
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Mission Statement

The International District Community-Based Crime Reduction (CBCR) initiative views crime and violence as a serious public health issue that requires a holistic and community-driven response. The CBCR initiative will engage residents of the International District and involve stakeholders to learn about and join the crime reduction and community development action plans of the CBCR Leadership Council and its different working groups.

The CBCR initiative has a vision of a safer, more peaceful International District, accomplished by cultivating and boosting the neighborhood's existing strengths and resilience to decrease crime rates. The project aims to implement a variety of place-based interventions in an effort to build trust, connect at-risk populations with resources, and combat crime in hot-spot areas. These projects fall under the broad categories of 1) community health and social services and 2) community prosecution and policing.

**community based
crime reduction**



districtattorney
BERNALILLO COUNTY

Target Area: The International District • Population: 37,600
Fiscal Agent: Second Judicial District Attorney's Office
Research Partner: University of New Mexico and John Jay College
Crime Concerns: Violent crime
CBCR Funding Year: 2018 Planning

Neighborhood Profile:

The International District is in a part of southeast Albuquerque that boomed in the 1950s with the growth of Kirtland Air Force Base and Sandia National Laboratories. Southeast Asian refugees moved after the Vietnam War and the area has since attracted immigrants and refugees from Africa, Mexico, and Central and South America. In the 1990s, the area saw an increase in local crime and the presence of gangs. This led to the widespread informal label of “The War Zone.” In response, residents cultivated a shared, positive identity as the International District. The District is home to 37,600 people— 6.7% of Albuquerque’s population—and is made up of seven distinct neighborhoods: Fair West, Siesta Hills, Trumbull Village, Elder Homestead, La Mesa, and South San Pedro. Four have active neighborhood associations.

The most valuable resources within the International District are the people who live, work, learn, play, and pray there. The International District has one of the highest concentrations of New Mexico of individuals fluent in a language other than English— 40% of residents speak a non-English language at home, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Navajo and other Native American languages. Additionally, this area is one of the most diverse in the state of New Mexico with 17% of its residents identifying as foreign-born, 52% identifying as Hispanic, and a higher population of Blacks and Asians compared to the rest of the state. The International District is home to many community organizations and agencies that provide physical and behavioral health and social services, assistance to veterans, affordable housing, economic activity development, and inmate and ex-offender support. Faith-based and religious organizations play an important role in the International District and continue to engage in efforts to make the area safer and more inclusive.

The International District is served by the Albuquerque Police Department Southeast (SE) Area Command. Although only 6.7% of Albuquerque’s population resides in this District, 13% of calls for service come from the SE. The International District is disproportionately affected by violent crime: 27% of homicides, 37.3% of non-fatal shootings with injury, 22.2% of aggravated assaults, 19.9% of carjackings, 23.6% of robberies, and 20% of non-fatal shootings without injury. Of the 12,444 addresses in the SE, 10.99% (1,367) had one or more violent crime incidents; 3.7% (461) had two or more violent crime incidents, 0.87% (108) had five or more violent crime incidents, and 0.27% (34) had ten or more violent crime incidents (2014-2016).

Planning Phase:

During the planning phase, the DA’s Office reached out to community leaders, neighborhood residents, and representatives from various organizations and institutions that

serve the International District. More than fifty individuals from schools, service providers, law enforcement, and community organizations partnered with the DA's Office and committed to serving on the CBCR Leadership Council. The research partner, UNM Innovation Academy, conducted literature reviews regarding the intervention proposals, established baseline data for the target area, and will assist in creating and measuring evaluation and assessment metrics for the project implementation. The DA's Office worked with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice to determine data needs for group violence intervention initiatives.

The CBCR Leadership Council and the working groups examined pressing issues and risk factors in the International District, including poverty, witnessing/experiencing violence, use of alcohol and other drugs, homelessness, incarceration, truancy, economic disparities, lack of access to health services, childcare, after school programming for youth, inadequate public transportation, and easy access to guns. These chronic difficulties lead to cyclical and inter-related problems that prevent the development and maintenance of a functioning community. Residents of the International District have a long, shared history in being over-policed, over-studied, and underserved. Overwhelmingly, the Leadership Council requested assistance to connect individuals and families to the resources they need, most of which already exist in the International District.

The District Attorney's CBCR Team and Leadership Council participated in activities surrounding ABQ CiQlovía as part of the CBCR grant's Early Action Project in the International District. CiQlovía is an annual event that promotes community health and safety by closing down streets to traffic and creating a fun and safe space for cyclists and pedestrians. It is modeled after similar "open streets" events worldwide. In 2019, the event featured a community health fair, activity booths, food trucks, live music and dance, artwork, exhibits, vendors, and more. The CBCR initiative sponsored part of the event, mobilized a volunteer effort, and hosted an activity booth. This Early Action Project aimed to encourage community mobilization, spread information about the grant, develop relationships with leaders and residents of the neighborhood, collect qualitative data, and foster engagement and sustainability. The grant team also participated in marketing efforts for the event, creating printed materials and attempting to reach the community through radio and television interviews. The team intends to participate in future CiQlovía activities in ongoing community engagement.

Other Key Partners:

ABC Community Schools, Albuquerque Police Department, Arts Hub, Bernalillo County Community Health Council, City of Albuquerque Office of Neighborhood Coordination, City Council District 6, East Central Ministries, Endorphin Power Company, International District Healthy Communities Coalition, United State's Attorney's Office, United Way Mission: Families