



Mayor Swearengin continues working to revitalize historically neglected neighborhoods in Fresno through the *Building Neighborhood Capacity Program* (BNCP) with support from Cross-Sector Partnership members such as the Housing Authority, Fresno County EOC, Fresno State, First 5, Fresno Unified, Wells Fargo and others. Mayor Swearengin expressed interest to the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (on behalf of the White House Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative) for resources to build capacity in five Fresno neighborhoods. As a result, Fresno was one of only four cities in the nation to be selected to participate in the pilot program.

The *BNCP* was designed to help low-income neighborhoods build the infrastructure and resources necessary to ensure families experience better results around education, employment, safety, housing, and other key areas. BNCP is intended to **catalyze community-driven change in neighborhoods** that have historically faced barriers to revitalization.

Persistently distressed neighborhoods often have a history of low or poorly targeted investments from the public and private sectors, may not be well-connected with institutions such as universities and hospitals, are far from economic vitality, experience high rates of crime and face many other possible barriers.

As these issues are all related, they must be addressed holistically. The goal of BNCP is to guide neighborhoods in further developing the knowledge, skills, relationships, interactions, and organizational resources that enable residents and other stakeholders to create achievable revitalization plans that meet the needs identified by residents.

With funding from the Departments of Education, Housing and Urban Development and Justice, BNCP began providing targeted technical assistance beginning in January 2013. The Cross-Sector Partnership has provided matching funds for this effort as well as an agreement to align resources, policies and to work collaboratively in the two neighborhoods selected by the Center for the Study of Social Policy. **El Dorado and Southwest** neighborhoods were selected for this 18-month program based on their levels of distress and commitment to building capacity around the essential elements of healthy neighborhoods. Beginning October 1, 2014 Fresno was invited to participate in a second round of funding for the continuation of BNCP, and to include a third neighborhood, **Yokomi**, through September, 2016.

BNCP support will guide the neighborhoods, and the cross-sector partnership working with them, to

- (1) Create and implement a resident-developed revitalization plan
- (2) Assist in the identification and completion of a learning-while-doing project,
- (3) Develop sustainable neighborhood associations, and
- (4) Make effective use of and attract a range of federal, state, and local resources.



## **BNCP in El Dorado Park: By the Numbers**

Fresno: El Dorado Park Population & Demographics		
	El Dorado Park	City
<b>Population*</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>500,819</b>
<b>Census Tracts (Block Groups)</b>	Tract 54.03 (all block groups)	
<b>Race</b>		
African American	22.2%	7.9%
White	51.4%	53.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.7%	1.0%
Asian	10.5%	12.8%
Pacific Islander	0%	0.2%
Other	10.4%	20.3%
Two or More Races	3.8%	4.7%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	39.0%	47.2%
White/Non-Hispanic or Latino	61.0%	52.8%
<b>Education</b>		
<HS Degree	24.8%	26.0%
HS Degree or Equivalent	32.1%	23.1%
<b>Economic Security</b>		
% Below Poverty Line	53.0%	23.4%
Unemployment	18.9%	15.7%
<b>Housing</b>		
% of Vacant Housing Units	9.1%	8.0%

## **BNCP in El Dorado Park: Key Players**

**Lead Agency:** City of Fresno

**Neighborhood Anchor Partner:** Wesley United Methodist Church; El Dorado Park Community Development Corporation

**Cross-Sector Partners:** City of Fresno (Mayor/City Manager's Office, Council District 3, Police Department, and Development and Resource Management Revitalization Division), Fresno Housing Authority, Fresno State University, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Wells Fargo, First Five of Fresno County, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno County Department of Public Health, United Way of Fresno County, Reading and Beyond (Fresno Promise Neighborhood), Fresno Regional Foundation and Habitat for Humanity of Fresno County

## Neighborhood Snapshot: SOUTHWEST (KIRK) - FRESNO

In 2012, the Southwest (Kirk) neighborhood in Fresno was selected as one of eight neighborhoods in four cities – Flint, MI; Fresno, CA; Memphis, TN; and Milwaukee, WI – to participate in the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP). BNCP is part of the Administration's place-based programming efforts, which includes the [Promise Zones](#) and [Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative](#). Recognizing the power of place to influence access to opportunity, BNCP seeks to catalyze community-driven change in neighborhoods that have historically faced barriers to revitalization.

