

## Overview

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The goal of Neighbors in Action is to build safer and healthier communities for all. Through our programming in the Brooklyn, New York, neighborhoods of Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant, we work to create communities where violence is neither needed nor wanted, neighbors have increased autonomy and decision-making capabilities, and the people who want to lead have the skills to do so.

### Initiatives

In its two locations (Crown Heights and Bedford-Stuyvesant), Neighbors in Action operates five overlapping and mutually-supportive initiatives:

- **Promoting Community Safety**

We mobilize local residents to promote peace and safety. The **Save Our Streets** program, which takes a public health approach to ending gun violence, has been documented to reduce shootings.

- **Healing**

The **Make It Happen** program gives participants (all of whom are young men who have experienced violence) the tools they need to overcome trauma and succeed. All programming takes into consideration collective or historical trauma and resilience in order to heal.

- **Aiding Neighbors**

We open our doors to anyone who wants to come in for help. Our services include helping people find jobs, apply for benefits, and access basic services. Through the **Legal Hand** program, we train local residents to provide legal information to their neighbors so they can resolve housing, family, immigration, and other issues. There is also an on-site lawyer who provides free legal assistance to community members.

- **Investing in Young People**

We seek to engage local young people in meaningful educational, recreational, and artistic opportunities. Through **YO S.O.S.**, we train teens to become peer leaders. We also help prepare young adults for the world of work through **Justice Community Plus**. Leadership opportunities are available for alumni to continue their engagement with Neighbors in Action.

- **Placemaking**

We seek to improve the physical environment in ways that promote safety and public access. By helping to implement the **Mayor's Action Plan for Neighborhood Safety**, we are engaging public housing tenants in improving the community. Our annual activities including street festivals, arts campaigns, and events on the sidewalks and parks to transform everyday spaces into ones that are joyful, healthy, and engaging.

### Organizational Background

Neighbors in Action (formerly known as the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center) is a program of the Center for Court Innovation, a public-private partnership between the Fund for the City of New York and the New York State Unified Court System.