Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP)

The Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) helps low-income neighborhoods build the infrastructure and access the resources needed to ensure residents and families experience better results around education, employment, safety, housing and other key areas. Established in 2011, as part of the federal Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI), BNCP continues to grow while catalyzing community-driven change in neighborhoods that have historically faced barriers to revitalization.

While situations vary locally, persistently distressed neighborhoods often have a history of low or poorly targeted investments from the public and private sectors, may not be well-connected with institutions such as universities and hospitals, are far from economic vitality, and may have experienced racial or class segregation that severely limits opportunities. In addition, these neighborhoods often face several challenges, including high rates of crime, limited access to affordable housing, and low educational attainment. As these issues are interrelated, they must be addressed holistically. BNCP partners have used nearly 30 years of work in communities, as well as research and literature from the field, to develop a framework of capacities that are essential to creating successful and sustainable neighborhood transformation. The goal of BNCP is to help neighborhoods develop this community capacity — the knowledge, skills, relationships, interactions and organizational resources - that enables residents, civic leaders, the public and private sectors and local organizations to create comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plans.

BNCP launched in eight neighborhoods in August 2012. The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CSSP) provides targeted technical assistance through September 2016 to help each neighborhood develop and pursue results-driven revitalization plans.

Want to learn more about BNCP? Check out the BNCP Resource Center to read about the progress of the neighborhoods and access capacity building tools.

buildingcommunitycapacity.org
The BNCP Neighborhoods Work To…

**Develop a Community Process to Achieve Results**
Each BNCP neighborhood is developing an inclusive process that includes residents and stakeholders and provides the community with a framework for moving from talk to action in support of achieving results for all residents, children and families.

**Build Community Capacity**
Each BNCP neighborhood identifies the capacities essential to achieving results and improving outcomes. While all of the neighborhoods are committed to building and deepening resident leadership, some specifically choose to increase their ability to use data to make informed decisions while others focus on building accountable partnerships with neighborhood organizations and other invested stakeholders.

**Design and Implement a “Learn While Doing” Project**
In collaboration with residents and community partners, each BNCP neighborhood designs and implements a project to address one of the neighborhood’s most pressing challenges while also helping to build new and strengthen existing community capacity.

**Develop a Results-Driven Revitalization Plan**
At the end of BNCP, neighborhoods will have developed a revitalization plan outlining the neighborhood’s vision and plan for continuing to achieve results.

---

**BNCP FEDERAL PARTNERS**

**The Department of Education**
The Department of Education (ED) promotes student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.

**The Department of Health and Human Services**
The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the United States government’s principal agency for protecting the health of all Americans and providing essential human services, especially for those who are least able to help themselves.

**The Department of Housing and Urban Development**
The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. HUD is working to strengthen the housing market to bolster the economy and protect consumers; meet the need for quality affordable rental homes; utilize housing as a platform for improving quality of life; build inclusive and sustainable communities free from discrimination; and transform the way HUD does business.

**The Department of Justice**
The Department of Justice’s mission is to enforce the law and defend the interests of the United States according to the law; to ensure public safety against threats foreign and domestic; to provide federal leadership in preventing and controlling crime; to seek just punishment for those guilty of unlawful behavior; and to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

**The Department of the Treasury**
The mission of the Department of the Treasury is to maintain a strong economy and create economic and job opportunities by promoting the conditions that enable economic growth and stability at home and abroad, strengthen national security by combating threats and protecting the integrity of the financial system, and manage the U.S. Government’s finances and resources effectively.

This project was supported by Grant No. 2011-MU-BX-K147 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, the Community Capacity Development Office, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.