Community-Based Crime Reduction
Helping Communities Create Sustainable Change

What is the CBCR Program?
The Innovations in Community-Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) Program is part of the Innovation Suite of programs at the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. CBCR invests in community-level, cross-sector partnerships that use data, evidence, and innovation to create effective crime reduction strategies. CBCR encourages place-based crime prevention and community revitalization strategies, which reduce crime and build community-police collaboration. CBCR is a comprehensive approach that involves residents in identifying problems and implementing solutions that strengthen their communities for years to come.

Why is CBCR important?
In many communities, a set of blocks or a few discrete locations have been problem spots for years, unyielding to traditional methods of crime prevention. The CBCR Program brings together diverse local partners, including neighborhood residents, law enforcement, prosecutors, researchers, municipal governments, social service providers, neighborhood associations, community developers, and local businesses. Collectively, these partners examine the varied factors contributing to crime and pursue strategies grounded in data and research for sustainable crime reduction.

CBCR Program Core Elements:

1. **Data-Driven:** CBCR targets crime hot spots, utilizing researchers engaged in helping partners examine crime, assess and implement evidence-based solutions, and monitor progress. The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania neighborhood of Mantua faced a 20% vacancy rate in local housing, which criminals used to create an open-air drug market. The Mantua CBCR project sought to turn the tide by strengthening the city block captain program and creating connections to city services. This included implementing a four-part training that worked with residents to develop eyes and ears on the street, identify basic needs of residents, link residents to services, and help improve the visual appearance of their block. By the end of the program, residents’ use of the Philadelphia 3-1-1 service had increased 75%. Of the original seven hot spots targeted in Mantua, only two continue to be active.

2. **Community-Oriented:** CBCR champions active roles for residents in identifying problems, selecting strategies, and creating safe and healthy environments. Rainier Beach, located in southwest Seattle, Washington, established A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth (ABSAY) in 2013 to protect youth from being both victims and perpetrators of crime. The community-oriented work resulted in the establishment of a diverse community task force with over 100 community members. Partners devoted time to building the capacity for data-driven problem-solving, such as the Safe Passage project, which addresses youth presence on and around school campuses by strategically locating “place managers” to help manage behavior and reduce conflicts involving youth. As a result of successful efforts to reduce crime, the City of Seattle continued to fund the initiative’s work after CBCR funding ended in 2016.

3. **Place-Based:** CBCR targets where crime is concentrated and enhances the impact of crime control efforts with locally driven neighborhood revitalization strategies. In Providence, Rhode Island, the “blue house” sat unoccupied on one of the most dangerous blocks in the Olneyville neighborhood. Seeking to transform the block into a safe and vibrant space, the Olneyville Housing Corporation worked with law enforcement and the community to remove the “blue house” and build new affordable housing units in its place. The CBCR grant also supported partnerships that allowed the Rhode Island Equity Zone and United Way to replace derelict properties with energy-efficient, single-family homes, as well as turning foreclosed properties into apartments. Years after the grant period, crime levels have steadily decreased, and this area of Providence is now a welcoming, vibrant community.

4. **Builds Partnerships:** CBCR sites work to strengthen cross-sector partnerships and to build and enhance trust between partners, particularly between police departments and residents. Chelsea, Massachusetts, received CBCR funds in 2017. Like many other metropolitan Boston communities, it has experienced an uptick in substance abuse violations as a result of the closing of a 450-bed shelter in Boston. The Chelsea Police Department created a task force called “The Chelsea Hub,” in which four officers focus exclusively on building partnerships with business owners, property owners, and residents to address persistent concerns in the area. Task force members, including court personnel, social service workers, city inspectors, business owners, and churches, work together with individuals and families to develop immediate, coordinated, and integrated responses.
CBCR Across the United States:

From 2012 to 2017, $54.7 million worth of federal funds were awarded to 74 communities through this program. Thirteen new sites were chosen in FY18 and fifteen new sites joined in FY19.

CBCR FY 2018 Sites:
1. Albuquerque, NM
2. Philadelphia, PA
3. Denver, CO
4. Escondido, CA
5. Jacksonville, FL
6. Miami-Dade County, FL
7. Palm Beach County, FL
8. Indianapolis, IN
9. Suffolk County, NY
10. Cincinnati, OH
11. Cleveland, OH
12. Portland, OR
13. Richmond, VA

CBCR FY 2019 Sites:
14. Baton Rouge, LA
15. Indianapolis, IN
16. Baltimore, MD
17. Midcoast, ME
18. Detroit, MI
19. Robeson County, NC
20. East Harlem, NY
21. Erie, PA
22. Lancaster County, SC
23. Bessemer, AL
24. Philadelphia, PA
25. Rapid City, SD
26. San Antonio, TX
27. Orangeburg, SC
28. Milwaukee, WI

Technical Assistance Provider: The IACP

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in partnership with the University of Cincinnati (UC) and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), serves as a BJA-funded training and technical assistance (TTA) provider and utilizes a variety of methods to deliver TTA to support CBCR grantee sites in planning and implementation.

IACP Resources

- **Evaluation and feedback** on the local planning and implementation processes, as well as the development of key deliverables of CBCR sites, including EARLY ACTION PROJECTS and ACTION PLANS.
- **CUSTOMIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** from a robust cadre of subject matter experts across a variety of CBCR topic areas including community-based policing, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED), community/police relations, restorative justice, focused deterrence, procedural justice, social network analysis, law enforcement-based victim services, and collective police/community healing.
- **SITE ASSESSMENTS** utilize a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis approach to enable greater understanding of the assets and needs of each site to inform TTA delivery and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- **PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING** opportunities between sites through information exchange, networking, and site visits.
- **ORIENTATION MEETING** for newly-funded CBCR grantee sites.
- **SITE ASSESSMENTS** utilize a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis approach to enable greater understanding of the assets and needs of each site to inform TTA delivery and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- **Ongoing WEBINAR TRAINING** series and publications on CBCR topics for the field.
- **CBCR CONNECT**, an online peer-to-peer community of practice platform for CBCR grantee sites to network, share resources, and engage in discussions.
- **IACP’S NETWORK AND EXPERIENCE** in advancing safer communities through thoughtful, progressive police leadership to succeed in addressing the most pressing issues, threats, and challenges of the day.
- **ONLINE LIBRARY (COMING SOON)** of publications, tools, and resources related to community-based crime reduction.

CONTACT US

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Visit the IACP's CBCR webpage at: https://www.theIACP.org/projects/community-based-crime-reduction-training-and-technical-assistance

Visit BJA's CBCR webpage at: https://bja.ojp.gov/program/innovations-community-based-crime-reduction-cbcr/overview

Visit LISC's CBCR webpage at: https://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/safety-justice/cbcr/

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