BNCP focuses on building [community capacity](#): **the knowledge, skills, relationships, processes and resources** that neighborhood residents, local organizations and cross-sector partners need to work together to achieve better results in public safety, education, housing, employment and other key areas. In addition to diverse capacity building efforts, BNCP neighborhoods implement a "Learn by Doing" project and develop a neighborhood revitalization plan.

### BNCP in Southwest (Kirk): At a Glance

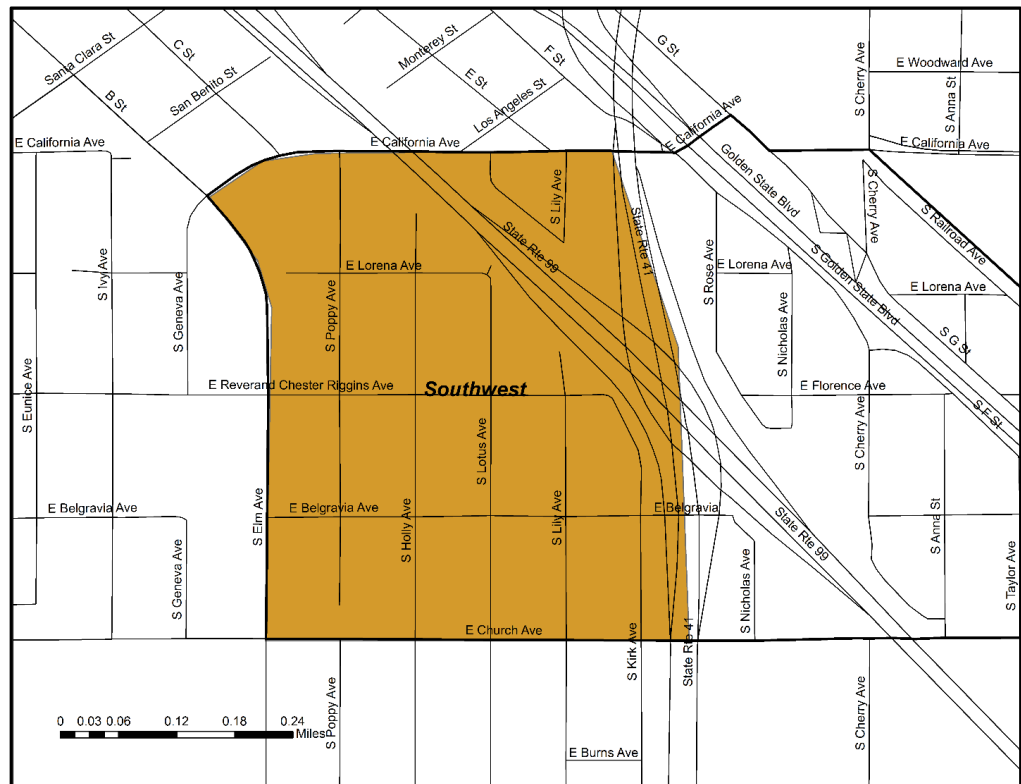
**Result Focus of Neighborhood Revitalization Plan:** Residents feel safe in their neighborhood and experience economic success.

**Initial Learn By Doing Project:** *Neighbors Helping Neighbors Clean-Up:* A series of events focused on cleaning troublesome alleys as identified by residents and data on the functioning of local streetlights.

#### Capacity Building Highlights:

- Building on strong partnerships with the City of Fresno, the Kirk neighborhood has increased its capacity to use data to drive the development and implementation of solutions. For

instance, concerns around streetlights led to residents creating and implementing their own surveys. Upon communicating information to the City of Fresno, this survey facilitated the repair of several streetlights in the community. A subsequent lighting issue addressed by residents of Action and Change resulted in more effective street lighting by trimming tree canopies. Action and Change is currently working on a blighted, exterior standards project.



