

Citizen Corps Work Group 2017 Annual Report

2017 has been a busy year for the Citizen Corps Work Group. Most prominently, the CCWG executed a \$35,000 contract with Jill Missal, LLC to develop the CERT Regional Plan (CERT stands for Community Emergency Response Teams; in Portland, these are known as Neighborhood Emergency Teams or NETs).



Funded under UASI FY'15, the CERT Regional Plan is a project to collect data on the status of all CERT programs in the RDPO region and propose a series of goals that area CERT programs can organize and collaborate on. Those goals might include shared program resources, joint events, and common training and instruction standards. Missal conducted interviews of all CERT coordinators around the region, and recently submitted a draft plan, including a set of recommendations, to the CCWG for review.

During the year, the CCWG also began revising its Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to reflect regional goals and problem solving. The SOP update will be completed once the group agrees on which recommendations from the CERT Regional Plan to adopt. The CCWG also acknowledges the need for common metrics across all Citizen Corps programs in the region. Once agreed upon, those metrics (and reporting them) will also be included in the SOP.

Members of the CCWG know anecdotally that their programming is experiencing significant growth and momentum; though, as we have yet to develop universal metrics and reporting, it is difficult to say exactly how much. Nonetheless, the CCWG has changed substantially over the past years from a work group that meets only to find the most equitable way of dividing up resources to a work group that cultivates regional goals and initiatives with the resources available. Public interest in Citizen Corps programming drives this evolution, and public feedback will be a crucial part of how CCWG offers programming in 2018 and the years to follow.

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