

PROJECT ABSTRACT

ECHO Housing Corporation Jacobsville Crime-Free Alliance Category 2: Enhancement

Proposed Initiative - Under funding opportunity number BJA-2013-3472, ECHO Housing Corporation (ECHO) will lead an innovative, place-based initiative to reduce crime and improve public safety in Jacobsville, a persistently depressed neighborhood located in Evansville, Indiana. Strong leadership, excellent schools, diverse business and industry, involved citizens and unique community partnerships are the underpinnings of the Evansville community. In 2004 Evansville was named an “All-American City” by the National Civic League due in part to demonstrated success in collaborative resolutions of critical community issues. This proposed initiative is an example of our community’s commitment to serving and protecting those who live, work and play here.

Target Neighborhood - Jacobsville is located in Evansville, Indiana – Southwest Indiana, and spans 336 city blocks, 1.9 sq. miles. Geographic boundaries are Diamond Ave. (North), Lloyd Expressway (South), North First Ave. (West), N. Garvin (East). Zip Codes: 47710 & 47711. Jacobsville is not a Promise or Choice Neighborhood; is not a recipient of a Community Health Center grant nor is a recipient of the Dept. of Treasury’s CDFI Funds. *“The Jacobsville neighborhood is a community full of promise and opportunity. Through current redevelopment efforts, the City is fully committed to the improvement of community safety, socio-economic assets and overall quality of life for those who live and work in Jacobsville. This proposed initiative will augment existing redevelopment momentum and enhance community capacity to achieve a new vision for Jacobsville.”* – Lloyd Winnecke – Mayor – City of Evansville.

Cross-Sector Partners - ECHO has assembled an extensive coalition of cross-sector partnerships, many of whom are already engaged in the neighborhood redevelopment / Quality of Life planning and are committed to the BCJI project. Partnerships include: Evansville Police Department (West Sector Crime Unit, Crime Free Multi-Housing), Diehl Evaluation and Consulting (Research Partner), Department of Metropolitan Development (DMD), Jacobsville Community Corporation (JACC), Jacobsville Neighborhood Association, Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation (EVSC), Youth First, Inc., Aurora, Evansville Christian Life Center & Dream Center.

Need for Enhancement Grant - The City of Evansville envisions Jacobsville as a neighborhood full of promise and socio-economic opportunity, and has commissioned a major redevelopment planning effort to address challenges and build on its unique potential to grow from a neighborhood in distress to a neighborhood of opportunity. Major redevelopment / Quality of Life planning is currently taking place, which positions the neighborhood to benefit extensively from a comprehensive crime-reduction initiative under **BCJI Category 2: Enhancement**. Widespread physical & social disorder and persistent crime are impacting neighborhood safety and jeopardizing redevelopment potential. EPD Crime reporting data show **top four reported** crimes in Jacobsville in 2012 were 1) vehicular crimes (2) burglary (residential/non-residential), 3) vandalism and 4) narcotics dealing. In 2012 two murders took place. Five-year aggregated crime reporting totals show the number of reported crimes in

Jacobsville represents **10%** of the overall City of Evansville's crime reporting. Considering Jacobsville's geographic footprint (1.9 sq. miles) represents only **5%** of Evansville (40.77 sq. miles.), one can conclude that Jacobsville's crime rate is higher than the City. Initial analysis points to five primary **risk factors (crime drivers)** in Jacobsville: 1) economic deprivation, 2) blight & urban decay, 3) drug activity, 4) low neighborhood bonding and 5) sense of helplessness among residents.

