



# BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION GRANT

## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN RESEARCH PROCESS PAVING THE WAY FOR EVALUATION

Battle Creek, Michigan



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# Agenda

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1. **Explain Byrne CJI grant**
2. **Share overall community-driven research process**
3. **Explore how to work with residents when implementing research & evaluation**
4. **Clarifying the relationships between research & evaluation in this project**





# **BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION GRANT**

## **NATIONAL BACKGROUND**

# Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation

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- BCJI grants are awarded through the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance
- BCJI is a signature program under the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, creating more opportunities for children and families across the sectors of housing, education, public safety, & health
- BCJI awards are made to applicants consisting of a cross-sector partnership, including units of local government, criminal and juvenile justice agencies, and non-profit organizations
- BCJI planning grants give communities 12 months to use local and national data to develop a plan to reduce crime and improve community safety





**FY 2012 Sites**

- San Bernardino, CA
- Portland, OR
- Brooklyn, NY
- Philadelphia, PA
- Baltimore, MD
- Charleston, WV
- San Antonio, TX
- Seattle, WA
- Omaha, NE
- Milwaukee, WI
- Detroit, MI
- Dayton, OH
- Buffalo, NY
- Lowell, MA
- Austin, TX

Cross-sector teams are using evidence-based, community-driven strategies to address crime hot spots in specific neighborhoods in each city. Read the BJA fact sheet [here](#).



**FY 2013 Sites**

- Corning, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Kansas City, MO
- Evansville, IN
- Cleveland, OH
- Syracuse, NY
- Springfield, MA
- Providence, RI
- Erie, PA
- Albany, GA
- Tampa, FL
- Nashville, TN
- Baton Rouge, LA

**FY 2014 Sites**

- Denver, CO
- New Haven, CT
- Alameda County, CA
- Flint, MI
- Worcester, MA
- Miami-Dade County, FL
- Highland County, OH
- Battle Creek, MI
- Durham, NC
- Huntington, WV
- Minneapolis, MN
- Tulsa, OK
- Coahoma County, MS
- Phillipsburg, NJ
- Rockdale County, GA
- Newark, NJ
- Towaco, CO



# **BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION GRANT**

## **BATTLE CREEK RESEARCH PROCESS**

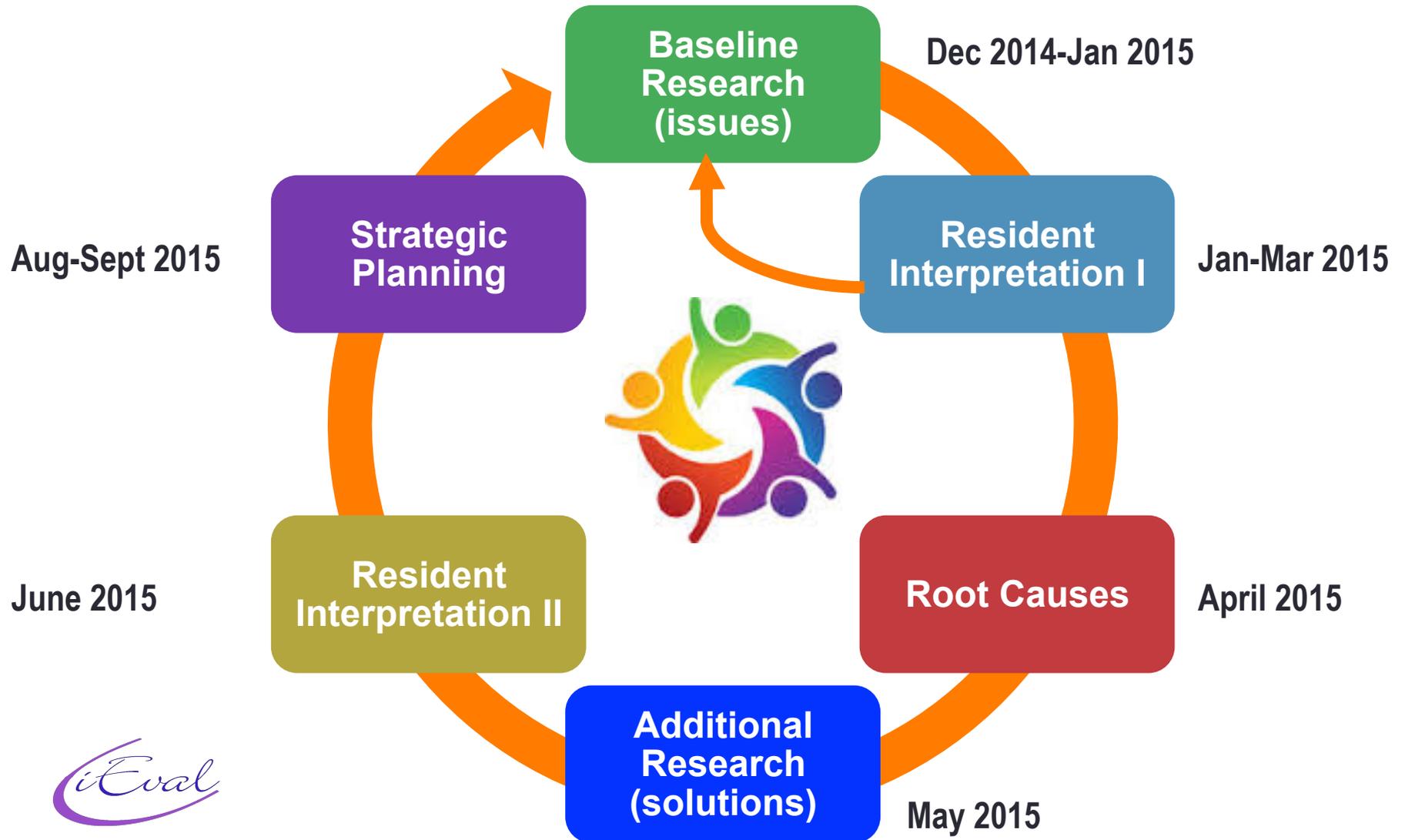
# What is Battle Creek's BCJI?

