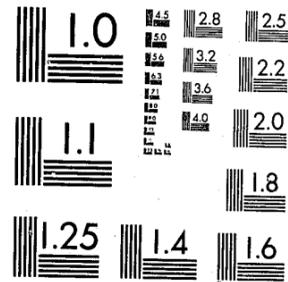


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MISSISSIPPI ACTION FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION  
COMMUNITY ANTI-CRIME PROGRAM  
FINAL NARRATIVE REPORT

Mississippi Action for Community Education, Inc. (MACE) received a grant in the amount of \$249,945 from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) in September, 1978. MACE utilized these funds to establish and operate for an eighteen month period a Community Anti-Crime Program (CACP) in the following eight counties in the Mississippi Delta: Holmes, Humphreys, Madison, Panola, Quitman, Tallahatchie, Washington and Sharkey-Issaquena (Sharkey and Issaquena counties are considered as one since they are contiguous and sparsely populated).

The counties served are rural in character, with a predominantly Black population, and constitute one of the most chronically impoverished areas of the county. MACE, a nationally recognized leader in the field of rural community and economic development, designed its Community Anti Crime Program to achieve the following general goals:

- (1) To organize and mobilize residents of local communities and neighborhoods into organizations that could effectively implement, supervise, and evaluate anti-crime projects within their respective communities and neighborhoods;
- (2) To promote and develop community identity and capabilities to successfully exert local controls over the incidence of crime;

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- (3) To develop mutually self-serving relationships and improve cooperation between neighborhood residents and local criminal justice agencies that would lead to more effective crime control;
- (4) To integrate anti-crime efforts into on-going community development activities so as to further a comprehensive self help program for local community agencies that would act as crime deterrents; and,
- (5) To reduce crime rates and victimization among neighborhood and community residents.

This report summarizes the efforts of MACE's Community Anti-Crime Program during the grant period. Each program component is described in terms of the problems addressed, its goals and objectives, and its major activities and achievements. The report concludes with a review of the problems encountered by MACE during the grant period and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program with respect to the above-stated goals.

COMMUNITY ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

A major problem affecting crime prevention efforts on rural areas is the lack of communication between law enforcement personnel, other community leaders and local residents concerning crime prevention issues and community needs. This problem is compounded by the physical isolation of rural communities, many of which have no local law enforcement personnel, and of rural residents themselves, who must often leave their residences for extended periods of time just to go to work or go shopping.

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The goal of this program component was to establish in each target county as a core group of volunteers, representing a cross-section of the community and including law enforcement personnel, that would serve as County Anti-Crime Commissions. The specific objectives for each of the commissions were to increase communication between law enforcement personnel and local residents, to moderate community resources in the public meetings to achieve these purposes and to facilitate community discussion of various crime prevention issues.

Another function of the commissions was the sponsoring of educational workshops on specific crime prevention topics in local communities. A total of twelve different workshops concepts were organized and presented, with the total of over seventy (70) workshops attracted over 3,700 participants during the grant period (see Appendix II). These workshops were instrumental in bringing together community residents from various backgrounds to discuss crime prevention problems.

The commissions also surveyed community attitudes toward law enforcement agencies, the courts, and the correctional system, assessing local police-community relations and encouraging discussion of local issues. Each commission developed an action plan to address community crime prevention issues and conducted in formal surveys of the public's perception of the program. Finally, the

commissions were helpful in publicizing the program throughout the target area by designing press releases, and radio and television spots.

The Community Anti-Crime Commissions have fulfilled their intended roles as catalysts for focusing community interest and action on crime prevention issues. They have proven to be a valuable addition to the communities served, representing the first extensive effort to provide anti-crime education, information and training for the rural poor, a constituency most often victimized, and most vulnerable to criminal activities.

The commissions were also the first productive efforts to bring the local community residents and law enforcement personnel together in a non-adversary setting to address development of effective rural crime prevention strategies, and to serve as forums for community discussions of crime prevention issues. The commissions also aided in publicizing the efforts of other program components and in presenting the program to the general public.

