Appendix 2. Information Collection Resources

The Weed and Seed Strategy is a geographically based effort. As a result, applicants and grantees in their annual Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) reports must provide the boundaries for their designated areas along with crime and other program information specific to the community where their strategy is being implemented. The boundary information is used to create computer-based maps for each local community's designated area, which are displayed on the CCDO Weed and Seed Data Center Web site (www.weedandseed.info). Since many of the local sites do not conform to Census or other administrative boundaries, a software utility has been employed that produces detailed demographic data tables for each designated area using the computer-based maps and U.S. Census data files, along with commercially generated current-year population estimates.

Along with the local sites' designated area maps, the CCDO Weed and Seed Data Center Web site contains the custom demographic data tables and the most recent GPRA reports. The maps can be accessed interactively with user-selectable data layers showing Safe Haven locations, HUD-funded public housing, USGS aerial photos, and other administrative features such as state and local government boundaries, Census tracts, ZIP codes, and congressional districts. In addition to accessing information by local Weed and Seed Communities, users can obtain lists of sites by various characteristics. These capabilities require the use of computer mapping and spatial database software, national street- and base-related map files, and national demographic files.

For application review purposes, Data Profiles have been produced that compare the proposed designated areas for selected crime and demographic characteristics with their surrounding jurisdiction, region, and the entire United States. Applicants must provide their designated area boundaries and 3 years of crime data. Using the computer-based tools mentioned previously and national Census and crime data files, the Data Profiles are generated. This information provides some context for understanding the relative severity of the community conditions in locations being proposed for new Weed and Seed Communities. The distribution of these Data Profiles is limited to the applicants and CCDO staff and consultants.

Selected Resources for Crime Data

The U.S. Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is an important resource for crime data. Crime reports traditionally consist of monthly counts of offenses and arrests for certain offense categories. State and local agencies report these summary data to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. The top three crime problems indicated by UCR data are 1) homicide, 2) aggravated assault, and 3) robbery. The BJS Web site is an excellent resource about crime data http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/. The site also provides information that the FBI has been collecting on homicides through the Supplementary Homicide Reports for many years and has launched the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to provide additional information about crime that was comparable across jurisdictions and included more types of crime. BJS also has online crime-reported summary data as part of its *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics* and crime data from about 3,900 reporting local law enforcement agencies with population coverage of more than 10,000.

The National Archives of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) is an important resource for crime data used in research-based projects across the United States. The mission of the NACJD is to facilitate research in criminal justice and criminology, through the preservation, enhancement, and sharing of computerized data resources; through the production of original research based on archived data; and through specialized training workshops in quantitative analysis of crime and justice data. All of the research projects from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and many studies from the Bureau of Justice Statistics are archived here. NACJD has Resource Guides and Data available to cover the topics of Capital Punishment in the United States, Chicago Women's Health Risk Study, Expenditure and Employment for the Criminal Justice System, Geographical Information Systems, Homicide, Homicides in Chicago, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, National Corrections Reporting Program, National Crime Victimization Survey, National Incident-Based Reporting System, Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and Violence Against Women. The Web site is http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/.

NACJD is home to Web sites for two separately maintained programs: the Project for Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) and the Homicide Research Working Group (HRWG). The Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) is a large-scale, interdisciplinary study of how families, schools, and neighborhoods affect child and adolescent development. It was designed to advance the understanding of the developmental pathways of both positive and negative human social behaviors including the pathways to and away from juvenile delinquency, adult crime, substance abuse, and violence. At the same time, the project also provided a detailed look at the environments in which social behaviors take place by collecting substantial amounts of data about the people, institutions, and resources of urban Chicago (http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/PHDCN/). Data has been turned over to NACJD for the ongoing process of archiving and dissemination. The Homicide Research Working Group (HRWG), an interdisciplinary and international association of researchers and policy makers, was formed in 1991 to foster communication, coordination, and networking among people involved in the study of homicide. NACJD has been a frequent host for HRWG meetings and ICPSR maintains the HRWG website, which provides information on HRWG news, meetings, membership, and publications (www.icpsr.umich.edu/HRWG/mission.html).

UCR Data

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and archiving those statistics. Today, several annual statistical publications, such as the comprehensive *Crime in the United States*, are produced from data provided by nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies across the United States. For more information, see http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm#cius.

The Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety Program (MAPS), of the National Institute of Justice has on its Web site a listing of all law enforcement agencies across the United States that have online crime analysis mapping. Many of these sites contain data that is downloadable or can be requested. The URL is: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/links.html.

