

# Project Central Voice

## OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH REPORT

MAY 30, 2018

PRESENTATION BY: DEBORAH BLANKS

ON BEHALF OF PCV TEAM

# PCV Structure: Operations Project Team

- ▶ **Marketing Committee**

- ▶ Tony Courtney
- ▶ Fred Royal
- ▶ Earl Ingram
- ▶ Clayborn Benson

- ▶ **Research Committee**

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| ▶ Jacqueline Hudson | Harold Hudson   |
| ▶ Richard Clark     | Marques Hogans  |
| ▶ Samuel Holland    | Katie Pritchard |
| ▶ Ben Watson        | Deborah Blanks  |

- ▶ **Funded By Greater Milwaukee Foundation Racial Equity Grant**

# Focus of Project Central Voice

## ► Specific:

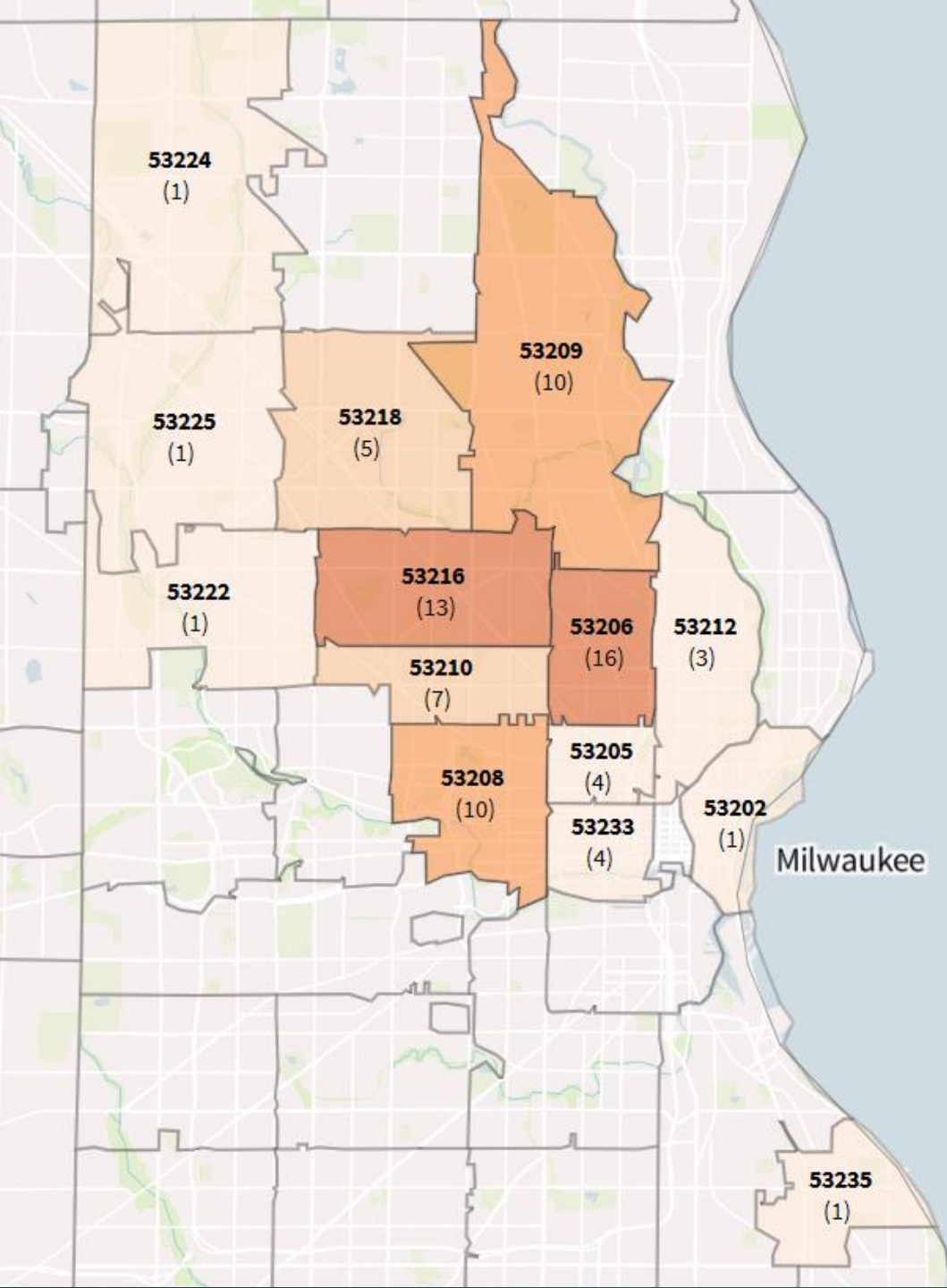
- Listen to the voices of African American residents, community based organization(cbo) leaders, and CDBG funded cbo leaders
- Review City of Milwaukee's Community Development Grant Administration's Community Development Block Grant category of Strategic Planning/Community Organizing/Crime Prevention
- Identify black-led organizations working in the African American community.

