

# ISTHMUS SAFETY INITIATIVE



## About the Initiative

The Initiative is a 3 year grant (2020-2023) from the [Bureau of Justice Assistance's Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation \(BCJI\) Program](#).

The Initiative gathers community leaders to create and carry out a plan to address crime downtown Madison. The Initiative's focus as chosen by the Advisory Council is gun crime and sexual violence in the State Street area.



Administered by the Community Development Division of the City of Madison, Public Health's Violence Prevention Unit provides coordination and community engagement activities and works to understand and analyze the data.



## BCJI Four Core Elements

BCJI has four core elements based on the principle that **sustainable reductions in serious and violent crime requires collaboration** among partners in the criminal justice system, service providers, and the communities they serve.

### 1. Place-based strategy

Target violence where it happens. Use strategies specific to the neighborhood to increase the impact of reducing violence.

### 2. Community Engagement

Increase community involvement in creating change that lasts.

### 3. Data and evidence driven

Improve the use of data and research to problem solve and guide program strategy.

### 4. Build Partnerships and Enhance Trust

Build capacity to promote sustainable collaborations that tackle problems from multiple angles. BCJI sites work to strengthen cross-sector partnerships and to build and enhance trust between partners.

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## Two Phase Process

### Phase One: Action Plan Development

- Identify crime hot spots
- Select crimes to address
- Identify what is driving crimes
- Work with the community to create a plan to make change

The **Advisory Council makes the decisions on crime priorities, root causes, and implementation actions**. The Action Plan is then submitted to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for approval.

### Phase Two: Implementation

- Community partners implement the strategies identified in the approved Action Plan
- Community partners identify and develop a sustainability strategy for longer-term crime reduction based on the BCJI Program's four core elements.



## Advisory Council

The Initiative's Advisory Council is made up of community members and partners, and business owners. It is designed to be a collaboration, with a strong emphasis on building relationships that can last over time.



## Steering Committee

A Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from University of Wisconsin's Public Health Initiative (UWPHI), City of Madison's Community Development Division, the Madison Police Department, Capital Neighborhoods Association, Downtown Madison, Inc. and PHMDC. The Steering Committee recruits for the Advisory Council, provides advice, and oversees financial management of the grant.

### Learn more about our work from Advisory Council meeting notes:

- [Name Voting — Safety Navigators](#)
- [November 2022 Council Meeting](#)
- June 2022 Council Meeting: Updates on Action Plan, request for proposal process, and data
- [April 2022 Council Meeting](#)
- [March 24th, 2022 Council Meeting](#)
- [March 3rd, 2022 Council Meeting](#)
- [February 2022 Council Meeting](#)
- [January 2022 Council Meeting](#)
- [December 2021 Council Meeting](#)
- [November 2021 Council Meeting](#)