HUD also has an online system for downloading data for analysis about housing and economics called HUD User. HUD USER provides interested researchers with access to

the original electronic data sets generated by PD&R sponsored data collection efforts, including the American Housing Survey, HUD median family income limits, as well as micro data from research initiatives on topics such as housing discrimination, the HUD-insured multifamily housing stock, and the public housing population. The URL is: http://www.huduser.org/datasets/pdrdatas.html.

As a key partner in developing your Weed and Seed Strategy, *the local police department or local prosecutor should be approached to obtain local crime data for the designated area*. Today, police departments frequently use computer-mapped crime locations to delineate hot spots, or areas with high concentrations of crime. Highlighting such areas helps police direct patrols where they are most needed, thereby optimizing the deterrent effect of police presence. To learn more about crime mapping, visit the National Institute of Justice's Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety program Web site at: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/briefingbook.html#cd.

The Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) is a national nonprofit organization of state Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) directors, researchers, and practitioners throughout government, academia, and criminal justice organizations (http://www.jrsa.org/). Many of the individual SACs contain data from in state research projects on crime and criminal justice. A listing of Web sites for each SAC is available on the JRSA Web site. JRSA also maintains the online *Weed and Seed Data Center*: http://www.weedandseeddatacenter.org/.

Formula Grant State Administering Agencies

Many states have developed information and local data about crime as part of their use of formula funds received from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). To learn more about what local data systems may already be available to help your community plan crime prevention and neighborhood improvement strategies, contact your OJP state administering agency listed at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a program called the Neighborhood Networks. HUD created Neighborhood Networks in 1995 to encourage property owners to establish multi-service community learning centers in HUD insured and assisted properties. Neighborhood Networks was one of the first federal initiatives to promote self-sufficiency and help provide computer access to low-income housing communities. Neighborhood Networks centers help to improve computer access, advance literacy, prepare residents to take advantage of employment opportunities, and provide access to healthcare information and other social services. Information can be found at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/nnw/nnwindex.cfm.

Demographic/Economic and Social Neighborhood Indicators

U.S. Bureau of the Census provides the census data that is the most concise source for demographic data to describe your neighborhood. This Web site gives you many options for looking up local data: http://www.census.gov/main/www/cen2000.html.

One relatively easy way to obtain 2000 census data from this homepage is to use the box titled "*Enter a Street Address to Find Census 2000 Data.*" Once the address, city, state and ZIP code have been entered, you will be given the option to view data for the ZIP code, as well as the entire state, county, county subdivision, block/block group, and the census tract or the congressional district. The range of data that can be viewed

includes population, housing, and selected economic data. Maps can also be generated. In addition, one can select "*State and Local Quick Facts*" to compare county and state population and housing data in which the Weed and Seed designated area is located.

Unemployment

For updated unemployment statistics, please visit the U.S. Department of Labor Web site at http://data.bls.gov/cgi-bin/surveymost?la.

Additional Neighborhood Data Resources

Many local communities have already developed online information systems containing housing or crimes data to facilitate neighborhood analysis and planning. Check with your local police department, county or city community/housing development or planning office, or local United Way to see if this is available in your community.

See for example:

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: http://cml.upenn.edu/projects/nis.asp.

St. Paul Minnesota Police Department: http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/police/ca_1.html#Main_top.

Franklin County, Ohio: http://www.communityresearchpartners.org/htm/services2.cfm?projectcats_id=3&projects_id=12

Denver, Colorado: http://www.denvergov.org/Focus_Neighborhoods/template22122.asp

Cleveland, Ohio: http://povertycenter.cwru.edu/urban_poverty/dev/cando/whatis_cando.asp

Urban Institute — National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership

The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) is a collaborative effort by the Urban Institute and local partners to further the development and use of neighborhood information systems in local policymaking and community building (http://www.urban.org/nnip/about.html).

Selected Online Publications

Gathering and Presenting Information About Your Neighborhood, LISC Center for Home Ownership: http://www.liscnet.org/resources/2001/09/neighborhood_541.shtml?Affordable+Housing

Community Based Neighborhood Planning: A Step-by-Step, How-to Guide, Enterprise Foundation: http://www.enterprisefoundation.org/resources/ERD/browse.asp?c=31

Where to Get Neighborhood Data for Planning: http://www.nhi.org/resource/data.html