Want to know more about Kirk? Contact the BNCP Team at [bncpinfo@cssp.org](mailto:bncpinfo@cssp.org)

## **BNCP in Southwest (Kirk): By the Numbers**

<b>Fresno: Southwest Population &amp; Demographics</b>		
	<b>Southwest (Kirk)</b>	<b>City</b>
<b>Population*</b>	<b>1,644</b>	<b>500,819</b>
<b>Census Tracts (Block Groups)</b>	Tract 11 (Block Group 2)	
<b>Race</b>		
African American	17.7%	7.9%
White	32.9%	53.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.3%	1.0%
Asian	1.8%	12.8%
Pacific Islander	0%	0.2%
Other	41.9%	20.3%
Two or More Races	5.2%	4.7%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	75.9%	47.2%
White/Non-Hispanic or Latino	24.1%	52.8%
<b>Education</b>		
<HS Degree	59.8%	26.0%
HS Degree or Equivalent	19.0%	23.1%
<b>Economic Security</b>		
% Below Poverty Line	40.2%	23.4%
Unemployment	22.7%	15.7%
<b>Housing</b>		
% of Vacant Housing Units	9.6%	8.0%

## **BNCP in Southwest (Kirk): Key Players**

**Lead Agency:** City of Fresno

**Neighborhood Anchor Partners:** West Fresno Family Resource Center, Kirk Elementary, and Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission - Local Conservation Corp, and Centro La Familia Advocacy Service

**Cross-Sector Partners:** City of Fresno (Mayor/City Manager's Office, Council District 3, Police Department, and Development and Resource Management Revitalization Division), Fresno Housing Authority, Fresno State, Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission, Wells Fargo, First Five of Fresno County, Fresno Unified School District, Fresno County Department of Public Health, United Way of Fresno County, Reading and Beyond (Fresno Promise Neighborhood), Fresno Regional Foundation and Habitat for Humanity of Fresno County

## **BNCP in Yokomi: By the Numbers**

<b>Fresno: Yokomi Population &amp; Demographics</b>		
	<b>Yokomi</b>	<b>City</b>
<b>Population*</b>	<b>4,348</b>	<b>500,819</b>
<b>Census Tracts (Block Groups)</b>	Tract 5.02 (3), Tract 6 (4), Tract 23 (1), Tract 24 (3)	
<b>Race</b>		
African American	10%	7.9%
White	41%	53.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	2%	1.0%
Asian	13%	12.8%
Pacific Islander	0%	0.2%
Other	34%	20.3%
Two or More Races	1%	4.7%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Hispanic or Latino	57%	47.2%
White/Non-Hispanic or Latino	43%	52.8%
<b>Education</b>		
<HS Degree	49.9%	26.0%
HS Degree or Equivalent	24.2%	23.1%
<b>Economic Security</b>		
% Below Poverty Line	56.2%	23.4%
Unemployment	16.1%	15.7%
<b>Housing</b>		
% of Vacant Housing Units	19.8%	8.0%

