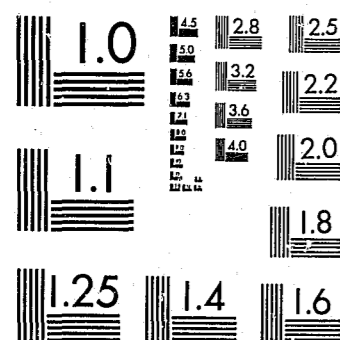


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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION

NCJRS
CATEGORICAL GRANT
PROGRESS REPORT
DEC 30 1980

OMB APPROVAL NO. 43-R0525

GRANTEE Coalition for a United Elizabeth	LEAA GRANT NO. 79-CA-AK-0041	DATE OF REPORT 11/28/80	REPORT NO. 5
IMPLEMENTING SUBGRANTEE	TYPE OF REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINAL REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL REQUEST		
SHORT TITLE OF PROJECT CUE Crime Prevention Project	GRANT AMOUNT \$139,296		
REPORT IS SUBMITTED FOR THE PERIOD	THROUGH		
SIGNATURE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR <i>Warner L. Wilson</i>	TYPED NAME & TITLE OF PROJECT DIRECTOR Warner L. Wilson		

COMMENCE REPORT HERE (Add continuation pages as required.)

The following constitutes the final report of the CUE Crime Prevention Project. The report will be offered in the following progression: (1) Program goals and objectives will be stated; (2) Objectives accomplished will be outlined; (3) Objectives not accomplished will be pointed out and the reasons why; (4) Summary statement;

I. COMMUNITY ANTI-CRIME ORGANIZING PROGRAM

GOAL: To facilitate interaction in neighborhoods thus reducing the social isolation and fear which prevents the kind of neighborhood solidarity necessary for crime prevention.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Assist in the ongoing anti-crime activities of the 24 groups established during the initial program period.
2. Develop a comprehensive profile of 15 new areas of activity.
3. Organize 15 new block clubs with anticipated membership of 10 members each.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Organizers facilitated ongoing activities of the previously established block clubs, neighborhood associations, and tenant groups. During the course of the project year the following meetings were held:

NOTE: No further monies or other benefits may be paid out under this program unless this report is completed and filed as required by existing law and regulations (FMC 74-7; Omnibus Crime Control Act of 1976).

RECEIVED BY GRANTEE STATE PLANNING AGENCY (Official)	DATE
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LEAA FORM 4587/1 (REV. 2-77) REPLACES EDITION OF 10-75 WHICH IS OBSOLETE.

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Page 2

- 21 Neighborhood Association
- 39 Tenant Association
- 38 Task Force
- 6 Youth Club
- 10 CUE Officer
- 4 CUE Action Council
- 7 CUE Welfare Rights
- 5 Political Action Forums
- 2 Elizabeth Tenant Association

Total people involvement in the meetings indicated above is 3,599.

The following new groups were developed during the project year:

- New York Ave. Tenants
- Rose Hill Tenants
- Grand-Bellevue Tenants
- Jefferson Ave. Tenants (471 Jefferson)
- Relocated Bayway Association
- Colonial House Tenants
- Teen Tots (youth group)
- Vine St. Tenants
- Emma St. Tenants
- Magie Ave. Tenants
- Project Force (youth group)
- East Jersey St. Tenants
- Fulton St. Tenants
- Hampton Place Block Club
- Jefferson House Tenants
- Elizabeth Ave. Tenants

Although there is no way we could have anticipated the catastrophic fire at the now notorious Chemical Control hazardous waste site, a considerable amount of community organizing time has gone into working with area residents on this important issue. We have felt that there has been no issue in Elizabeth which has so threatened the overall well-being of the people with whom we have worked on anti-crime concerns.

As has been noted in our quarterly reports, we have been successful in mobilizing the community to take the kinds of actions that would help provide a sense of stability in the midst of this time of community adversity.

