BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM

The Context

Launched in 2012, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program is a central component of the Administration's larger place-based programming efforts, which includes the Promise Zones and neighborhood revitalization initiatives. These initiatives help local and tribal communities develop place-based, community oriented strategies to change neighborhoods of distress into neighborhoods of opportunity. Through coordinated federal support, these interagency efforts align programs of the Departments of Education (ED), Justice, Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Agriculture (USDA), Interior, and Treasury.

The Goal

In neighborhoods across the country, BCJI projects work to reduce crime and improve community safety as part of a comprehensive strategy to advance neighborhood revitalization goals. Through a broad cross-sector partnership team, including residents, BCJI sites target neighborhoods with hot spots of violent and serious crime and employ data-driven, cross-sector strategies to reduce crime and violence.

The BCJI Model: Core Program Elements

- Place based: targets crimes hot spots
- Data-driven problem solving: researchers work with partners using data to clearly define problems and identify evidence-based solutions and innovative strategies
- Community-oriented: enhance and maintain community engagement
- Cost effective: maximizes local resources and partnerships

In many communities, the same locations – a set of blocks or a few discrete intersections – have posed major crime problems for years, unyielding to traditional methods of law enforcement or other community-led efforts to interrupt crime patterns. BCJI provides resources to enable community leaders to closely examine the varied factors contributing to crime with the help of a local research partner. The research partner assists sites with: problem description and definition; identifying evidence based solutions, and providing ongoing analysis and assessment of program

impact. The cross sector team uses data and analysis and direct community input to identify and select response strategies rooted in data and the evidence about what works.

BCJI sites leverage resources of diverse partners as they implement these strategies, which address violent and serious crime, physical disorder, social and economic opportunities, and collective efficacy. For a full list of BCJI sites please visit the BCJI Grantees Map.

Training and Technical Assistance

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) partners with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to provide a range of training and technical assistance services to all BCJI grantees. Enhanced by partnerships with nationally-known criminal justice and community development experts, LISC's technical assistance is organized around several main themes that are critical to the BCJI model.

- Use data and research to guide program strategy
- Engage community members in shaping crime prevention and revitalization efforts
- Tackle problems from multiple angles through cross-sector partnerships
- Integrate crime control efforts with revitalization strategies

The Sites

Since 2012, the Bureau of Justice Assistance has provided funding to 46 sites; BCJI efforts are underway in cities of diverse size and demographics across the country. Funding has been provided in different categories to conduct robust planning and in some cases to also implement evidence-informed and innovative strategies. BCJI sites that are funded are engaged in tackling crime hot spots and revitalization initiatives through a collaboration of cross-sector partners to enhance community support and engagement.

FY 2012 Sites ●

Austin, TX
Baltimore, MD
Brooklyn, NY
Buffalo, NY
Charleston, WV
Dayton, OH
Detroit, MI
Lowell, MA
Milwaukee, WI
Omaha, NE
Philadelphia, PA
Portland, OR
San Antonio, TX
San Bernardino, CA
Seattle, WA

FY 2013 Sites ●

Albany, GA
Baton Rouge, LA
Cleveland, OH
Corning, CA
Evansville, IN
Erie, PA
Kansas City, MO
Los Angeles, CA
Nashville, TN
Providence, RI
San Francisco, CA
Springfield, MA
Syracuse, NY
Tampa, FL

Newark, NJ
New Haven, CT
Phillipsburg, NJ
Rockdale County, GA
Tulsa, OK
Towaoc, CO
Worcester, MA

FY 2014 Sites ●

Alameda County, CA
Battle Creek, MI
Coahoma County, MS
Denver, CO
Durham, NC
Flint, MI
Highland County, OH
Huntington, WV
Miami-Dade County, FL
Minneapolis, MN