The MACE Training Department selected an area or county coordinator for each of the eight target counties, and provided those employees with basic education and training in community organizing techniques as well as specific crime prevention issues, programs and techniques. The area coordinators then returned to their local counties and

began recruitment and training of volunteers to serve on the county commissions. The training of the area coordinators was completed in December, 1979, and all local commissions were established by the end of January, 1979.

The area coordinators were very successful in recruiting the broad cross-section of local residents, community leaders and law enforcement personnel required to insure extensive community involvement and interaction between various community groups (See Appendix I). Those commissions represented the first significant regional effort to organize residents at the grassroots community level to specifically address crime prevention problems.

Once established, the commissions moved aggressively to mobilize community resources for crime prevention efforts to channel community input into the program, and to develop program initiatives that would identify and respond to community needs. The commissions held monthly crime prevention issues and their common problems. They have created an increased awareness among local residents of these issues and problems and have provided residents with new skills and tools with which they can combat rural crime. Finally, the commission allow the local communities an opportunity to institutionalize the activities of MACE's Community Anti-Crime Program in a relatively inexpensive manner now that LEAA funding has been discontinued.

#### RESIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL SECURITY

The goal of this component was to improve the residential and personal security of target area residents by maximizing the use of appropriate crime prevention techniques. The component activities were implemented through local teams of volunteers recruited and trained by the area coordinator within each county. Community education on security techniques as well as physical improvement of residences was included in the program activities.

Each area coordinator was responsible for recruitment and training of local leaders to supervise program activities. These area leaders were then responsible for recruiting a team of volunteers (at least three volunteers per locality). Many volunteers were then responsible for recruiting a team of volunteers (at least three volunteers per locality). Many volunteers were recruited from former participants in MACE-sponsored Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and Youth Community Conservation and Improvement Programs (YCCIP). The county coordinators also relied extensively on the network of established community leaders and community organizing activists that has been put together in each county by the local MACE affiliated organizations and local leadership development trainees.

Once the volunteer teams were formed, specific program activities included physical improvement of residences to

reduce burglaries, introduction of identifax property marking kits into the target area, and general community education activities on crime prevention techniques and community input into the criminal justice system. Area coordinators developed and maintained records of requests for assistance and the types of services rendered. A total of over 100 volunteers completed over 1,300 residential security improvement projects during the grant period, including installation of doors, locks, and window screens and bars (see Appendix III).

The volunteer teams also worked with the county anti-crime commissions and the local MACE affiliates to publicize the project activities. A workshop on residential security was developed and presented a total of thirteen times in seven counties, attracting over 450 total participants. Volunteers also disseminated literature on residential security techniques throughout the communities they served.

The improvements made to local residents greatly enhanced the personal security of over 1300 individuals, the most of whom are poor and Black, and reside in rural areas. The literature distributed by program personnel, as well as the workshops that reached over 450 participants, served to educate rural residents on home security techniques.

Practically all individuals served expressed their appreciation for the improvements and felt that they would be safer and more secure in the future.

#### CRIME PREVENTION AND THE RURAL ELDERLY

Due to their particular vulnerability, the rural elderly constituted a special target group within the MACE service area. The average elderly rural person lives alone, is poor, and often has no direct access to a telephone or transportation. Their relative isolation makes them most sought after and the most vulnerable targets of residential and personal criminal activity. The rural elderly live in constant fear of victimization.

The MACE Community Anti-Crime Program sought to reduce the alienation and fear of theft and assault among the elderly by providing crime prevention education, related information, and other services to reduce the potential for crime against the elderly population. Workshops and information sessions were held in places where the elderly congregate such as churches, nutrition and elderly recreation centers, and other community gathering points as well as in their homes. Educational materials were developed and disseminated concerning street crime, burglary, fraud, bunco schemes and community-police relations. Local police were made aware of the particular needs of elderly residents by program volunteers. MACE, in addition, developed a dial-a-ride and escort service for elderly residents that allowed

the elderly the opportunity to travel, unmolested, the great distances between their homes and important social service and recreational facilities. This escort service served almost 4,000 individual clients.

MACE explored methods of interfacing this aspect of the program with other programs which focus on the elderly. A Crime Awareness Program was developed by the MACE area coordinators and crime commissions in cooperation with the National Retired Teachers Association and the Association of Retired Persons. This program offered information on street crimes, burglary prevention techniques, fraud and bunco schemes, and community/police relations.

