



Community Safety

SAFE STREETS ARE VITAL TO STRONG COMMUNITIES



The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) launched its **Community Safety Initiative** back in 1994 to help low-income areas tackle crime from a different, more collaborative perspective. Instead of looking at it as a stand-alone problem for law enforcement to solve, LISC takes a community development approach to crime: forging partnerships that make safety part of efforts to rebuild long-neglected neighborhoods.

Today, LISC works in 45 cities to bring together teams of police, residents, community-based organizations, businessowners and other local partners to address challenges—often asking them to leave behind decades of mutual mistrust to make their streets safer. In one community, that might mean police get involved in efforts to develop affordable housing and revive commercial corridors, so that plans address crime concerns. In another, it might mean community groups work closely with law enforcement to identify emerging crime hot spots or reduce gang conflicts.

LISC provides the technical assistance and training they need to develop responsive programs; provides funding to help implement them; and works long-term, on-the-ground, through our local program staff to ensure results that neighbors can see and feel, such as:

- **Marked reductions in crime**, including decreased drug dealing and gang violence. Crime drops in LISC target areas have been greater than those in nearby neighborhoods.
- **Quality affordable housing and businesses** in the place of nuisance properties and notorious hot spots. LISC community safety work has leveraged nearly \$300 million in development activity in communities where crime had long deterred private investment.
- **Cleaner streets**, safer parks and less graffiti, creating healthier environments for children and families.
- **Strong partnerships** between police and community members to prevent truancy, strengthen youth programs and address future neighborhood improvement projects.

In 2012, the Justice Department recognized the impact of this work and selected LISC to be the national technical assistance provider for its **Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program (BCJI)**. BCJI is an innovative federal effort to fuel place-based responses to crime hot spots. With LISC support, BCJI is currently supporting efforts in 29 jurisdictions around the country.

Local Initiatives Support Corporation

LISC works in hundreds of distressed urban and rural communities across the country to help make them good places to live, work, do business and raise families.

Since 1980, LISC has invested more than \$12.9 billion to build or rehab 298,300 affordable homes and develop 49 million square feet of retail, community and educational space nationwide.

For more information on LISC's Community Safety Initiative, contact Julia Ryan, program director, at 212-455-1618 or jryan@lisc.org. For details of LISC's community development work, visit www.lisc.org.