



BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM



DATA-DRIVEN BCJI targets crime hot spots – typically micro-places in communities that have struggled with crime for years. Researchers are engaged in the day-to-day work, helping partners examine problems, assess evidence-based solutions and monitor progress.



COMMUNITY-ORIENTED BCJI champions active roles for residents in identifying problems, selecting strategies and creating safe and healthy environments.



SPURS REVITALIZATION BCJI tackles problem properties, unsafe streets and parks, unemployment, transit barriers and service gaps related to crime.



BUILDS PARTNERSHIPS BCJI taps the resources of public, non-profit and community leaders to bring more resources and different approaches to bear on longstanding crime challenges for lasting change.

In urban and rural communities across the country with persistent crime problems, the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (BCJI) is reducing crime, enhancing community-police collaboration and spurring economic resurgence.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is the national technical assistance provider for BCJI, working in cooperation with the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This paper was supported by Grant No. 2012-AJ-BX-K046 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance to LISC. 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, 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.

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In many of these places, the same locations – a set of blocks or a few discrete intersections – have been problem spots for years, unyielding to traditional methods of law enforcement or other community-led efforts to interrupt crime patterns.

BCJI provides resources to convene diverse local partners including police, sheriffs, prosecutors, researchers, municipal agencies, service providers, community developers and residents. Together they examine the varied factors contributing to crime and pursue strategies that are grounded in data and research, and supported by people who live and work in the area. These strategies typically include efforts to address blight and vacant properties, to create new economic opportunities, and to build connections between neighbors – all complementing strategic law enforcement actions.

In 65 sites that have received a combined \$42.4 million in grants since 2012, BCJI is yielding results including:

- Dramatic reductions in crime
- New homes and businesses in neighborhoods previously deemed unsafe
- More collaboration between police and residents to solve problems
- More effective and efficient deployment of public resources

BCJI is part of the Smart Suite of research-driven programs at the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) provides training and technical assistance for BCJI, drawing on more than 30 years of experience in comprehensive community development including support to safety partnerships.