens our collective resilience.





Community Care Team



Community Care Team:

To be modeled after Northampton DCC

Role:

Community voice and engagement

Community response team for justice and health issues without use of force

Develop pathways for trust, safety and collaboration between community and police department, trust policy partnership and the town

Functions:

- Review Trust Policy implementation (systems-level)
- Identify patterns, gaps, and community concerns
- Advise on training priorities and impacts
- Strengthen transparency and accountability
- Increase community health and public health capacity in town
- Prioritize CHWs care, presence and support



Trust Policy Partnership

Exploring our holistic approach to community care and accessibility

This initiative focuses on **inclusive support** for all community members.





Trust Policy Partnership



Community Care Team:

Resource Network

Trust Policy Partnership with Agencies

Role:

Trauma-informed care and expertise & **wrap around** services in trauma and crisis moments for a continuum of care model between police department and local network of agencies serving vulnerable populations

Provide:

- Mental health and disability support
- Immigration-related assistance
- Language access and cultural mediation
- Religious and community-based support
- Training exchange
- Funding opportunities for civil and civic education, language justice, adequate tools for procedural justice

Partners are subject-matter experts in trauma - informed care— not enforcement extensions.



Pillar III: ICE Transparency & Limited Interaction

Trust Policy 2.0 clarifies that:

- There is no voluntary participation in civil immigration enforcement
- Any unavoidable contact must be legally required
- Police may document and close out incidents for transparency, accuracy, and harm reduction
- Clarity on alignment of mutual aid across police departments





Pillar IV: Care & Budget Alignment Trust requires resources.

Trust Policy 2.0 aligns:

- Strategic planning
- Budget allocations for public health & safety
- Staffing and training: civil education
- Community partnerships & community policing

Funding supports might include :

- Translation and language access
- **Care coordination** for and among police force and residents
- Police Trainings, community-engaged and mutual accountability
- Sustained community engagement
- Expedient and efficient transcription- depositions, warrants, video, etc.

Funding supports will not include :

- Any resources allocated to civil criminal federal processes and investigations





Pillar V: Transparency & Accountability

Clarifying misconceptions about
the trust policy and its purpose

*This policy and its addendum do not
compromise community values or
transparency in criminal operations. Trust
Policy cannot & does not disrupt criminal
proceedings...*





What Trust Policy 2.0 Is Not



Trust Policy 2.0 is not:

- A sanctuary city designation
- An expansion of police authority over residents or in partnership with ICE
- A political statement
- A single-issue immigration policy

It is about how local government operates accountably in our community



Transparency in the Trust Policy



Trust Policy 2.0 acknowledges that data systems share information through state mandates and processes beyond local municipal control

- Maintain clarity about limitations of local municipal police authority
- Share data in community in accessible ways
- Continuous review and guidance and alignment with statewide POST agenda and national/international level (IACP)
- Engage delegation in policy work from State House to AG office with informed advocacy, ref PROTECT
- Mutual Aid Agreements with neighboring towns will be explicit values-aligned

It is about how local government operates transparently to build trust



What Happens Next

- GBPD & Selectboard Presentation of draft at town meeting
 - Community education and review hosted on town website for two week call to action
 - Feedback and refinement loops for final policy language
- Provisiions for:
- Implementation planning, tactical procedures informed by aligned governmental guidance
 - Ongoing evaluation ie 1 page addendum that includes an annual review provision





Alignment County Wide

Create a model in your town or city in a coalition of residents, community partners and municipal entities of public health, safety, law enforcement and government.

Invite BRIDGE to present **how** we got here and **why**.





Thank you!

*Presented to Police Chief, Town Manager & Selectboard
on February 2026*

Partners:

BRIDGE

TRJ, RTF and CHIP

Peoples Pantry

Greenagers (T)

YOUR SUPPORT TRULY MATTERS



With your support, we can keep transforming lives, sustaining hope, and building the world our ancestors dreamed for us.

Give today and be part of this shared future.

Catalyst Love Impact

#bridge413 #newpathways2020 #practicingequity