# Research Questions

- ▶ What factors promote or prevent the delivery of quality human services in the African American community?
- ▶ How does black agency impact the African American community?
- ▶ What strategy supports the rebuilding of black agency/the infrastructure of the Black community?

# Research Plan

- ▶ Interviews
  - ▶ Residents
  - ▶ Leaders of Community Based Organizations
  - ▶ City Officials
- ▶ Data/Document Analysis
  - ▶ City of Milwaukee CDBG Documents
  - ▶ CDBG Funded Agency's Documents
- ▶ Data Collection
  - ▶ Black-Led Agency Information



Residents interviewed for Project Central Voices lived within Milwaukee, primarily on the north side.

Neighborhood Strategic Revitalization Area #1

75% of residents in low/moderate income bracket. Population: 210,000

High concentration of African Americans residents

# Profile of Residents Interviewed (90)

- ▶ Adults ages 18 and up
- ▶ 53% were males
- ▶ 62% were renters
- ▶ 70% had annual incomes of less than \$25,000;
- ▶ 45% had annual incomes of less than \$15,000
- ▶ 35% were employed; 30% were retired; 20% were unemployed
- ▶ Almost 50% had not pursued education beyond high school degree
- ▶ 68% had participated in at least one CDBG type activity



# Key Areas: Themes and Data

- ▶ Power/Inclusion
- ▶ Funding
- ▶ Representation/Community Connection
- ▶ Grassroots vs. Government Led Initiatives



# Theme: Power/Inclusion

- ▶ We've become almost disempowered somehow. We don't believe that we have the power to make a difference...there's hopelessness that permeates our community."



Community Resident

# Data: Power/Inclusion

- ▶ City has a prescribed list of activities that agencies are required to implement: hire a community organizer, hold block watches; establish block clubs, report nuisance property, drug houses, etc. Organizations also create plans that include other strategies.
- ▶ CDBG created a Strategic Planning Committee with members from cross sectors. Fewer than 25% of the individuals on the Strategic Planning Committee which is consulted regarding plan development were African Americans.
- ▶ CDBG holds meetings in the neighborhoods to garner resident input. Milwaukee is recognized for holding many, more than 20 meetings to garner resident input. The process has a predetermined list of priorities; residents can add ideas to it.

# Theme: Funding



**“It almost feels like a conscious effort to disempower black-run organizations.”**

CBO Leader

# 2016 CDBG Strategic Planning/ Community Organizing/ Crime Prevention

Neighborhood Strategic Revitalization Area #1

75% of residents in low/moderate income bracket. Population: 210,000

High concentration of African Americans residents

Neighborhood Strategic Planning Areas (16) -	\$ 720,000
Community Partners	200,000
Crime Prevention	140,910
Total Funding	\$1,060,910

# 2016 CDBG Funds: Black Led Organizations

- ▶ Black led organizations received these funds for Strategic Planning, Community Organizing and Crime Prevention in 2016:
  - ▶ 25% of the \$720,000 awarded for work in the 16 Neighborhood Service (NSP) Areas.
  - ▶ 19% of the \$1,060,910 overall funding awarded for the category of Community Organizing/Crime Prevention.

# Theme: Representation/Community Connection

- ▶ “Most organizations receiving CDBG funding... at dusk they are trying to get out of town.”