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The Battle Creek BCJI **planning process** is a means for the community as a whole to come together for the purpose of identifying **conditions** which data have indicated leads to crime and **strategies** which can help to prevent and reduce crime.



# Research Process



# December 2014

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- **Formalized MOUs with research partner (iEval) and community lead (Urban League)**
- **Research partner planned next 4 months of work, serving as facilitator for this phase**
- **Community lead and other community partners recruited individuals from Neighborhood Planning Councils (NPCs) and other key organizations (City of Battle Creek, Battle Creek Police Department, and Neighborhoods, Inc.) to be part of steering committee**



# January 2015

- **Research partner researched what potential drivers of neighborhood crime are from national perspective**
  - ▣ Gathered local data from groups including the police department, city, neighborhood groups, local funders, etc.
  - ▣ Created fact sheets using local and national data focused on neighborhood crime, unemployment, poverty, homeownership, and single parents
  - ▣ Created GIS maps by NPC for same categories plus Census demographics (race, income, child poverty)
- **Research partner facilitated discussions with NPC members focused on 1) what does the data say? 2) does the data align with perceptions? 3) what is missing?**



# Examples

## Homeownership Fact Sheet

*This document describes research findings related to home ownership. Both scholarly and local research is included. The local research comes from NPC survey reports, BC Pulse reports, BC Vision reports, census data and the 2014 Public Engagement Report completed by the City of Battle Creek.*

### Scholarly Research Findings

- The further removed the landlord is from the property, the more reported criminal activity. (Rephann, nd)
- The placement of public housing has minimal direct effects on crime. The demolition of public housing may relocate crime and may escalate violent crime in the short run. (Kirk, 2010)
- As home ownership increases, crime declines. (Kirk, 2010)
- In New York City, multiple foreclosures on a single block face (two sides of a block that face each other) led to an increase in violent and lower level crimes like graffiti, prostitution, loitering and drug crimes. This is particularly true in areas that have moderate to high existing crime rates. (Farman Center, 2013)
- As home foreclosures increase, crime increases. (Kirk, 2010)

### Local Research Findings

**Rental vs. Home Ownership.** 61% of Battle Creek residents lives in owner occupied housing. 39% of Battle Creek residents rent. (Public Engagement Report, 2014)

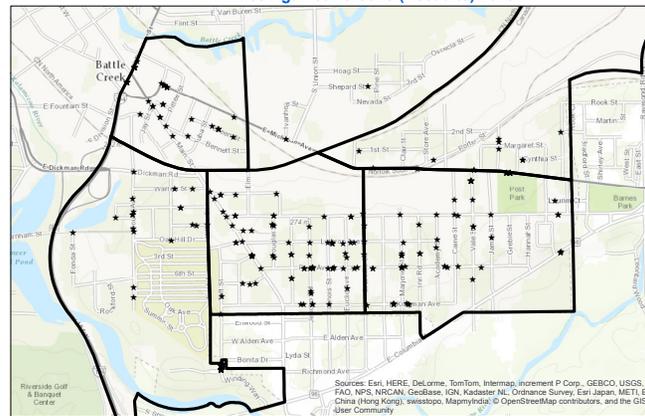
### Resident Rental Concerns

- When asked what one thing they would change in their neighborhood, "rental housing concerns" was named by 7% of respondents and was the fifth concern overall. (Public Engagement Report, 2014)
- Nineteen respondents said too many rentals in an area lead to lack of pride in ownership which leads to stagnation of property values and an increase in code violations. (Public Engagement Report, 2014)