MACE also integrated aspects of these educational programs and issues into its Right to Read Literacy Program for adults and several congregate meals services programs operated by MACE and its affiliated organizations. Efforts were made to simplify procedures for clients receiving welfare, social security and other benefits to reduce opportunities for crimes. About 1000 clients were assisted by program volunteers in the processing of welfare and other benefit claims.

This component reached a significant member of the rural elderly within the target area and provided them with a wide range of educational and related services which allowed them to more adequately understand and cope with crime prevention issues. It also served to make local

elderly residents aware of other programs that can provide them with services and related benefits.

#### JUVENILE CRIME PREVENTION

A separate component was also designated to focus on the specific issues involved in reducing criminal activities by juveniles. A variety of program activities was proposed, including recreational services, individual counseling, community involvement, and adult supervision. Objectives included identifying and counseling youths who habitually commit minor crimes, increasing community involvement with youth courts and foster homes, and establishing youth organizations in each county to work for community development issues that affect juveniles, such as recreational services.

Two primary program activities emerged under the component. Volunteers were recruited and a counseling and advocacy program was established that utilized the services of the local MACE affiliates, social service organizations, schools, and personnel in the criminal justice system. Counseling services were offered in both individual and group sessions. Issues raised by juvenile crime were also discussed in county commission meetings. Each county also established a youth organization to provide an avenue for input into community development processes by youths. Participation was excellent, and youths now take more visible

roles in trying to improve recreational and other community resources. The proposed activities with respect to establishing more foster homes was abandoned due to the excessive state requirements for such homes.

The establishment of a viable youth organization in each county has been a valuable addition to the structure of the local MACE affiliates, as well as serving to involve youths in community issues. The youth organizations have begun to expand their activities after the expiration of the LEAA grant period. Greater communication between youths and various service agencies was also observed.

#### PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

The first problem affecting the implementation of the proposed project activities was the fact that the rural character of the service area and the community organizing approach to the program required a much slower implementation process than that projected. The proposed two-month process of training personnel and then recruiting, training and organizing community volunteers took from four to six months. The slow start was to some degree overcome, however, by the success of all program components once they were fully implemented.

A second major problem arises in the evaluation stage of the program. The complete absence of statistical data

on crime in rural areas allows no chance for the traditional comparison of crime rates, reported crimes and other data both before and after the program. MACE sought to alleviate this problem by providing measurable programmatic objectives which, to a great degree, were attained by the program.

The only programmatic problem was the inability of program personnel to effectively increase the number of families participating in foster home programs. As previously mentioned, this was primarily due to the stringent state requirements on licensing of foster homes. Most of the clients served by the MACE program could not meet the income or residential standards, and this effort had to be abandoned during the grant period.

#### PRINCIPAL FINDINGS AND RESULTS

The MACE Community Anti-Crime Program was essentially an effort to organize local rural communities to actively identify and address crime prevention issues. Practically all major programmatic objectives were achieved during the grant period. When received in light of its stated original goals, the MACE program has been a complete success throughout the communities that have been served.

Local community residents and neighborhood groups were effectively mobilized into organizations, the County Anti-Crime Commissions, that took an active role in implementing, supervising and evaluating anti-crime projects within their

respective communities. The total community capability and desire to successfully exert local controls over the incidence of crime was increased dramatically by all program activities.

Numerous self-serving relationships were developed between neighborhood residents and local criminal justice personnel and agencies through the commissions and participation in the various workshops. This increased communication will lead to more effective crime control techniques and better community relations.

Practically all program activities were successfully integrated into on-going community development activities sponsored by MACE and other organizations. Local MACE affiliates actively participated in program activities and have incorporated some activities, such as the youth organizations into their permanent local development strategies. Although there is no statistical data on rural crime, all comments by community residents, local leaders, and law enforcement personnel have been supportive and appreciative of the efforts of the MACE Community Anti-Crime Program in developing safer communities and providing increased personal security for residents throughout the area served.

