

North Hartford Promise Plan



Lead Applicant: Hartford Mayor's Office

Key Partners: United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut; Capital Workforce Partners; Community Solutions; Greater Hartford YMCA; Hartford Housing Authority; CT Center for Advanced Technology; Village for Children and Families; Hartford Police Department; Health and Human Services Department; Hartford Department of Development Services: Housing Division and Economic Development Division; Metro Hartford Information Services (MHIS)

View [North Hartford Fact Sheet](#).

View [North Hartford Promise Zone website](#).

About the Promise Zone

The North Hartford Promise Zone (NHPZ) encompasses 3.11 square miles and includes the neighborhoods of Clay Arsenal, Northeast, and Upper Albany. The NHPZ has alarming rates of high unemployment, violent crime, domestic violence, and food insecurity; several blighted commercial and industrial sites; and low education levels.

The Promise Zone's 23,950 residents are predominantly African American and Latino and nearly half (49.35%) of its residents live in poverty. The zone's average per capita income is \$12,099 and only 38.3% of residents have a high school degree.

Overview

The North Hartford Promise Zone's sharp socio-economic decline began after WWII with the construction of a major highway, Interstate 84. The highway's location divided the City in half and isolated the NHPZ from the economic activity of the downtown. Even more devastating were the race riots in 1968 that resulted in massive arson, destroying the majority of North Hartford's commercial strip.

Recognizing that the challenges faced by the area also represent significant opportunities, a groups of neighborhood residents, municipal leaders, elected officials, nonprofit partners, and business leaders have come together to undertake a collaborative effort to socially and economically transform the community.

Promise Zone Plan

Under the executive leadership of the Hartford Mayor, the city is working in partnership with business, foundations, municipal and regional planning organizations, and the City's own resources to coordinate efforts and cross-sector partnerships, to advance neighborhood revitalization and create a safe prosperous future for residents.

As part of ongoing municipal and regional planning efforts, the North Hartford Promise Zone has identified the following seven goals as instrumental to increasing the quality of life and accelerating efforts to create comprehensive community revitalization.

Job Creation

Increase resident's net income, financial capabilities, long-term job retention and net worth over time.

Strategies

- Restore the historic former Swift Gold Leaf factory complex in order to bring together job creation, education and health improvement initiatives in the Promise Zone.
- Align and expand existing youth/adult education and workforce programs that support occupational demand in four currently targeted industry sectors.

Increase Economic Activity

Attract and retain businesses in the North Hartford Promise Zone commercial corridors that build on recent neighborhood initiatives.

Strategies

- Promote business growth by developing suitable commercial and mixed-used sites.

Reduce Serious and Violent Crime

Reduce crime and improve community safety as part of a comprehensive strategy to advance neighborhood revitalization.

Strategies

- Hartford Police Department (HPD) proposes to replicate Preventing Recidivism through Organized Supervision, Partnerships and Enhanced Relationships (PROSPER) in the NHPZ in order to reduce recidivism and violent crime by 5%.
- Increase opportunities for at-risk youth to engage in positive community building activities.

Improve Educational Opportunities

Strengthen community law enforcement relationships, curtail gun violence, and address youth violence and domestic violence.

Strategies

- Gun violence prevention and crime reduction in hotspots and in chronic micro places of crime.
- Expand quality out of school time with safe spaces and positive activities like Pop-Up Parks and Youth Outreach Workers in crime hot spots.
- Increase community-specific, data-driven approaches to prevent and reduce domestic violence.

Improve Educational Opportunity

Increase the number of high school graduates that are college and career ready.

Strategies

- Increase opportunities and supports for a greater number of students in the Promise Zone so that they can graduate high school, college and become career ready.
- Implement literacy and intervention strategies for Hartford students and families in the Promise Zone.

Housing

Create programs that assist promise zone residents with preventing foreclosure and provide low-to-moderate income individuals and/or households decent, affordable and sustainable rental, homeownership, and home improvement opportunities.

Strategies

- Support Promise Zone neighborhood stabilization by providing foreclosure prevention resources and information to current homeowners, prospective homebuyers, and other residents.
- Create programs, initiatives or incentives to encourage rehabilitation and homeownership opportunities for low to moderate income households.
- Increase and improve the affordability and condition of rental units, especially along transit corridors, such as Albany Avenue and North Main Street.

Health and Wellness

Improve the emotional and physical development of high-risk children and families.

Strategies

- Decrease incidences of emotional and behavioral disturbance, developmental and learning problems, and abuse and neglect among high-risk young children and their families.
- Increase the number of food retailers offering healthy food options from 0 to 10 and remove barriers to community gardening.
- Increase families' and children's active lifestyles and nutrition education by 10%.