American Community Survey Data (ACS), 2009-2013

## **BNCP in Yokomi**

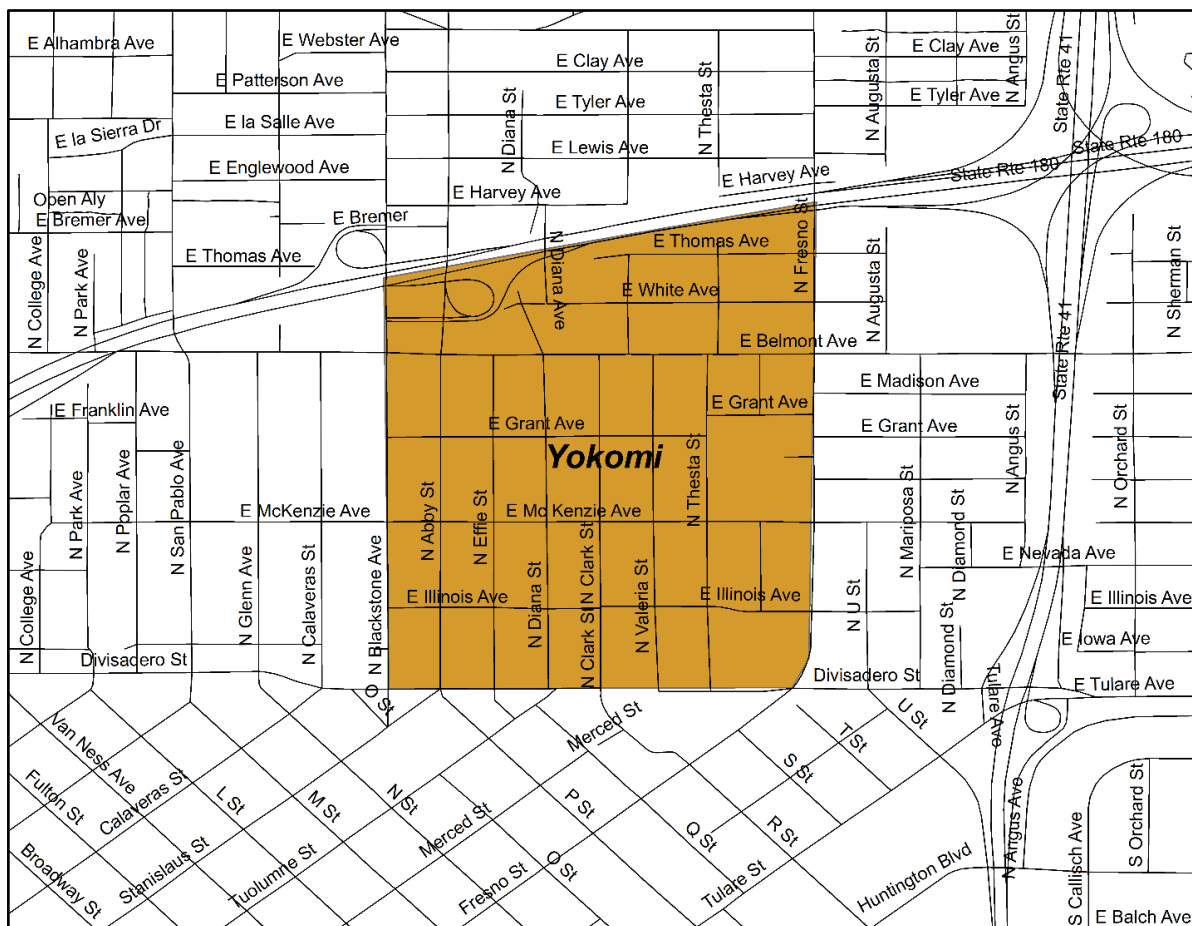


## Neighborhood Snapshot: YOKOMI - FRESNO

In 2014, the Yokomi neighborhood in Fresno was selected to participate in the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP). Yokomi joins the second cohort of BNCP neighborhoods in the following cities: Flint, MI; Fresno, CA; Memphis, TN and Milwaukee, WI.

BNCP is part of the Administration's place-based programming efforts, which includes the [Promise Zones](#) and [Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative](#). Recognizing the power of place to influence access to opportunity, BNCP seeks to catalyze community-driven change in neighborhoods that have historically faced barriers to revitalization.

BNCP focuses on building **community capacity**: the knowledge, skills, relationships, processes and **resources** that neighborhood residents, local organizations and cross-sector partners need to work together to achieve better results in public safety, education, housing, employment and other key areas. In addition to diverse capacity building efforts, BNCP neighborhoods implement a “Learn By Doing” project and develop a neighborhood revitalization plan.



Yokomi is one of the newest BNCP neighborhoods. While capacity building efforts have begun, Yokomi is currently in the assessment phase.

**Want to know more about Yokomi? Contact the BNCP Team at [bncpinfo@cssp.org](mailto:bncpinfo@cssp.org)**