**Correlations.** Renting is moderately correlated to the four other primary variables, but most highly connected to single parents (i.e., the closer the correlation number is to 1.0, the more highly connected the two variables are). (American Community Survey, 2013)

Correlations	Poverty	Unemployed	Single Parents	Minority
Renting	0.5502	0.4322	0.7149	0.5137

NPC 1: Crimes Against Persons (Assaults) 2013



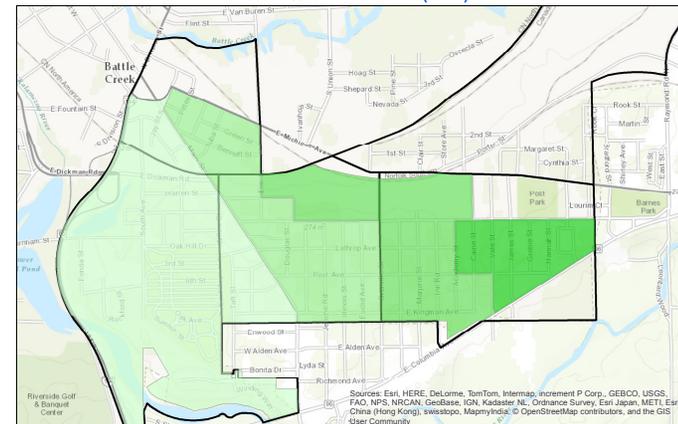
Source: Battle Creek Police Department

### Legend

- ★ Crimes Against Persons (Assaults)



NPC 1: % Home Owners (2013)



Source: American Community Survey 2013

### Legend

- 33%
- 34% - 48%
- 49% - 52%
- 53% - 52%



# February 2015

- **Research partner researched additional categories based on January meeting**
  - ▣ Created new fact sheets using local and national data focused on employment, rentals, & vacant properties
  - ▣ Created maps by NPC for race/ethnicity, code violations, rentals, & vacant properties
- **Research partner facilitated discussions with NPC members focused on 1) how do new data points interact with previous? 2) what are data telling you about drivers of crime? 3) what additional questions do you still have?**



# March 2015

- **Research partner researched deeper into categories based on February meeting**
  - Connections between rentals, unemployment, poverty, code violations, & crime
  - Understanding crime related to major thoroughfares & crime categories
- **Research partner researched additional categories**
  - Created new fact sheets using local and national data focused on police presence, neighbor relationships, resident mobility, & crimes over time
  - Created maps by NPC for code violations, rental locations, landlord locations, assault categories, home value, & business location
- **Research partner facilitated discussions with NPC members using targeted questions about potential crime drivers & narrowed focus areas down by NPC**



# April 2015

- **Research partner conducted final parts of first phase:**
  - Created Root Cause Analysis Guide that summarized national research, local data, maps, and other local root causal chains around the six identified drivers of neighborhood crime
  - Facilitated discussion around root causes using the Five Whys and What Now
  - Summarized root causal chains, What Now, and neighborhood assets (from January brainstorming) into document to use in next phase of the work



# May/June/July 2015

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- Research partner researched aligned national best practices based on root causes
- Transition of facilitation of the work from research partner to community lead
  - Community lead facilitated the a meeting with residents identifying local assets to minimize root causes of neighborhood crime

