

The Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) Flint, Michigan

Purpose

The Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) in Flint brings together residents and partners to achieve positive change in the anchor zone areas of Wards One and Three.

Program History and Future

Recognizing the power of place to influence access to opportunities, the federal government launched BNCP as a key program of the Obama Administration's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative in 2012. Flint is one of four cities selected to receive funding for the initiative. The other communities of Fresno, CA, Memphis, TN, and Milwaukee, WI were selected from a competitive process. Our local program is supported by a mixture of federal and local funding, as well as the active participation of residents, neighborhood partner organizations, and city-level stakeholders. Federal funding ends in September 2016, but we are focused on linking, aligning and leveraging local resources to ensure we can sustain revitalization efforts in the BNCP neighborhoods far into the future.

Neighborhood Boundaries

In 2012-2014, BNCP in Flint 1st cohort focused on the area bounded by Carpenter Road on the north, the Flint River on the east, Pierson Road on the south and Dupont Street on the west. In 2015, the program expanded its Ward One anchor zone to the Brownell/Holmes neighborhood extending the western boundary to Clio Road.

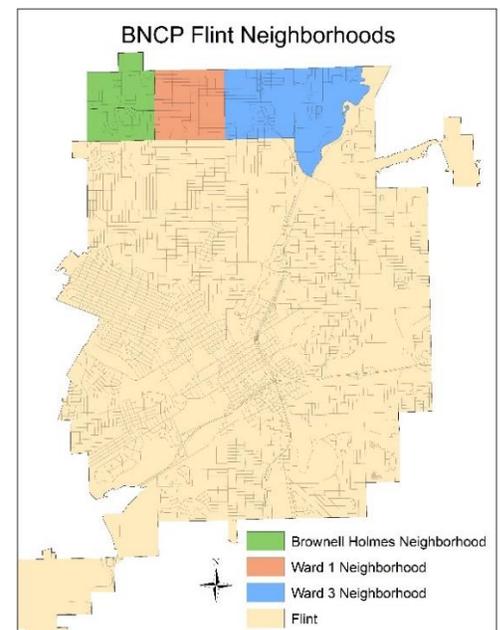
Program Highlights to Date

From 2012-2014, residents and partners:

- Engaged in dialogue and gathered data about the BNCP neighborhoods.
- Formed a Neighborhood Advisory Council (NAC) and Action Teams to work together on neighborhood priorities.
- Developed a neighborhood plan to inform future collaboration.

Since the 2015 expansion of BNCP, residents and partners have:

- Expanded the NAC to represent all three BNCP neighborhoods.
- Prioritized Action Teams focused on:
 - Economic Development and Education
 - Public Safety, Health, and Welfare
 - Transportation and Mobility
 - Neighborhood and Housing
- Launched the engagement, data collection, and planning process in the expansion neighborhood.



Positive Results

The BNCP neighborhoods are getting results! Just a *few* examples of our collective accomplishments:

- Training residents and partners in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and applying principles to neighborhood action projects;
- Working with neighborhood and city partners to improve resident access to healthy food and provide input to Mass Transportation Authority on bus routes;
- Designing and implementing resident workshops on strengthening personal/family relationships, career development, and personal finance.
- Improving representation on BNCP neighborhoods in city-level opportunities for resident voice and participation, such as City of Flint Zoning Sessions and Flint Blue Badge.

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The Year to Come

As we chart our path for the coming year, we are focused on mapping our collective assets and action priorities. We are organizing this information into our four *Action Team* categories, as well as *Capacity Building* opportunities to strengthen individual, organizational and networks' ability to contribute to our desired results.

Public Safety, Health, and Welfare

Desired Results: Residents live in a safe and healthy neighborhood.

- Mobile Food Stand throughout the area to increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables
- Connecting residents to Citizen Radio Patrol, Blue Badge, and Adopt a Park Opportunities
- Public Safety, Health, and Welfare Community Events (co-designing and co-marketing with partners, events that will be held in service area)
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design implementation in BNCP service area.
- Community Service Center established between Wards 1 & 3

Economic Development and Education

Desired Result: Residents have access to high-quality education & training with job opportunities that pay livable wages.

- Youth and parent dialogues/workshops on career/technical education and college access
- Educational opportunities and neighborhood projects to work toward implementation of the Flint Master Plan
- Small Business Expos and Business Incubators to help businesses start up or expand

Transportation and Mobility

Desired Result: "Residents have access to affordable and reliable transportation to the services and supports they need"

- Annual Public Input Session in service area with Mass Transportation Authority (MTA)
- Constructing bus shelters throughout the BNCP neighborhoods
- Holmes-Brownell Neighborhood Association partnership with Safe Routes to School

Housing & Neighborhood

Desired Result: Residents live in a neighborhood that is free from blight and abandoned.

Residents have a well maintained neighborhood with neighbors who look out for each other.

- Annual SPARK project & Clean n Green Grants to reduce blight in neighborhoods
- Neighborhood Cleanups and boarding of abandoned houses

Capacity Building

- BNCP workshops planned on Asset Mapping, Strategic Doing, Facilitation; Microsoft Word and Coding Training
- Community Foundation Small Grant Program workshops on project planning, volunteer recruitment, leveraging resources
- United Way/Chamber of Commerce Leadership Now
- University of Michigan Extension Master Gardening Program
- Connecting neighborhood block clubs with the Neighborhood Engagement Hub