

Detroit, MI

Affordable Housing

KEY OUTCOMES

Long-term

Increase housing stability; increase economic opportunities through employment/financial empowerment/social services; provide a model for private housing operators to partner with service providers.

Short-term

Increase awareness of available social services (e.g. job training, income benefits, banking assistance); increase uptake and engagement with these services; increase housing operators perception of the value of facilitating service access.

BARRIERS

- Lack of outreach mechanisms to affordable housing residents.
- Lack of resident trust in government / social services
- Lack of data around privately held restricted income housing
- Difficulty sustaining capacity for resident service delivery

INTERVENTION

Create a pathway (akin to Single Stop) for residents of income-restricted affordable housing to communicate their needs, learn about available programs and services, and eventually access services.

Specifically, we are working with Cinnaire, a property owner and limited equity partner with a sizeable portfolio in Detroit, to create an **integrated service provision model** for residents in pilot buildings. Model details are to be determined, but the intervention will include **light-touch** communications to all residents as well as **intensive outreach and service coordination** for residents displaying early warning signs of housing instability in partnership with City-funded nonprofit organizations.

Evidence base



This intervention builds onto the existing evidence base involving 1) Single-Stop models; 2) housing stability as a way to facilitate economic mobility; 3) financial stability services as a way to increase housing stability.



Mayoral priorities

The intervention links two Mayoral priorities: affordable housing preservation and financial services delivered to low-income residents.



Scalability

Lessons learned on connecting affordable housing residents with relevant services are likely to be broadly applicable across cities. This is a difficult-to-reach population that is of interest, and the intervention is likely to be adaptable to the different range of services offered in each city.



Feasibility

The intervention will be developed and implemented with support from the Mayor's Office, Housing and Revitalization team, Cinnaire, Detroit's Financial Empowerment Network, and local service providers. Together, they will provide the buy-in and resources required to implement and evaluate the intervention in the timeline given.



Leverage taxpayer resources

This intervention works by utilizing the already existing programs run by the City, County, and nonprofits to ensure that housing assistance and social services work together to amplify their benefits to residents. It will work with a range of city partners and existing relationships to ensure that the intervention makes full use of the broad but fragmented service provider landscape that already exists in Detroit.