

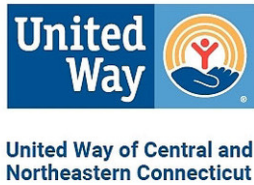
In 2018

5 CT cities were selected to participate in the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Working Cities Challenge. Each city team has been addressing a community challenge related to workforce and economic inclusion to address persistent poverty.

The focus of each city is on workforce development, systems change to address root causes & increasing access to education & training leading to living wage employment.

CT WORKING CITIES 5 UNIQUE PLACES 1 UNITING THEME

"Changing Systems & Outcomes through Local Collaborative Leadership & Action"

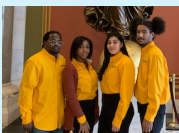


Hartford Working Cities

Vision: Hartford is a place where young adults have the skills & talents needed by local & regional business, they contribute to the city's economy & raise families who are economically secure & enjoy a good quality of life.

Goal - to reduce unemployment among 16-29 year-olds in 3 neighborhoods (Barry Square, Frog Hollow & South Green)

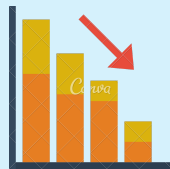
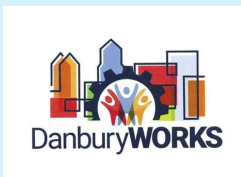
Strategies: Engage young adults in Hartford | Convene Employment & Training Consortium | Support Community of Practice for Career Navigators



East Hartford CONNects

Goal - to increase 10% of household incomes (200 households) in town to be comparable to town-wide median of \$48,369.

Strategies: Engage local workforce partners | Build career programs in the K-12 school system | Convene monthly Resident Advisory Council



Danbury WORKS

Vision: Danbury is a place where all families can thrive.

Mission: DanburyWORKS is a group of people working to improve equity & quality of life in Danbury.

Goal - to reduce by 5% the poverty rate for immigrant families and/or people of color living below the Federal Poverty Level.

Strategies: Build community trust | Address need for ESL programming | Expand family child care providers | Align employment and training efforts



Middletown Works

Vision: All families in Middletown attain economic self-sufficiency regardless of race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status, with priority given to single moms of color.

Goal - to increase prosperity & reduce poverty among single parent families living at or below the Federal Poverty Level in 10 years.

Strategies: Provide career & system navigation to single parent families | Identify & coordinate career pathways | Engage single parents to enhance their leadership



Waterbury Working Cities - Riba Aspira Career Academy

Goal - to reduce the unemployment rate of the River Baldwin neighborhood from 23% to 12% by increasing # of residents earning a living wage by 150.

Strategies:

Bring partner resources directly into the neighborhood | Provide a central, accessible point of access to ESL & GED programs & training opportunities | Provide access to community engagement opportunities

CT's economic recovery will depend on our cities, and our cities will only be effective as their ability to collaborate across sectors and with residents to get their local economies moving quickly and equitably. The Working Cities Challenge gave East Hartford, Danbury, Hartford, Waterbury, and Middletown the tools to do just that, and early outcomes show that these cities are ready for the task ahead!



Supporting the CT Working Cities collaborative infrastructures will ensure that these cities can and will drive CT's economic recovery.

COLLECTIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RESULTS

55 Community Engagement events held

145 Publications of E-news blasts reaching over 1000+ people each week

88 Trainings completed

15 Business champions committed

1,070 Individuals referred to wrap-around supports

43 Placed into jobs

1,296 Community residents engaged

72 Adaptive, inclusive cross-sector leaders engaged & committed

Focused on Race & Equity



Hartford Working Cities

Accomplishments:

- **Young Legends** emerge as a force in the Hartford workforce development system
- **Employment & Training Consortium** launched (E&T Consortium)
- **Career Navigator Community of Practice** kick off Nov. 2020 with Family Centered Coaching
- Career & Family Navigators participate in community case conferences



East Hartford CONNects

Accomplishments:

- Creation of **Professional Skills Academy** – a career readiness bootcamp (33 graduates & 28 new job offers in 1st year)
- **470 elementary & secondary school students** received STEM or career skills/readiness curriculum
- **Selected Site visit by Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell** in 2019 received national news coverage highlighting an example of working poor making economic progress
- One on one Career Navigation services have resulted in new, **higher wage jobs for 19 individuals** in one year



Danbury WORKS

Accomplishments:

- **Dismantling Racism Neighbor Nights** brought together over 180 community members
- Offered **ESL classes** with free child care at 4 community organizations serving **81 low income residents**
- Increased supply of **affordable quality child care by 150 slots**
- 5 community leaders engaged as **Racial Equity Champions**, including Police Chief & Chamber President



Accomplishments:

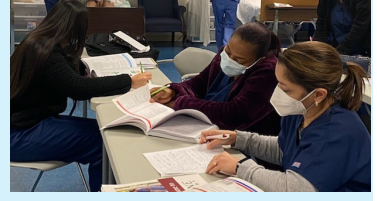
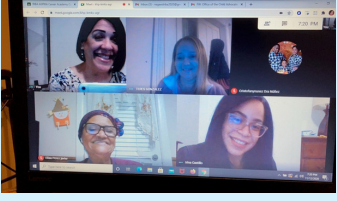
- Launched **H.O.P.E. Campaign in 2019** - a holistic community engagement campaign
- **14 Community Cafe** events brought together over 100 community members
- Awarded 6 Middletown residents **\$500 H.O.P.E. Awards** for projects to benefit single parent families
- Initiated a partnership with **Middlesex Community College** to provide **Career Coaching** to lower-income single parent families

H = Health & Well-being

O = Economic Opportunities

P = Physical environment

E = Empowering neighbors & building leadership



Waterbury - Riba Aspira Career Academy

Accomplishments:

- **Surveyed community** to ensure that constituent's voices are heard
- **Created RIBA/ASPIRA Center** where 50 completed ESL Classes & 7 earned GEDs
- **Host office hours** for neighborhood-based Northwest Workforce Board intake & counseling
- **Collaboration** with existing systems to address equity issues
- Support resident led **community improvement projects**
- Provide access to services, connecting over 100 residents in 2020
- **Social activities** to bring community closer together



2021 and Beyond

Each city team is working to connect and align efforts across local and regional partners including: Community Residents | Workforce boards | Employers | Chambers of Commerce | Boards of Education | City government | Local philanthropy | Nonprofit organizations

City teams are looking to sustain these local collective impact initiatives in years 4+.

Each team is reaching out to local funding partners, statewide funders, and the state of Connecticut for ongoing support of the work.