

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program

The Context

Launched in 2012, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) program was created as part of the Obama Administration's larger national Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI) efforts to help local and tribal communities develop place-based, community-oriented strategies to change neighborhoods of distress into neighborhoods of opportunity. This interagency effort aligns programs of the Department of Education (Promise), Department of Justice (BCJI), Housing and Urban Development (Choice), Health and Human Services (Community Health Centers and Behavioral Health Services) 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 to use data to clearly define problems and identify evidence-based solutions
- ◆ Community-oriented: community leaders and residents must be actively involved
- ◆ 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 issues such as physical disorder, social and economic opportunities, and collective efficacy.

LISC's Role: Training and Technical Assistance

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 29 sites; BCJI efforts are underway in cities of diverse size and demographics across the country. For more detailed information about the BCJI program and site projects, please visit: www.lisc.org/BCJI