Community Resident

# CDBG and Representation: White leadership/Black residents

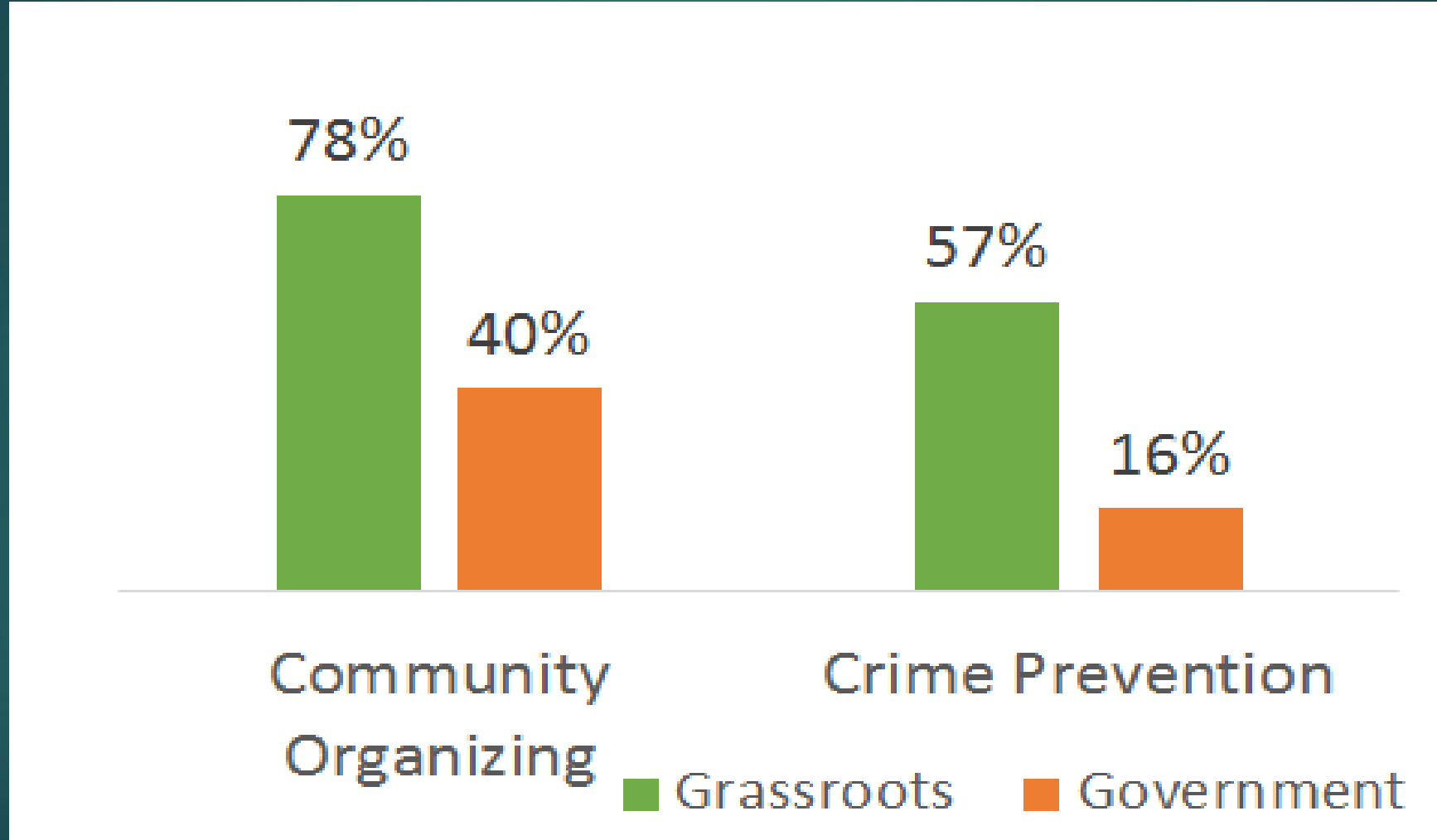
- ▶ In 2014 an NSP area,
  - ▶ 88% residents are African American; executive is White male and board was 64% White.
  - ▶ 79% residents were African American; executive of CBO was White female and board was 82% White.
- ▶ In 2016, agency that received 40% of the funding had executive that was a White female and 73% of the board was White.



# Finding: Grassroots efforts were rated “Good” or “Great” more than Government efforts\*

Based on

Ratings by residents familiar with concepts of “grassroots and “government led”.