APPENDIX I:  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

A. Law Enforcement and Related Personnel

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>     | <u>POSITION</u>                                    |
|---------------|-----------------|--|
| Washington    | Walter Swain    | County Attorney                                    |
| Washington    | Arthur Jansma   | Judge  |
| Washington    | Abraham Ford    | Chief Probation Officer<br>County Youth Court      |
| Humphreys     | Ramey Jones     | Chief of Police, Belzoni,<br>MS                    |
| Washington    | Charles Robb    | Attorney   |
| Madison       | Hurbert Roberts | Chief of Police, Flora, MS                         |
| Madison       | Zenora Garrett  | Justice Court Judge<br>Chief of Police, Canton, MS |

APPENDIX I:  
 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
 ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

A. Community Leader

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>        |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Quitman       | Rev. Carl Brown    |
| Quitman       | James Figgs        |
| Quitman       | Sylvester Reed     |
|               | Rev. S.A. Allen    |
|               | Samuel McCray      |
|               | Rev. Ezra Towner   |
|               | Rev. Willie Malone |
| Humphreys     | Aaron Hazelwood    |
|               | George Hooper      |
|               | Ernest White       |
| Panola        | C.J. Williams      |
|               | Ruth Cox           |
| Holmes        | Richard West       |
|               | Rev. C.L. Clark    |
| Madison       | Lander Cheeks      |
|               | Hezekiah Brown     |
| Tallahatchie  | Walter Hawkins     |

APPENDIX I:  
 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
 ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>      |
|---------------|------------------|
| Humphreys     | Shirley Gowdy    |
|               | Mary L. Thomas   |
|               | Admiral Liddell  |
|               | Bobby Weathers   |
|               | Arvell Bullock   |
|               | J.A. Jones       |
|               | Lenora Sutton    |
|               | Pattie Hazelwood |
|               | R.B. Harris      |
|               | Myrtis Foster    |

APPENDIX I:  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

COUNTY

Holmes

NAME  
Richard West  
Pearlene Snow  
Shirley Frizell  
Willie Wiley  
Rev. C.L. Clark  
Katie Jordon  
Otha Hoover

APPENDIX I:  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

COUNTY

Madison County

NAME  
Cindy Lucas  
Chief Bill Brissett  
A.E. Crawford  
Sterling Jones  
Chief Hurbert Roberts  
Landers Cheeks  
R.H. Rouser  
Jess Hawkins  
Anthony Hillard  
Millard Ceamon  
McAuthor Williamson  
Zenora Garriett  
Henry Simmons  
Herman Burrell  
Barbara Cole

APPENDIX I:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>        |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Panola        | Velma Kimons       |
|               | Annie Morning      |
|               | Belinda Morris     |
|               | Evelyn P. Patton   |
|               | Marie N. Leggette  |
|               | Robert Clark       |
|               | Rosie Presley      |
|               | Charles McClelland |
|               | Ulysses Pride, Jr. |
|               | Robert Avant       |

APPENDIX I:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>        |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Quitman       | Sallie Y. White    |
|               | Lillie T. Davis    |
|               | Shirley Edwards    |
|               | Katherine Benson   |
|               | Robert Manience    |
|               | Queenie Sims       |
|               | Maggie Glover      |
|               | Sarah Ward         |
|               | Christine Williams |
|               | Jimmy Edwards, Jr. |
|               | J.D. McAdory       |
|               | Jimmy Matthews     |
|               | Tommy Young        |
|               | Callie Woods       |

APPENDIX I:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>        |
|---------------|--------------------|
| Sharkey       | Robert Morganfield |
|               | Ethel Booker       |
|               | Howard Clay        |
|               | King T. Evans, Jr. |
|               | T. J. Bell, Jr.    |
|               | Jennie Flemming    |
|               | Percy Lewis, Jr.   |
|               | Otis Parker        |
|               | Theodore Bell, Jr. |
|               | King T. Evans, Sr. |
|               | Rev. Elijah Lewis  |
|               | E. B. Williams     |
|               | Emma Morris        |
|               | Peggy Boston       |

APPENDIX I:

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

| <u>COUNTY</u> | <u>NAME</u>           |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Tallahatchie  | Joe L. Tennyson       |
|               | W.L. Brewer           |
|               | Mary M. Taylor        |
|               | James Batteast        |
|               | Evesta Green          |
|               | Johnny B. Thomas      |
|               | Walter L. Dailey, Jr. |
|               | Charles M. George     |
|               | Walter Hawkins        |
|               | Jerome Little         |
|               | Ronald Scott          |

APPENDIX I:  
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN COUNTY  
ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

C. Local Residents

COUNTY

Washington

NAME

John Richardson  
Earl McClendon  
Larry Dreher  
Arthur Jansma  
Paul Artman, Jr.  
Wilburn Lord  
Abraham Ford  
Alice Rogers  
John Milam  
Hezikah Brown  
W.C. Smiley  
Charles Robb  
Riley Winters  
William A. Williamson

M = MONTH  
A = ATTENDANCE

II. PAST PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENT: COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS SPONSORED  
BY COUNTY ANTI-CRIME COMMISSIONS

Counties and Dates of Presentations

| Title of Workshop  | Holmes          |    | Humphreys   |    | Madison      |    | Panola    |     | Quitman      |     | Sharkey/<br>Issaquena |    | Tallahatchie |    | Washington   |     | TOTAL |   |
|--|-----------------|----|-------------|----|--------------|----|-----------|-----|--------------|-----|-----------------------|----|--------------|----|--------------|-----|-------|---|
|  | M               | A  | M           | A  | M            | A  | M         | A   | M            | A   | M                     | A  | M            | A  | M            | A   | M     | A |
| Juvenile Crime Prevention  | Apr.            | 30 | April       | 75 | May & Oct.   | 75 | -         |     | Nov.         | 50  | April                 | 75 | May          | 50 | May & Nov.   | 100 | 9     |   |
| Alcohol and Drug Abuse   | May             | 60 | Sept.       | 65 | June & Nov.  | 70 | May       | 40  | May          | 40  | Oct. & Nov.           | 75 | June & Nov.  | 50 | June         | 75  | 12    |   |
| Residential/Personal Safety  | June/Sept. 10th | 50 | June & July | 70 | -            |    | June      | 50  | June & July  | 70  | June & July           | 60 | July         | 40 | April & July | 125 | 13    |   |
| Youth Recreational Programs  | -               |    | May         |    | Dec.         |    | April     |     | April        |     | May                   |    | -            |    | -            |     | 5     |   |
| Crime and the Rural Elderly  | Nov. & Dec.     | 50 | -           |    | April & July | 75 | July      | 50  | Sept. & Oct. | 60  | -                     |    | April & Oct. | 60 | -            |     | 9     |   |
| Monitoring Police/Court Services                                     | July & Aug.     | 50 | Sept.       | 45 | -            |    | -         |     | -            |     | Sept.                 | 40 | Sept.        | 40 | -            |     | 5     |   |
| Property Marking Programs  | -               |    | Aug.        | 50 | -            |    | -         |     | Aug.         | 60  | Aug.                  | 60 | Aug.         | 40 | Aug.         | 20  | 5     |   |
| Bunco Schemes/Con Artists  | -               |    | -           |    | Aug.         | 75 | Aug.      | 50  | -            |     | -                     |    | -            |    | -            |     | 2     |   |
| Juvenile Delinquency   | -               |    | -           |    | Sept.        | 75 | Dec.      | 60  | -            |     | -                     |    | -            |    | -            |     | 2     |   |
| Physical Improvement Programs  | -               |    | -           |    | -            |    | -         |     | -            |     | -                     |    | -            |    | Sept.        |     | 1     |   |
| Crime in the Schools   | -               |    | -           |    | -            |    | Oct./Nov. | 300 | -            |     | -                     |    | -            |    | Oct.         | 20  | 3     |   |
| Neighborhood Watch Programs  | -               |    | -           |    | -            |    | -         |     | Dec.         | 100 | -                     |    | -            |    |              |     | 2     |   |
| County Totals: Workshops and Attendance (3rd, 4th, and 5th quarters) | 9               |    | 9           |    | 9            |    | 8         |     | 9            |     | 9                     |    | 8            |    |              |     | 71    |   |



**END**