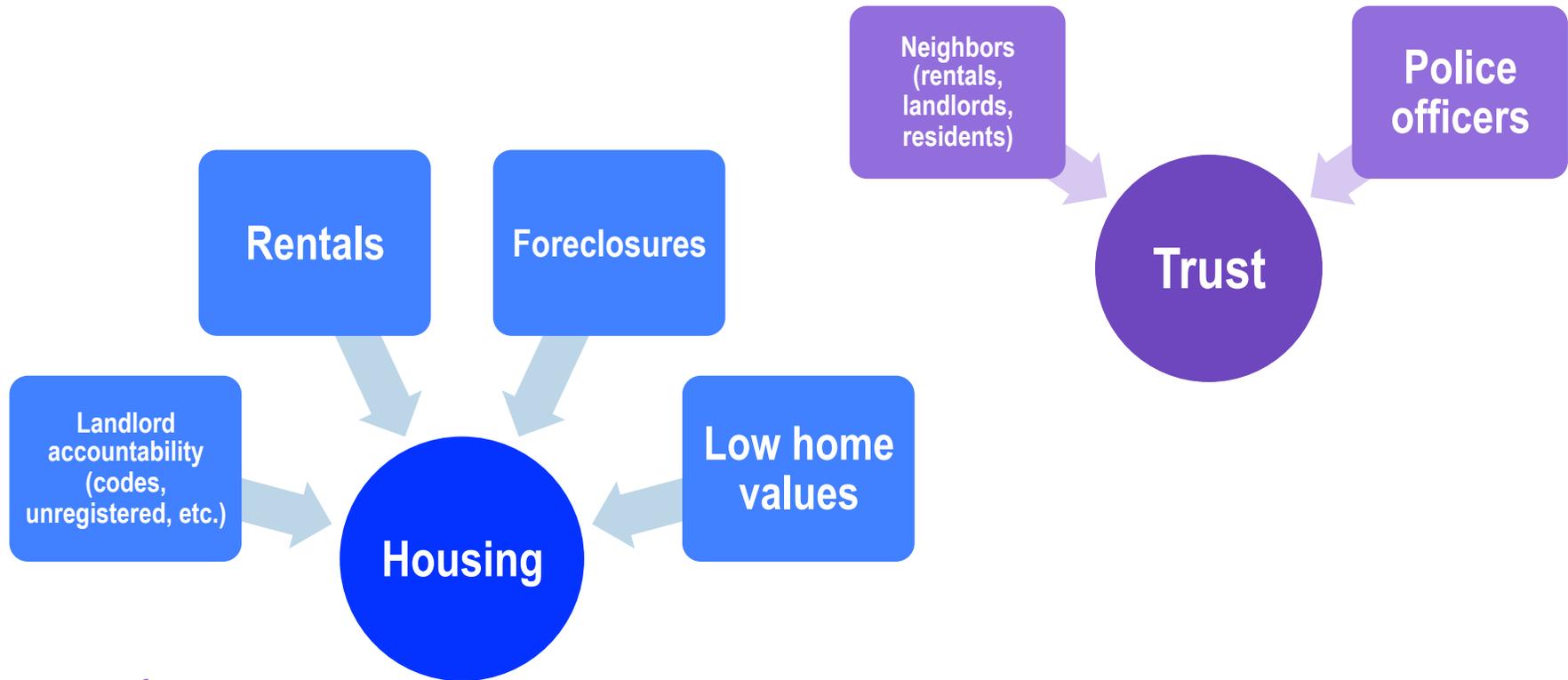


# Fall 2015 & Beyond

- **Ongoing** - make small changes when possible that align with the work being done through Byrne
- **Fall** – using national & local data and resident input, the project leadership will develop a strategic plan to reduce or eliminate root causes of primary drivers of neighborhood crime
- **Spring 2016** – apply for Byrne Criminal Justice Implementation Grant
- **Fall 2016** – \*hopefully\* begin implementation of awarded grant!



# Primary Drivers of Neighborhood Crime





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## WORKING WITH RESIDENTS

# Resident Engagement Process

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Research team culled through local and national research then facilitated interpretation with residents

Residents deepened understandings and posed new questions based on data



# Key Learnings

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1

**Do not overwhelm the residents with too much data**

2

**Provide data in easily interpretable formats**

3

**Ensure the data are presented in context**

# Key Learnings

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4

**Listen to and use the suggestions from residents**

5

**Use local partners to recruit residents, do not rely on residents for recruitment**

6

**Make sure the key partners can handle their responsibilities**



# Resident-Driven

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**January:** home ownership, poverty, unemployment, single parents

**February:** employment, rentals, vacant properties, code violations, race/ethnicity

**March:** major thoroughfares, police presence, neighbor relations, resident mobility, crimes over time, landlord locations, home value, business locations

**April:** understanding drivers of crime and assets that reduce crime





# BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION GRANT

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RESEARCH & EVALUATION

# Research and Evaluation

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## Research

- Defines the work
- Must be done with evaluation in mind
- Provides baseline data

## Evaluation

- Improves the work
- Builds off the research
- Informs future research needs

# Key Learnings

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1

**Focus only on the research during the planning phase**

2

**Plan for evaluation as you're doing the research**

3

**Make sure the data drives the research, resident interpretation, and evaluation planning**



# Key Learnings

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4

**Conduct formative evaluation (behind the scenes) throughout the process**

5

**Fully embed the evaluation plan in the strategic plan that is developed**



# Contact Information

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You may download this presentation at [www.ieval.net](http://www.ieval.net) under presentations or contact us at:

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