

West Central Albany has close to double the crime rate of the city average and is in desperate need of place-based strategies to empower the community to take charge of its neighborhood, in order to maintain a safer, more productive environment and reduce the overall crime rate. The Federal Bureau of Investigation-categorized Part 1 violent crime has averaged 32.4 incidents per year during 2007-2011. When converted to violent crimes per thousand persons, the neighborhood averages 18.6 during the period. The rate climbed to 21 in 2012, with the most prevalent violent crime being aggravated assault. Part 1 property crimes are similarly high, averaging 156.4 crimes per thousand per year during 2007-2011. Part 2 crimes averaged 328.6 per thousand per year during 2007-2011. Calls for service averaged 6,135.6 per thousand per year during the period, and though they fell to 5,737 in 2011, the average number of calls per block in this area still exceeded 163 each year.¹ Significant resources are needed to mitigate this persistent problem of violent crime. Implementing Project INTEGRATE will benefit this neighborhood by providing an interdisciplinary, public health approach to change and bolster the community's ability to continue on the path to a safer, healthier community environment.

Cross-Sector Project Partners:

In order to develop and implement a successful, multifaceted response, a complementary yet diverse group of partners from around the state has been assembled. This group includes Albany State University (ASU), the Georgia Family Connection Partnership, the Albany Police Department (APD), the Albany Housing Authority (AHA), Georgia State University (GSU), Emory Center for Injury Control (ECIC), the Georgia Commission on Family Violence (GCFV), Safe Kids Georgia, the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Albany Area Community Services Board (AACSB), Dougherty County Courts Probation and Parole, Dougherty County Mental Health Court, McIntosh Homes Resident Planning Group (RPG), Dougherty County School Police, and the Commissioner of the City of Albany.

Preliminary Project Goals:

- Empower the community of West Central Albany – a neighborhood of distress – by providing solutions to become a healthier, safer, and more vibrant neighborhood of opportunity.
- Assist the Albany Housing Authority (AHA), with the support of the Albany Police Department (APD), in realizing a revitalization of the McIntosh Homes – a public housing site in West Central Albany.
- Coordinate the Cross-Sector Partnerships in order to engage the community members as equal partners in a collective effort to reduce crime.
- Evaluate the Project processes and outcomes according to BJCI core elements.

Planning Phase Strategies:

- Access and map existing community needs assessment data to better understand current resources being expended to address the complex issues facing West Central Albany.
- Coordinate with the identified Community Leader (Commissioner of the City of Albany) to organize resident groups within West Central Albany.

¹ Albany Housing Authority, Fall 2012.

- Enhance a community-based team with the presence of criminal justice, social service, and neighborhood revitalization partners to implement the Project, according to the public health theory of change. The Georgia Family Connection Partnership, a statewide network of 159 county organizations collaborating to improve the quality of life for their children and families, will be a crucial partner in this strategy.
- Offer ongoing community engagement and leadership-building support and ensure that the community is engaged in the process, according to evidence-based practice.
- Solidify partnerships with local law enforcement and Research Partner – Albany State University (ASU) – to conduct an analysis of crime drivers, assess community needs, and determine available resources. One example of a location-based model that will be used is Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS).
- Develop a strategy that offers a continuum of approaches to address the drivers of crime, including enforcement and prevention, determined by evidence-based and promising practice.
- Establish effective partnerships through local and statewide advisory groups to provide solutions along the continuum and commit resources to sustain what works.

Implementation Strategies:

- Enact a comprehensive and coordinated strategy with support from the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation program’s Training and Technical Assistance provider.
- Conduct ongoing process evaluation and short-term outcome assessment of program implementation and plan for sustainment of effective strategies.
- Coordinate efforts to result in the strategic investment of resources into key neighborhood developmental, commercial, physical, and social assets.

Overview of Applicant and State Level Involvement:

Health, crime, and education are interdependent. The Georgia Department of Public Health’s Injury Prevention Program (IPP) recognizes this fact. The mission of the IPP is to prevent injuries by empowering state and local coalitions through the provision of data, training, and leadership, and the leveraging of resources for prevention programs.

The IPP works with multi-disciplinary and cross-sector partners at the federal, state, and local level. These partnerships are invaluable in assisting communities through the dissemination of information, connecting communities with resources, and working with this group of partners to strengthen the network of technical assistance available to organizations and communities across the state. The IPP is committed to utilizing partnerships across the state in support of the efforts in West Central Albany. The Program is working with the Albany Housing Authority (AHA) to ensure that appropriate local partners are in place and that the planning and implementation phases meet the needs of the community in the most comprehensive and sustainable way possible, including in-kind support of this Project.

Crime in Georgia, like crime in all states, varies greatly in type, frequency, and degree. While each neighborhood has distinct risk and protective factors, the ones with the greatest number of hotspots relative to their jurisdictions are well suited for a comprehensive intervention. The Project will inform future Georgia Department of Public Health initiatives.

The applicant grants permission to make this abstract public.