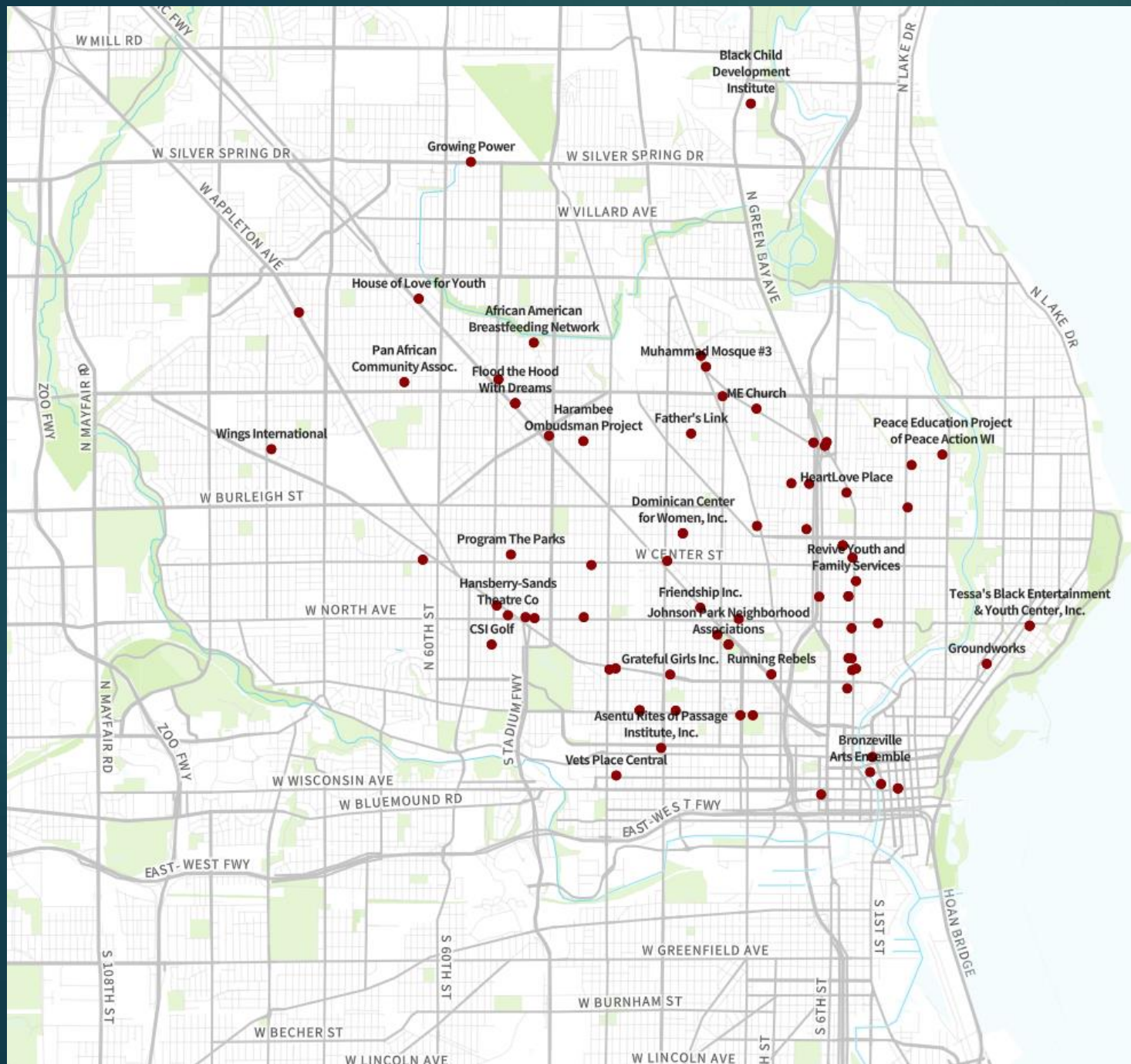
# Community Organizing: Government versus Grassroots

## Government Led (Mainstream)

- ▶ Benevolence and Paternalism
- ▶ Social Control -Acculturation
- ▶ White Framing - Cultural
- ▶ White Superiority/Solipsism
- ▶ Deficit based Approach
- ▶ Funding Opportunities
- ▶ Political Clout
- ▶ Top Down
- ▶ Eurocentric Philosophy/Curriculum
- ▶ Remedy- Basic Needs, Incremental

## Black Led (Grassroots)

- ▶ Mutual Aid and Black Agency
- ▶ Commitment to community
- ▶ Counter Framing – Systemic Racism
- ▶ Double Consciousness
- ▶ Asset based Approach
- ▶ Limited Funding
- ▶ Do the work but don't get paid
- ▶ Bottoms Up
- ▶ Afrocentric Philosophy/Curriculum
- ▶ Remedy – Structural, Timely



## Milwaukee Organizations and Churches lead by African Americans (Executive and Board leadership)

We have listed nonprofit agencies where African American individuals have indicated that they are the leaders of the organization and where applicable we have identified that the majority of the Board members are African American.

Our list includes community based organizations and churches.

With comments or questions, please contact Jaqueline Hudson at:  
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☐ Show Churches

Prepared by

**DATA YOU CAN USE**



Updated April 3, 2018

# Black Agency, not Benevolence

- ▶ Cornell West: “The historic role that African American organizations have played in the black community is “to promote techniques of survival and to serve as a buffer against hopelessness and nihilism.”
- ▶ Edward Wilmoth Blythe: “Every race has a soul and the soul of a race find its expression in its institutions.”
- ▶ David Rothman: “We can not truly do good for someone, if we are unwilling to do so on their terms not ours.

# Recommendations

2017

- ▶ Value, utilize and support black-led organizations for their cultural competency and their ability to work effectively in African American community.
- ▶ Invest in Rebuilding African American Community Infrastructure
- ▶ Revamp CDBG to improve racial equity and inclusion, ensuring high quality, effective services to African American residents and community.

2018

- ▶ Create a mutual aid network to support the development of black-led organizations. Support development of black led organizations.