

**REVIEW OF THE CITY OF
SEATTLE'S CRIME PREVENTION
PROGRAMS**

Report to the Seattle City Council
Public Safety & Education
Committee
May 4, 2011

Categorizing Seattle's Crime Prevention Services

The analysis organized the City's 72 crime prevention programs by four similar purposes, thus suggesting linkages that could be helpful in future analysis:

1. Housing and treatment services
2. Recreation, learning and employment activities
3. Problem-solving
4. Security

Features of the Crime Prevention Programs

The Statement of Legislative Intent asked that the programs be described in terms of the following features:

1. Use of City employees in providing the service
2. Services contracted with community-based organizations
3. Specific crimes targeted
4. Specific demographic targets
5. Community involvement
6. Performance measurement

Category: Housing and Treatment Services

- 21 programs employ 4.43 City FTE and contract for \$8.3 million with community-based organizations (CBOs).
- Compared to other programs, these tend to be more focused on the following:
 - people who are at-risk of committing certain crimes,
 - those who are members of specific demographic groups, or
 - people who live in targeted geographic areas of the city.
- Contracts may be performance-based but generally measure outputs and not outcomes.
- Varying degrees of community involvement.

Category: Recreation, Learning and Employment

- 17 programs employ 19.77 City FTE and contract for \$859,000 with CBOs.
- All programs focus on youth.
- Many focus on young people in the Central Area, SE Seattle and SW Seattle.
- Performance measures generally count participants.
- Strong element of community involvement.

Category: Problem-solving

- 25 programs that employ 78.65 City FTE and contract for \$2.4 million with CBOs that do the following:
 - Build community,
 - Disseminate information,
 - Eradicate or prohibit conditions that lead to crime, and
 - Implement law enforcement strategies that address chronic problems.
- Measures generally report outputs.
- Community engagement is a key element.

Category: Security

- Nine programs that employ 34.15 City FTE and contract for \$2.7 million with CBOs to secure City utility facilities, libraries and parks.
- Limited community engagement.
- Variety of measures used to track success, such as collection of output data and compliance with outside organizations' standards.

Feature: City FTE

- 137 FTEs perform crime prevention activities.
- Larger teams of employees include:
 - SPD Crime Prevention Coordinators (7 FTE)
 - SPD Community Police Team officers (21 FTE)
 - DPR Park Rangers (6 FTE)
 - SCL Security and Emergency Management (4 FTE)
 - SPU Security (9 FTE)
 - SPL Safety and Security (13.5 FTE)

Feature: Contracts with Private Vendors

- City contacts for \$14.3 million in services with crime prevention as a service
 - Housing and treatment services: \$8.3 million
 - Recreation, learning and employment activities: \$859,000
 - Problem-solving: \$2.4 million
 - Security: \$2.7 million

Feature: Targeted Crimes

- Most of the programs do not target specific crimes.
- Those that do address specific crimes are directed at the following:
 - Domestic violence
 - Prostitution
 - Illegal drugs
 - Arson
 - Graffiti
 - Illegal dumping

Feature: Demographic Target

- Largest number of programs are focused on youth.
- Other prevention programs are focused on the following:
 - Indigent batterers
 - New immigrants and refugees
 - African-Americans
 - People of color between the ages of 18 and 30
 - Adults of color with criminal histories, who are homeless, mentally ill and/or are addicted to drugs or alcohol
 - Non-violent low-level drug dealers

Feature: Geographic Target

- Most programs are citywide in coverage
- Programs with a geographic focus vary in the areas covered, for example:
 - Central Area
 - SE Seattle
 - SW Seattle
 - 23rd & Union
 - Rainier & Pearl
 - Rainier Valley
 - South Park
 - High Point
 - Business Improvement Areas
 - Neighborhood business districts
 - Downtown parks
 - Downtown civic center facilities

Feature: Community Involvement

Levels of community involvement include:

1. Informing the public about the program and its services;
2. Recruiting from the public to participate in the program;
3. Responding to community members' input about where services are needed or how services are performed;
4. Including public members on an advisory board; and
5. Engaging with the community to create the program, participate in its implementation, and keep the public in the feedback loop on the program's progress.

Feature: Performance Measures

- Vast majority of programs count outputs to measure success.
- A couple small-scale programs look at outcomes:
 - SFD's Fire Stoppers
 - SPD's Police Explorers
- Some larger-scale programs have looked at outcomes:
 - HSD's Crime Prevention and Re-entry Programs
 - Drug Market Initiative
 - Seattle Youth Violence Prevention Initiative
 - DPR's Park Ranger Program

Further Analysis

- Determine whether programs should be added or removed.
- Determine whether organization of programs is helpful or if other options should be developed.
- Determine whether further study will be used to inform upcoming budget decisions.
- SLI's stated long-term goals of the review are to determine the following:
 - The best way to implement strategies that improve safety,
 - The most effective way to organize the efforts,
 - The leadership of the efforts, and
 - The desired outcomes and how the outcomes will be measured.