

Project Abstract

Applicant Name:	City of St. Louis Department of Health
Project Title:	Near North Side Stabilization Initiative
Category of Application:	Category 2: Planning and Implementation
Existing Federal Investments:	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant, \$500,000; St. Louis is designated as a “Strong Cities, Strong Communities” and works closely with the U.S. Economic Development on aligning federal agency expertise to strengthen St. Louis. The footprint of the project is also within a proposed Promise Zone.
Target Neighborhood:	The Near North Side (NNS), which comprises 114 city blocks and is bordered by Dr. Martin Luther King Drive and Cole Street to the south; I-70 to the east; Mullanphy St. to the north; and Elliott Avenue to the west. The boundaries are natural delineations that also coincide with the St. Louis City neighborhoods of Columbus Square and Carr Square. Located within zip code 63106.
Fiscal Agent:	The City of St. Louis Department of Health

Project Summary and Cross Sector Partners

From October 2015 through October 2018, The City of St. Louis Department of Health (“DOH”) will plan and implement comprehensive place-based strategies to reduce crime and support the revitalization of the Near North Side of St. Louis City. The DOH will work with residents and community stakeholders to: (a) Plan and implement built environmental changes to reduce crime in the neighborhood; (b) Coordinate restorative justice opportunities for existing offenders in the neighborhood; and (c) Coordinate workforce development strategies to reduce the unemployment rate in the neighborhood.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD) will provide and analyze crime data, and establish place-based law enforcement efforts within the BCJI framework. The City of St. Louis will help to align BCJI efforts with existing community corrections, jail diversion, drug and family court, mental health programs and other re-entry initiatives. Urban Strategies will lead on community engagement and workforce development efforts, in collaboration with other workforce development agencies.

The DOH will work with the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri at St. Louis (UMSL) to gather and assess crime data, define and confirm hotspot dynamics, and develop a data-driven approach to building a continuum of strategies to

ensure the needs of the community are consistently being addressed. UMSL will provide research and technical assistance with planning and infrastructure start up, refinement and strengthening of strategy implementation. The DOH will also coordinate all activities with its existing Youth Violence Prevention Partnership, an existing group receiving intensive training and technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and its consultant, American Institute for Research. The YVP Partnership includes the SLMPD, St. Louis Public Schools, Probation & Parole, Juvenile Court, the St. Louis Mental Health Board, and the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment. Through the YVP Partnership, the Near North Side project will have access to extensive technical assistance, community and practitioner access, and membership in a nation-wide violence prevention effort: STRYVE (Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere).

Need for Funds

The DOH is requesting a total of \$999,858.60 from the Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program to provide the funds necessary to plan and implement this initiative. The NNS is plagued by economic challenges, poor health outcomes, and high rates of crime.

Economic indicators include an Extremely Low Income Rate of 60.37%, a median household income of \$17,852 (or 51.9% of the median City income of \$34,384), and an unemployment rate of 22.5% compared to the City's rate of 14.2%. And more than half (55%) of all NNS households headed by a single female with school aged children – compared to an overall rate of 10.3% for the City of St. Louis – a key risk factor for poverty and other poor individual and family outcomes. In 2014, the Part I Violent Crime Rate for Carr Square was 36.77/1000 and 25.15/1000 for Columbus Square, compared to the City's overall Part I Violent Crime Rate at 16.79/1000. Combined, the two neighborhoods have a Part I Violent Crime Rate of 32.09/1000, nearly double that of the City.

Goals of the Project

Using a place-based approach and a variety of practice and evidence-based strategies, the proposed project will integrate law enforcement efforts with a variety of prevention, workforce development and human service interventions. The DOH will place strong emphasis on participatory processes that include residents, community leaders, housing developers, property managers, faith-based partners, funders and service providers. By working with critical partners and community stakeholders, intends to achieve the following goals by the end of the Project Period:

- 1) Creation of a safe, stable physical environment for residents of the targeted neighborhood through environmental changes;
- 2) Reducing the number of repeat offenders in the neighborhood through restorative justice opportunities;
- 3) Preventing and deterring crime by implementing workforce development strategies;

During the Planning Phase of the grant award, the DOH will work with its cross-sector partners and the residents of the targeted community to build upon existing data collection efforts and community engagement efforts, and refine its proposed strategies to accommodate the data and

the meet the identified needs of the target neighborhood as it relates to safety enhancement and crime prevention.

Continuum of Strategies Proposed

- 1) Environmental Strategies: Building on existing safety enhancement and crime prevention efforts through the Choice Neighborhood Planning grant award, the DOH will coordinate bi-weekly meetings among the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, Urban Strategies, and neighborhood property managers to discuss crime and nuisance complaints, and coordinate the implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- 2) Crime Reduction Strategies: Enhance existing restorative justice programs through the Division of Family-Juvenile Courts and the Division of Probation and Parole, create new restorative justice opportunities through implementation of CPTED and through activities surrounding the creation of a Transformation Plan for the NNS as part of the Choice Neighborhoods Planning grant award.
- 3) Crime Prevention and Deterrence Strategies: The DOH will engage Urban Strategies to enhance existing workforce development efforts as part of its Choice Neighborhood Planning grant activities. Efforts will include working with residents to set individual goals, and strengthening and creating partnerships with local workforce agencies and organizations to increase employment training and job opportunities for residents of the NNS.