



Senator Walter Rand Institute  
for Public Affairs

- Project Title:** Camden Safer Cities Initiative 2007 (CSCI)
- Project Funding:** Grant from the New Jersey State Parole Board (NJSPB)  
Previously funded by the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General (OAG)  
Proposal in draft form for future funding from OAG (New Law Enforcement Component)
- Funding Timeline:** July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008
- Role of WRI:** Neutral Convener  
Data Collection
- Program Goal:** Collaboratively address issues of public safety in Camden City
- Products:** Monthly Executive Committee Meetings  
Monthly Steering Committee Meetings  
Monthly Case Processing Working Group Meetings  
CSCI At-A-Glance Preliminary Analysis  
Steering Committee Briefing Reports

**Project Description:**

Originally conceived in 2002, the Camden Safer Cities Initiative was modeled after a project being administered by The Police Institute, Rutgers University – Newark. The program addresses offender reentry, the issues that affect the success of individuals returning from prison to the community, by collaboratively engaging the resources of criminal justice, law enforcement, community, faith-based, social service organizations. CSCI's leadership has decided to expand the scope of work of these collaborating partners, broadening the goals of CSCI to include public safety issues that are beyond the purview of offender reentry. WRI acts as a neutral convener for this project, currently convening 3 monthly meetings and collecting data for analysis of CSCI's specialized caseload. The caseload consists of parolees, juvenile parolees, and probationers, who meet a set of criteria meant to highlight those most at risk for involvement in a gun related assault.

**Future Work:**

CSCI's leadership has identified several issues that affect the quality of life for Camden's citizenry, which can be addressed by the collaborative:

- Overcrowding issues in the Camden County jail
- Effective and efficient parole and probation supervision
- Strategic and collaborative deployment of law enforcement resources
- Increasing the capacity to access data and information and the ability to effectively and timely communicate this information among agencies
- Alternative methods for combating the increasing prevalence of guns, gangs, and drug markets in Camden
- Strengthening community involvement in public safety and quality of life efforts in the city
- Recruit additional social services and more effectively link these services to ex-offenders and at-risk persons
- Strengthening ties between law enforcement and faith-based entities

WRI will continue to convene meetings of the Executive and Steering committees, while completing an internal evaluation and reporting on the extensive reentry efforts of the CSCI collaborative.

A proposal for further CSCI funding from the OAG is in draft form. The proposed project will focus on law enforcement projects that leverage the existing partnerships of CSCI to assist in the reduction of violent crime.