III. ANTI-ARSON ORGANIZING PROGRAM

GOAL: To improve housing conditions in target areas through a more efficient housing code enforcement process and thus diminish the threat of arson and other fires

OBJECTIVES:

1. Organize 5 tenant associations in the target areas and facilitate monthly meetings.
2. Ensure adequate code inspection and code enforcement of substandard housing in the Elizabethport, New Point Road, and Keighry Head areas by the Elizabeth Department of Health, Welfare, and Housing.
3. Increase the effectiveness of the local criminal justice system by monitoring the activities of the Elizabeth Municipal Court related to code enforcement activities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. The following groups were organized and have facilitated remedial measures to save their dwellings and neighborhoods from the kind of deterioration that leads to arson:

Jefferson Ave. Tenants
Emma St. Tenants
East Jersey St. Tenants
Fulton St. Tenants
New Point Rd. Tenants
Hampton Place Block Club

The most successful of these groups has been the Hampton Place Block Club which succeeded in getting torn down some arson prone buildings.

2. The Keighry Head Association has also worked diligently in monitoring the activities of a well-known slum lord who has been increasing his property holdings in their neighborhood. Association leadership has met periodically with the slum lord to apprise him

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2. The Keighry Head Association has also worked diligently in monitoring the activities of a well-known slum lord who has been increasing his property holdings in their neighborhood. Association leadership has met periodically with the slum lord to apprise him

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Page 4

of their concern about what he is doing to destroy their neighborhood. They have also met with police officials about the kind of crime activity that goes on in many of his boarding houses.

OBJECTIVES NOT ACCOMPLISHED AND WHY

1. Because of the problem in getting the needed cooperation from the Elizabeth Department of Health, Housing and Welfare, we were unable to secure the kind of effective code enforcement that we needed for a more successful implementation of our anti-arson program.
2. The lack of cooperation indicated above extended to our requests for information which would have made possible a court-monitoring process. Due to this lack of information, it was impossible to know when landlords were being charged in municipal court for code enforcement violations. Thus, we were unable to develop the court monitoring process we had originally intended.

III. DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

GOAL: To provide an awareness of the potential personal liability of crime through exposure to prison life as portrayed by the Lifers' Group at the New Jersey State Prison in Rahway.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work with juvenile justice, family service agencies and community leaders in the identification of 150 juveniles who could best benefit from the prison encounter experience.
2. Facilitate transportation and supervision for 6 trips to Lifers' Group programs for the juveniles identified above.

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Page 5

3. Provide for analysis of each juvenile's response to the Lifers' Group experience and follow-up on any future involvement of these juveniles with the juvenile justice system.

OBJECTIVES NOT ACCOMPLISHED AND WHY:

This entire program had to be dropped because of the adverse publicity and law suits which had developed involving the Lifers' Juvenile Awareness Program. We felt that to continue with the program under these conditions would have exposed CUE to a potential liability that was not in our best interest.

IV. YOUTH CLUB PROGRAM

GOAL: To improve the self-image of juveniles who have given indications of developing behavior patterns that could lead to crime activity.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide ongoing assistance in the development of goals, projects, and positive group experiences for the 14 youth groups already established through our initial crime prevention project.
2. Organize a youth council made up of older teenagers and young adults to work on crime prevention and other community issues.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. The major accomplishment has been to integrate some of the youth into the overall CUE program so that they have had an active part in the variety of community activities in which CUE is involved.
2. Another significant achievement has been the role of the youth in advocating for adequate recreational provisions at the two new multi-purpose centers in the project target areas.
3. Helped develop 6 summer bus trips for 240 youth to provide positive experiences for young people who live in the more distressed areas of the city.

V. FRIENDS OF JUVENILES PROGRAM

GOAL: To diminish the sense of isolation and fear experienced by juveniles who are placed in the Elizabeth detention center and provide ongoing contact with juveniles upon their release from the center.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work with juvenile justice personnel in identifying 25 youth at the detention center who experience isolation from the community through lack of parental or other community concern.
2. Organize a core group of 10 volunteers who will serve as a source of community contact with the youth identified above and provide continued personal contact upon juvenile's release from the center

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Thirty adults were recruited to serve as "friends" to 32 troubled youth who were in the detention center. Volunteers were screened and given orientation on how best to relate to the juveniles. They also met with parents, teachers, social workers and, in some cases, involved themselves with the youth's entire family in an effort to resolve problems which led them into anti-social behavior.

