

Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation

Helping Communities Create Sustainable Change

What is the BCJI Program?

The Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) 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. The BCJI Program invests in community-level, cross-sector partnerships that use data, evidence, and innovation to create effective crime reduction strategies. This program encourages place-based crime prevention and community revitalization strategies, which reduce crime and build community-police trust and collaboration. The BCJI Program emphasizes a comprehensive approach that involves residents in identifying problems and implementing solutions that strengthen their communities for years to come.

Why is BCJI 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 BCJI 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.

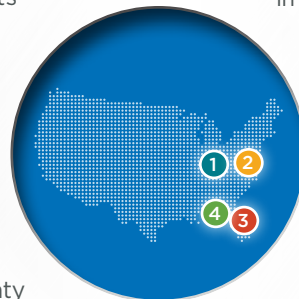
BCJI Program Core Elements:

1 Data-Driven: *BCJI improves the use of data and research to problem solve and guide program strategy.* In the East Price Hill neighborhood of **Cincinnati, Ohio**, violent crime rates have consistently been three times higher than city-wide rates. In response, the Cincinnati Police Department sought a BCJI award to implement the Place-Based Investigations of Violent Offender Territories (PIVOT) strategy, which utilizes a problem-oriented policing approach to capitalize on both focused deterrence and place network interventions. These innovative, data-driven strategies have been successful by focusing resources on the micro-hot spots of violence. Since implementation began, East Price Hill has experienced both reductions in shootings and significantly decreased rates of homicide.

3 Place-Based: *BCJI targets where crime is concentrated and enhances the impact of crime control efforts with locally driven neighborhood revitalization strategies.* In 2018, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) received a BCJI award to reduce the proliferation of crime in the City of **Lake Worth Beach, Florida**. During the Planning Phase, representatives from the community, law enforcement, municipal agencies, community development organizations, health and child development centers, LGBTQIA+ resource centers, and faith-based organizations formed the South End Leadership Council (SELC) to identify and implement place-based strategies to reduce crime and spur revitalization. Residents, community stakeholders, and law enforcement collaborated to install additional lights and cameras in crime hot spots, conduct neighborhood cleanups, and redevelop a six-foot-high stone wall, which historically segregated the neighborhoods of Lake Worth Beach, into a public art park.

2 Community-Engagement: *BCJI increases community and resident engagement in shaping and sustaining crime prevention and revitalization efforts.* The neighborhood of Kensington, located in northern **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**, suffers from disproportionate rates of violent crime and substance use disorders compared to the rest of the city. In 2018, three community development corporations (CDCs) received a BCJI award to form the We CAN (Change and Action Now) Collaborative. By expanding each partner organization's Community Connectors program, We CAN engages Kensington residents in developing and implementing their vision for community-oriented public safety and police-community engagement. The community-oriented partnerships support police-assisted diversion programs, facilitate dialogue between police and youth, and transform vacant lots into public art spaces.

4 Builds Partnerships and Enhances Trust: *BCJI builds capacity to promote sustainable collaborations that tackle problems from multiple angles.* In 2018, **Jacksonville, Florida**, was awarded a BCJI award to work in LaVilla, a distressed, high-crime community once referred to as the "Harlem of the South" due to its vibrant artistic culture. The Mayor's Community-Based Crime Reduction Program convened a diverse cross-sector partnership to review data and tailor strategies to meet the project goals of reducing violent crime, increasing mutual trust, and improving community safety. The partnership with local community groups, the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, municipal departments, and the Jacksonville Jaguars football team is organized across subcommittees that match individual members' areas of expertise to develop immediate, coordinated, and integrated responses to public safety challenges.



BCJI Across the United States:

From 2012-2020, \$93.6 million worth of federal funds were awarded to 114 communities through this program.



BCJI 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

BCJI 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

BCJI FY 2020 Sites:

- 29 Hamilton, OH
- 30 Hempstead, NY
- 31 Kansas City, KS
- 32 Madison, WI
- 33 Nashville, TN
- 34 Newark, NJ
- 35 Selma, AL
- 36 Spartanburg, SC
- 37 St. Louis, MO
- 38 Tulsa, OK
- 39 Wichita, KS

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 BCJI 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 BCJI sites, including **EARLY ACTION PROJECTS** and **ACTION PLANS**.



CUSTOMIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE from a robust cadre of subject matter experts across a variety of BCJI topic areas including community-based violence reduction, problem-oriented 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 BCJI grantee sites.



Ongoing **WEBINAR TRAINING** series and publications on BCJI topics for the field.



BCJI CONNECT, an online peer-to-peer community of practice platform for BCJI 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 of publications, tools, and resources related to community-based crime reduction.

CONTACT US

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Visit the IACP's BCJI webpage at:

<https://www.theiacp.org/projects/byrne-criminal-justice-innovation-training-and-technical-assistance>

Visit BJA's BCJI webpage at:

<https://bja.ojp.gov/program/byrne-criminal-justice-innovation-bcji-program/overview>

Visit LISC's BCJI webpage at:

<https://www.lisc.org/our-initiatives/safety-justice/cbcr/>



This project is supported by Cooperative Agreement No. 2018-BJ-BX-K035, awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs. Points of view or opinions are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.