Neighborhood crime reporting and socio-economic data, EPD consultation, demographics, general observation and extensive neighborhood resident input validate the identified risk factors. A recent neighborhood SWOT survey administered through Jacobsville JoinIN, a grass-roots neighborhood engagement initiative formed in 2012 to advance Quality of Life Planning, brings further validation. Survey results revealed top weaknesses/threats in Jacobsville to be crime, drugs, poor property maintenance (litter, trash, weeds), deteriorated houses, lack of neighborhood cohesiveness/investment opportunities and transience. This summary statement gleaned from SWOT Survey results highlights Jacobsville's strong potential to benefit from BCJI intervention. *"Residents and stakeholders believe many opportunities exist for Jacobsville because there is a willingness to improve. The neighborhood believes improvements will happen with help in organizing the people who will make it happen, hand in hand with better communications among residents, stakeholders, organizations and the city."*

Project Goal, Objectives, Strategies - The proposed project reflects the stated purposes of the BCJI solicitation with data-driven strategies intended to achieve one overarching goal supported by six objectives. Strategy execution reflects a community-policing value system with intense involvement of the Evansville Police Department in community oriented crime prevention strategies that are: Place-based, employ data-driven problem solving, community-oriented and cost effective. Evidence-based strategies will be implemented to support achievement of Objectives 2-5.

BCJI Project goal: To increase protective factors and reduce risk factors linked to neighborhood disorder, crime and public safety in Jacobsville.

Objective 1: To conduct comprehensive research and data analysis of Jacobsville's crime drivers to inform planning, design and implementation of coordinated, placed-based strategies.

Objective 2: To decrease physical deterioration of homes, rental properties and structures in Jacobsville. **Evidence-based strategies:** Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED), Early Action Beautification Grants, Crime-Free Multi-Housing.

Objective 3: To reduce incidents of crime in identified "hot spot" areas by implementing evidence-based, hot spot law enforcement strategies supported by appropriate technology. **Evidence-based strategies:** Predictive Policing / Situational Prevention

Objective 4: To increase protective factors linked to substance abuse and poor student achievement by establishing coordinated delivery of adolescent substance abuse and family strengthening programs. **Evidence-based strategies:** Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention replicating the Midwestern Prevention Project & Communities that Care with evidence-based

Strengthening Families Program 3-5, 6-9, 10-14 Reconnecting Youth, Family Connections and Too Good for Drugs & Violence.

Objective 5: To reduce risk factors linked to crime by establishing a coordinated delivery of emergency services, social support and recreation programs (Reentry support, basic needs, life skills, social capital & youth / family recreation). **Evidence-based strategies:** Vera Institute of Justice Family Case Management for reentry support, coordinated social service actions, youth/family recreation.

Objective 6: To increase overall neighborhood capacity to prevent and deter crime through the formation a cross-sector coalition to implement place-based crime prevention strategies in Jacobsville.

The planning period will involve two primary components: **1)** Research, community needs assessment and in-depth analysis of crime drivers. Research / needs assessment findings will inform the revised implementation plan to be submitted and approved after the initial 15-month planning period. **2)** Coalition / strategy development (BCJI program will fold into existing Jacobsville JoinIn coalition). Focus is on building trust and mutually beneficial exchanges of knowledge/resources. (a) Further recruitment of “non-professional” resident partners and clarifying partnerships and roles (MOUs), (b) Expanding group membership and forming work groups, (c) Redefining mission/vision, (d) Solidifying strategies, objectives, deliverables and required resources, (e) Identifying barriers to success & solutions to address, (f) Refining governance structure & rules (g) Planning and discussion of coalition momentum, renewal and longevity beyond grant period and (h) Development / submission of revised BCJI plan.

Project Period: The proposed project period aligns with the timing allocation for Category 2: Enhancement. The 36-month grant period will be broken down as follows: **Months 1-6** (Research / Data Analysis phase), **Months 7-15** (coalition planning phase, submission of revised plan), **Months 16-36** (Project implementation phase). ECHO is requesting a total of \$600,000 (\$90,000 allocated for research/planning - \$510,000 for implementation.)

Potential Funding Sources: Collectively, BCJI partners have strong funding partnerships in place with many local corporate and foundation funders. We will capitalize on these relationships to garner new support for the BCJI project. The Vanderburgh Community Foundation is **committed** to providing additional financial support for the BCJI implementation phase. Other potential sources include HUD, CDBG, CDC, City of Evansville, Berry Plastics Corporation, Vectren Corporation and Deaconess Hospital (Jacobsville anchor institutions in support of the redevelopment plan), other area corporations / employers, regional and local foundations (JP Morgan Chase [funds community development initiatives], Welborn Baptist Foundation, City of Evansville Endowment Fund and many others.