DETROIT PARTNERSHIP ON ECONOMIC MOBILITY

The Partnership on Economic Mobility between Poverty Solutions and the City of Detroit is a joint effort to identify and implement concrete, evidence-based strategies that significantly improve economic opportunity and reduce poverty in Detroit.

Partnership projects are already underway pairing dozens of U-M experts with the leadership of City departments including Health, Workforce, Housing and Revitalization, Jobs and Economy, and Police.

U-M partners with the City to serve three critical roles (examples in bullets):

1. ADVISE CITY OFFICIALS ON EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC MOBILITY OF DETROITERS.

   - U-M experts in urban planning are partnering with Housing and Revitalization to identify Detroit housing units subject to loss of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) benefits, and identifying strategies for preserving decent affordable housing.
   - Poverty Solutions staff are working with the Detroit Housing Commission, and Departments of Housing and Revitalization and Workforce Development to enhance employment services to DHC residents.

2. PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT & DATA ANALYSIS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MOBILITY INITIATIVES.

   - U-M’s DMACS team is partnering with the Health Department to facilitate their community health assessment.
   - Poverty Solutions staff is working with the Detroit Police Department in their efforts to share data among first-responder agencies to identify individuals who interact frequently with health, social services, and justice agencies.
   - Poverty Solutions is sponsoring an affordable housing fellow working in the implementation of the City’s multi-unit affordable housing plan.

3. EVALUATE CITY INITIATIVES TO MEASURE BOTH SHORT AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS ON ECONOMIC MOBILITY, USING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE DATA, CITY ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES, AND RESIDENT SURVEYS.

   - U-M experts from the Medical School and School of Social Work are partnering with the Health Department on an evaluation of a major infusion of community health workers in Cody Rouge, with the goal of reducing chronic emergency department utilization.

U-M DETROIT TEAM

The partnership will be co-facilitated by a U-M team in collaboration with key contacts within the City. Patrick Cooney serves as primary liaison between U-M and the City and oversees and manages the partnership and existing projects. He can be reached at cooneypb@umich.edu or 248-798-6421.

For more information, please visit: poverty.umich.edu
PROJECTS

HOUSING
Evaluation of the Right of First Refusal (RoR) program. U-M researchers are evaluating the impacts of the Right of First Refusal program initiated by the City of Detroit with support from Quicken Loans/Rock Ventures and the United Community Housing Coalition, which enabled low-income tenants (renters) to purchase their homes following tax foreclosure. U-M leads: Prof. Harley Etienne, Prof. Marc Norman, and Prof. Margaret Dewar, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and Prof. Roshanak Mehdipanah, School of Public Health.

Poverty Tax Exemption Proposals. Poverty Solutions staff is working with the Assessor's Office to examine policies around the poverty tax exemption and provide recommendations for future improvements. U-M lead: Prof. Luke Shaefer.

Preserving Affordable Housing in Detroit. U-M researchers are working with a Detroit Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) task force to identify strategies for maintaining affordability in properties developed through a LIHTC. U-M leads: Prof. Margaret Dewar and Prof. Lan Deng, Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

WORKFORCE
Developing a Program to Enhance Employment Outcomes for Detroit Housing Commission Residents. Poverty Solutions staff is working with the Detroit Department of Housing and Revitalization and the Detroit Housing Commission to improve the integration of services, through best-practice research and technical assistance. U-M lead: Poverty Solutions staff member Joshua Rivera.

DESC Workforce Research and Data Analysis. Poverty Solutions is collaborating with Corp. for a Skilled Workforce to provide research and data analysis in support of Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation's workforce development system redesign effort. U-M lead: Poverty Solutions staff member Joshua Rivera.

Outreach to Remove Barriers to Work. Poverty Solutions is partnering with the City of Detroit to inform residents about opportunities to eliminate driver's responsibility fees and expunge criminal records as part of a broader effort to reduce barriers to employment. U-M lead: Poverty Solutions staff member Joshua Rivera.

EDUCATION
Evaluation of a Collective Impact Strategy for Munger Leads when Munger Reads program. Poverty Solutions staff is working with a range of partners to evaluate an early literacy collective impact model in Southwest Detroit. U-M lead: Poverty Solutions staff member Kate Naranjo.

HEALTH
Community Health Workers. U-M researchers and the Detroit Health Department teamed up to pilot a new model for employing community health workers in the Cody Rouge neighborhood. U-M leads: Prof. Michele Heisler, School of Public Health and Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation and Adrienne Lapidos, School of Social Work.

EVALUATE/INFORM
Detroit Metropolitan Area Communities Study. U-M researchers are partnering with city departments and community organizations to employ a new survey model. It leverages state-of-the-art methods to provide deep insights across the entire city and helps ensure that diverse voices are incorporated into decision-making. U-M leads: Prof. Jeff Morenoff, Institute for Social Research, Prof. Elisabeth Gerber and Conan Smith, Ford School of Public Policy.

TRANSPORTATION
Reinventing Urban Transportation and Mobility (RITMO). U-M researchers are working with the City's Transportation Department to design a data-driven, targeted transportation system to help residents of low-density areas access existing transit systems. U-M lead: Prof. Tawanna Dillihunt, School of Information and Michigan Engineering.

PUBLIC SAFETY
Data-Driven Justice in Detroit. Poverty Solutions supported a graduate student research assistant to provide technical assistance to the Detroit Police Department in their efforts to share data among first-responder agencies to identify individuals who interact frequently with health, social service, and justice agencies.

For more information, please visit: poverty.umich.edu