

Attachment 1
Baton Rouge Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Abstract
Category 1- Planning and Implementation

1. Targeted Neighborhood Cluster Boundaries

The Baton Rouge Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (BR-BCJI) targets a 3.57 square mile cluster of four adjoining neighborhoods at the heart of a chronic crime concentration in Baton Rouge, situated on the southern boundary of zip code 70805 and the northern boundary of 70802 in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. These interconnected neighborhoods are Istrouma (1.53 sq mi), Greenville Extension (.58 sq mile), Eden Park (.30 sq mi) and Midtown (1.16 sq mi).

The geographic boundaries for the cluster are Mohican St. to the north, Mission, Eaton and N Foster streets to east, North St. to the south and I-110 and Plank Rd. to the West. (Please see Neighborhood Level Maps in Attachment 9).

2. To date there are no other federally funded place-based neighborhood revitalization initiatives in the targeted community, however the City plans to pursue Choice Neighborhood and Promise Neighborhood funding to leverage this BCJI application toward pursuing a holistic neighborhood transformation approach promoting housing and cradle to career educational needs and opportunities in the neighborhood in the near future as part of the overall neighborhood revitalization planning approach. Pelican State Credit Union received a \$962,760 award from CDFI in 2011, but it is located just outside the targeted area of Baton Rouge.

3. The primary cross-sector partnership includes:

The City-Parish of East Baton Rouge, including the Mayor-President, Police Chief,
BRAVE Initiative and District Attorney
The Parish Sheriff's office
The US Attorney's Office
The LA State Police VCU
The Louisiana State University School of Social Work, Department of Sociology,
Department of Anthropology and Geography, Law School, and the School of
Human Resource Education and Workforce Development
Living Faith Center
Other faith based organizations (Dream Center, Hope Ministries)
Tonja Myles, Community Leader
Capital Area Humans Service District

4. The target neighborhoods are in need of this BCJI award to deal with a deep-rooted violent crime problem, its drivers and effects within an extremely low income, disadvantaged, highly disorganized four neighborhood cluster. The four neighborhoods comprise the "hot spot" areas of two zip codes that account for close to 50% of the City's

crime rate, in spite of the small land (3.57 square miles) and population (13,853) mass of both the neighborhoods and the zip codes. More interestingly, the crime rate movement shows that as crime goes up in 70805, it goes down in 70802 and vice versa. GIS mapping clearly demonstrates that there are a number of active crime “groups” that simply move across the artificial zip code barrier from the Istrouma neighborhood in 70805 to the bordering Eden Park, Greenville Extension and Midtown neighborhoods in 70802. Driving factors of crime in the targeted area include perceptions of disempowerment by residents, elevated poverty rates, disinvestment, low educational attainment, and un- and under-employment. Other social disorganization factors contributing to deep-rooted crime issue include a high concentration of high-risk residents, limited infrastructure and deteriorating social and physical conditions. The neighborhoods are virtually the same in term of demographics, environment, poverty rates and other social problems that make it easy for the offenders to move from one area to the next. It has been and will continue to be impossible to deal with the violence until a comprehensive joint law enforcement-community development project can be implemented.

5. Project Goals

The primary goals of BR-BCJI are:

- (1) To improve public health and safety through the reduction and prevention of chronic crime;
- (2) To deter future crime by addressing the social impacts most likely to impact crime, including physical disorder, socio-economic status and resources, and collective efficacy;
- (3) To build and enhance the capacity of the cross-sector partnership and community residents to more effectively target the presenting crime issues and to ensure the long-term planning and implementation of broader neighborhood revitalization strategies.

6. The planning phase will be composed of the following activities:

- a. Clearly defining and confirming the crime “hot spot” dynamics;
- b. Engaging partners and residents;
- c. Building an infrastructure for the collaboration team;
- d. Developing and refining the continuum of strategies and solutions that comprehensively address the targeted crime issues.

Strategies that will be used to address the identified problems include:

- Extension of the Group Violence Reduction Strategy
- Replication of multi-level Milwaukee Review Commission model that involves law enforcement, providers and community members in a more focused public health approach
- Data-driven, problem-oriented policing
- Building the collective efficacy of the community, residents and cross-sector partnership
- Extensive analysis of community through focus groups, surveys and interviews
- Integration of BR City Plan, Dept. of Community Development into partnership for neighborhood revitalization
- Improvement of physical structure through nuisance abatement, code enforcement and establishment of legal clinics to help with abandoned property issues

- Application of GIS and Social Network Analysis (SNA) to inform police practices and action
7. The project period is 36 months.
 8. The total amount of funding requested is \$998,999.
 9. Additional resources: initial efforts began two years ago to address some of the problems identified; thus some initial work was completed through a City Council allocation of \$150,000, which has just about been expended. Additionally, an OJJDP violence prevention grant was funded in 2012 that pays for some of the exact same activities that will be used in the proposed project- thus no funds are requested for GIS or social network capacity as these functions are funded. Much of the research partner expertise has been funded through OJJDP for zip code 70805, so less expensive alternatives were possible – for instance, adding a Graduate Research Assistant position instead of additional faculty. The BRAVE office has been funded through the City and the BRAVE Director's salary is paid for through the police department as the Director is an active policeman.

The applicant gives permission to BJA to share the Project Abstract for the BR-BCJI with the public, including contact information.