



Cross-Sector Partnerships to Advance Health

The Connection: Health through Housing

In the United States, it's common practice to detect and treat disease in medical settings. Yet the origins of illness can be identified long before someone enters a doctor's office.

An estimated 70 percent of differences in health status are associated with people's social and physical environment, including the quality, affordability, stability and location of a person's home. The result is striking disparities that adversely affect low-income communities.

As a proven and powerful nonprofit that improves communities and people's lives by making well-designed homes affordable, Enterprise Community Partners recognizes its role in laying a foundation for health and well-being nationwide.

We foster community improvement from the ground up, connecting homes to health care and other important resources like schools, economic mobility and transit.

For more than 30 years, we have brought together nationwide know-how, partners, policy leadership and investment to multiply the impact of local development. We also developed the standards to create greener, healthier communities.

We know there's more work to be done and we will continue finding innovative solutions because where you live affects the life – and health – you can have.

The Need for Cross-Sector Collaboration

People in need of affordable housing are more often than not the same people who struggle to pay medical bills, are not able to manage their chronic diseases, or avoid preventive and routine medical care because of cost. With the healthcare industry treating many of the same people who are targeted by community development programs by community-based non-profits, the need for collaboration between the two sectors is critical to successfully impacting the lives of low-income populations in a comprehensive way.

Cross-sector collaboration between health care organizations, municipalities and community development non-profits allows for coordinated efforts that target the upstream factors contributing to health. Cross-sector collaboration amplifies the voices in the community by engaging more stakeholders and partners to work together with aligned goals and resources to ensure solutions are targeted toward need.

Case Study: Sinai-Grace Hospital and Enterprise

Detroit Medical Center Sinai-Grace Hospital

[Sinai-Grace Hospital](#) is an anchor institution, the largest of the eight-member Detroit Medical Center (DMC) network. Located in Northwest Detroit's Winship Community, it provides inpatient and outpatient services throughout Wayne and Oakland counties.



Community Partnerships for Collective Action

In 2015, Sinai-Grace brought together community stakeholders, including Enterprise, the City of Detroit and four CDCs to form a public-private partnership, the Northwest Detroit Health and Housing Collaborative (NDHHC). The need for investment in health through affordable housing arose when Sinai-Grace convened NDHHC to explore areas of opportunity for revitalization with significant potential to benefit from cross-entity collaboration. These opportunity areas included commercial establishments, community beautification, neighborhood safety, school system vitality, and healthcare services. The committee also agreed to work collaboratively to strategically identify blight removal sites in the area as its first initiative and the mayor identified a designee to be a part of the collaborative.

Grace Guild of Sinai-Grace Hospital and Community Development Corporation

Moving forward with this work, Sinai-Grace Hospital chose to create a Community Development Corporation (CDC) to lead community investment efforts. The former Grace Guild of Sinai-Grace Hospital (The Guild) now operates as the Grace Guild of Sinai-Grace Hospital and Community Development Corporation (GGSGH CDC). Enterprise was invited as a subject matter expert to provide technical assistance to The Guild on how to restructure their existing bylaws to establish a CDC and focus on housing. Enterprise awarded GGSGH CDC a HUD Section 4 grant in 2016 to support capacity building training and establish organizational infrastructure. GGSGH CDC's mission is to improve quality of life for low-income individuals and families that reside in Northwest Detroit by addressing poor health, urban blight, substandard housing options and in the long-term, lack of employment and education opportunities.

To support both GGSGH and the other CDCs in NDHHC, Enterprise led an Aging-in-Place Charrette at Sinai Grace. Enterprise's Aging-in-Place Design Guidelines were presented and workshopped with the partner CDCs to specify design strategies for project teams concerned with aging residents. In addition, Enterprise held their 7th Annual Affordable Housing Design Leadership Institute (AHDLI) in Detroit, in partnership with the City of Detroit and with participation from two NDHHC partners. AHDLI helped developers, designers, and city agencies explore how to collaborate to create exceptional affordable housing projects and meet resident needs to achieve specific outcomes through design.

Outcomes and Insights

Enterprise's collaboration with Sinai-Grace meets a critical gap, in terms of health and housing, which was not previously addressed. NDHHC is positioned to leverage resources and coordinate activities to improve access to affordable housing and improve health outcomes in the Winship neighborhood. Community development efforts were taking place both east and west of Winship, but not in the community. As early pioneers, Sinai-Grace and Enterprise through NDHHC have illustrated success through a new and growing cross-sector partnership. During the first phase of the revitalization plan, the following milestones were achieved:

- Conducted a community needs assessment
- Established the GGSGH CDC at Sinai-Grace Hospital
- Successfully convened community stakeholders and formed NDHHC
- Provided capital and technical assistance
- Engaged local and state officials

In 2017, an Executive Director was hired to strengthen the community development infrastructure of GGSGH CDC. The Executive Director will focus on health outcomes and economic development in Northwest Detroit.

These cross-sector partnerships are critical to effectively leverage community resources, lifting up and advocating for community needs, identifying gaps in expertise and reaching out to wide networks to create a healthy environment that nurtures well-being.