

COMMUNITY POLICING & CRIME ANALYSIS

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Increased demands for service and decreased resources have caused criminal justice agencies to determine more effective, efficient and equitable ways to deliver services and decrease crime. Traditional law enforcement strategies are fragmented and require very little input from community residents and service providers. The lack of coordination and cooperation between the police and community often results in counterproductive efforts at addressing the needs of the community.

A coordinated community-police strategy is needed to address the totality of community problems. These partnerships serve to address community problems and to address those problems in an efficient, cooperative manner. This strategy will serve to reduce crime and increase community satisfaction with the police.

While crime mapping has become an increasingly popular tool among law enforcement agencies in examining reported crime in their jurisdictions, it has not been developed to its full potential. In many instances, crime maps simply display crime locations and are not integrated into police operations, allocation of resources, or problem solving activities. In addition, many crime analysis applications are limited to law enforcement data, while effective analysis and responses to a wide range of problems may require the involvement of non-criminal justice agencies.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This comprehensive approach is modeled after "weed and seed" initiatives, problem oriented policing, and community policing, and dictates a multi-level action plan. There are six basic elements in this plan: enforcement, problem-solving initiatives, intervention and treatment, neighborhood restoration, community prosecution, and the allocation of resources through the use of crime analysis. While all elements of the comprehensive plan are important, projects should emphasize using a problem-solving process to develop long-term resolutions to community problems.

The primary emphasis of this program area is directing criminal justice activities through the development of data driven crime control strategies. Emphasis should be placed on integrating operational activities with crime mapping and analysis, particularly involving a variety of agencies in a cross jurisdictional context. The program is intended to build on and extend existing capacity and previous experience using data.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal #1 **Implement long-term crime prevention strategies within the target area that reduce crime, and increase community involvement and confidence in the criminal justice system.**

Objective #1 Decrease in the overall adult and juvenile crime rate, and reduce the number of calls in service.

Activities Conduct a comprehensive analysis of community crime problems and underlying root causes. Develop a strategic plan defining the responsibilities of law enforcement and social service providers in addressing the community crime problems. Provide problem-solving training to relevant stakeholders in the target area.

Performance Measures Pre and post measures of crime and calls for service in the targeted communities. Statistics on the change in caseloads for the police, prosecutor and court.

Objective #2 Improve the overall quality of life, and the quality and quantity of social services provided to citizens of the target area.

Activities Initiate a defined problem-solving strategy to identify needs and gaps in services in the target area. Develop and implement a coordination plan for the provision of social services to those individuals or groups identified in the problem solving strategy. Train and educate service providers on the nature of the comprehensive plan. Provide visible support for community services through active participation in relevant activities.

Performance Measures Statistics on the number of citizens participating or receiving services from community social service providers. Compare baseline data for crime, civil complaints, code and zoning complaints, and nuisance abatement complaints.

Objective #3 Develop or improve partnerships between criminal justice professionals and community social service agencies.

Activities Develop a strategic plan for all participating agencies. Implement partnership agreements or memorandums of understanding for all agencies. Develop a task force of key stakeholders and hold regular organizational meetings.

Performance Measures Statistics on the number of persons attending local council and task force meetings. Analysis of contents of memorandums of agreement and other partnership agreements.

Objective #4 Increase in community involvement in crime prevention strategies and improve confidence in the police among community members.

Activities Increase home ownership through financial assistance programs. Assist landlords and tenants with conflict resolution. Develop decentralized services within the targeted neighborhood. Establish neighborhood group organizations. Promote neighborhood restoration through improvement of environmental design, neighborhood cleanups, abandon house removal, and promotions.

Performance Measures Increase in property values and home ownership within targeted areas. Improvement in community satisfaction surveys. Change in the levels of individuals utilizing decentralized services. Number of participants in neighborhood organizations. Number of complaints resolved by community organizations

Goal #2 **Improving the operational effectiveness of law enforcement through the use of crime analysis techniques.**

Objective #1 Grantees must build upon the capacity of an existing database system(s) that will become the basis of a clearinghouse for crime and geo-spatial data.

Activities Hold meetings with relevant stakeholders to identify possible sources of data that are available. The grantees must identify the types of data available and design a plan to merge or convert datasets into a larger database. Grantees should hold regular meetings to communicate the data clearinghouse project with those individuals that provided data. Grantees should also specify a plan to identify additional data sources.

Objective #2 Develop a data documentation system so that data collected in a community can be maintained and archived in a consistent manner.

Activities Documentation should include information on: type and content of data, date the data was developed, data usage, data development and acquisition, quality of data, contact information, and restrictions on the distribution and use of the data.

- Objective #3** Identify the specific crime problems to be addressed with the grant project.
- Activities** Information on relevant crime problems should come from both the data obtained from the data clearinghouse and relevant stakeholders. Conduct an inventory and assessment of policing and social service programs available to address the problem.
- Objective #4** Develop a strategic plan to address identified crime problems based on analysis conducted.
- Activities** Perform quantitative analysis of crime problems during the first half of the project period. This problem analysis should lead to the development of a comprehensive plan to address the problems identified in the quantitative analysis. The strategic plan must also document the role of all participating agencies. Grantees should implement partnership agreements or memorandums of understanding to form an integrated problem solving team. Regular meetings should be held.

BJA REPORTING, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION METHODS

All projects funded through this program must report:

- The overall change in the adult and juvenile crime rate in the community.
- The number of individuals that received targeted social services as a result of the project.
- The utilization of an ongoing problem-solving plan.
- A reduction in nuisance abatement complaints referred to the criminal justice system.
- Changes in the economic and social welfare of the community.
- Evidence of continuity of services provided through an established network of service providers.
- Evidence of allocation of resources through crime analysis.