Leveraging neighborhood success

The Hartford Neighborhood Development Support Collaborative

The participating funders in the Hartford Neighborhood Development Support Collaborative (HNDSC) promote neighborhood revitalization by providing organizational development services and operating support to community development corporations (CDCs) working strategically in targeted Hartford neighborhoods. Funders pool their contributions, understanding that larger grants increase philanthropic impact and create stronger, more sustainable development. HNDSC, launched in 1995, has provided essential investment to fuel neighborhood revitalization in Hartford.

Strengthening local organizations

Funders recognize that the most effective community development is carried out by strong local organizations, so investment in the organizations themselves can create tangible outcomes. In 2012, HNDSC committed $470,000 of operating support to four CDCs and provided assistance with management systems, neighborhood strategies and business plans. Through LISC, HNDSC also sponsored CDCs at a national best practices conference, asset management and business planning courses, and community safety training. Since its launch in 1995, HNDSC has provided $10,192,842 of operating support grants to ten organizations that provide vital services throughout Hartford. Today they collectively own and manage 1,112 units of housing and provide services to residents in most of Hartford’s neighborhoods.

Providing development expertise

HNDSC is managed by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), a national community development organization dedicated to helping local residents and organizations build vibrant, sustainable communities. LISC supports strategic development that increases the scale and impact of neighborhood revitalization and attracts private investment. By collaborating with funders, LISC enables them to leverage their resources and assess their impact. Hartford LISC, established in 1984, provides technical expertise, financial management, underwriting, monitoring and grants management to HNDSC.
Revitalizing communities, block by block

HNDSC currently provides operating support to Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford, Sheldon Oak Central, Christian Activities Council (CAC) and Northside Institutions Neighborhood Alliance (NINA.) In Frog Hollow, Mutual Housing focuses on strategic housing development around Pope Park and Zion Street, empowering residents through leadership training and financial education. In north and south Hartford, Sheldon Oak creates high quality rental communities with services that catalyze neighborhood revitalization. In Asylum Hill, NINA targets historic home ownership and green development, using ownership incentives, neighborhood engagement, community safety initiatives and streetscape improvements. In Upper Albany, CAC blends home ownership counseling and development with youth and community services to improve residents’ opportunities and quality of life.

Strategic investments achieve impact

HNDSC’s unified mechanism leverages investments by streamlining the grant application process and reporting requirements. This reduces grantees’ administrative time, increasing staff time dedicated directly to community development. Improved reporting and increased accountability enable HNDSC’s funders to focus on outcomes that really move the needle. Leveraging philanthropy through HNDSC, funders improve the productivity and sustainability of CDCs while supporting neighborhood revitalization that benefits thousands of families, children, seniors, local businesses and institutions.

HNDSC participating funders

Bank of America
J. Walton Bissell Foundation
Charles Nelson Robinson Fund
The Eversworth Charitable Foundation
Fisher Foundation
The Fund for Greater Hartford
George and Grace Long Foundation
Hartford Foundation for Public Giving
TD Charitable Foundation
MetLife Foundation
United Way of Central & Northeastern Connecticut
Webster Bank

LISC
Helping neighbors build communities

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