In urban and rural communities across the country with persistent crime problems, the Innovations in Community Based Crime Reduction Program (CBCR) is reducing crime, enhancing community-police collaboration and spurring economic resurgence.

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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.

CBCR 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 74 sites that have received a combined $54.7 million in grants since 2012, CBCR 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

CBCR is part of the Innovation 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 CBCR, drawing on more than 30 years of experience in comprehensive community development including support to safety partnerships.