VI. HUMAN RELATIONS INSTITUTE:

GOAL: To facilitate a better relationship between the Elizabeth Police Department and Elizabeth minority communities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work with the Elizabeth Police Department, the U.S. Department of Justice, and representatives of Elizabeth minority communities in developing a program design for human relations institutes.
2. Conduct four human relations institutes

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Six meetings were held with representatives from CUE,

the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Community Relation services, the Elizabeth Police Department and the Elizabeth minority community. The purpose of these meetings was to focus on ways in which there could be the development of the kind of open dialogue that would diminish the lack of understanding and relationship that exists between some parts of the minority community and the police department.

We found that the level of candor needed for these meetings required a numerically smaller group than we had originally intended. However, these meetings provided some clarification of problems that had existed between the police department and one of the more significant leaders in the minority community.

We feel that the lines of communication between, at least police department leadership, and important minority community leadership has been facilitated. Problems that do exist now have some basis for being discussed openly in a conference room rather than acted out in hostility in the streets.

VII. COMMUNITY ANTI-CRIME TASK FORCE

GOAL: To institute a structure which will ensure long term community involvement in anti-crime activities.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Create an anti-crime task force made up of two or more leaders from each target area and other community people as invited by the task force.
2. Facilitate the anti-crime task force in taking responsibility for performing the following functions:
 - a. Advising the staff with regard to overall project performance
 - b. Provide assistance in the implementation of crime prevention activities
 - c. Ensure the continuation of the anti-crime project beyond the availability of LEAA funding.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The achievements of the task force are rather limited and extend primarily to that of seeking out funding possibilities for an ongoing crime prevention program and advocating for continued governmental support of the LEAA/OCACP component.

OBJECTIVES NOT MET AND WHY:

This task force never developed much momentum because the people on whom we could call for assistance in this program were already significantly involved in a variety of other community activities. Thus, we had to turn to the CUE Executive Committee for assistance in achieving the purposes of the anti-crime task force.

SUMMARY

Although the CUE Crime Prevention Program experienced some difficulty in the reduction in personnel made necessary by the mandatory grant reduction, we were able to make some significant contributions to crime prevention activities in Elizabeth.

We were able to maintain continuity of effort on the part of many of our block clubs in the area of crime prevention and community stability. In addition, we reached out to 16 new groups which also helped create further impact on crime prevention. Of special significance was the work of some of these groups in getting some buildings torn down that had been a community eye-sore, arson prone, and places of refuge for those engaged in crime activity.

A heightened awareness of the need for arson prevention measures has been achieved through a variety of community programs dealing with the problem of arson. A considerable amount of effort by CUE anti-crime groups has been put into helping people deal with the catastrophe of the Chemical Control hazardous waste site and its consequences for area residents. The need for citizen advocacy on this issue has been met effectively by the groups that are part of CUE.

The youth involved in our program have been working towards more positive recreational programs in the community as a means of deterring anti-social behavior. They have been

an active part of groups that have met with city officials and others on this important issue.

Perhaps the biggest crime prevented by CUE this past year was the stopping of a fraudulent petition drive on the abolition of rent control. Without the CUE effort, this petition drive would have resulted in a referendum on rent control being placed on the November ballot. Due to CUE pressure, the originators of the petition have had it withdrawn and now face an investigation by the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the state's Attorney General.

As has been well-noted in our quarterly reports, the most significant problem we have encountered during the program year has been the grand jury investigation of our organization. Following the 18 month inquiry, nothing has happened and we are convinced that nothing. We are convinced that nothing will happen because we have done nothing wrong. This lack of action by the grand jury confirms our suspicion about this probe being a political move to diminish the threat which CUE poses for public officials.

Although the level of crime prevention activity by CUE groups will probably diminish through lack of LEAA funding, we do anticipate ongoing activities which will create the kind of neighborhood stability needed to effectively reduce crime in our community.

END