

done!



things...



CO-OPPORTUNITY

getting...



Co-opportunity inc.
 Getting Things Done.
 20-28 Sargeant Street
 Hartford, CT 06105

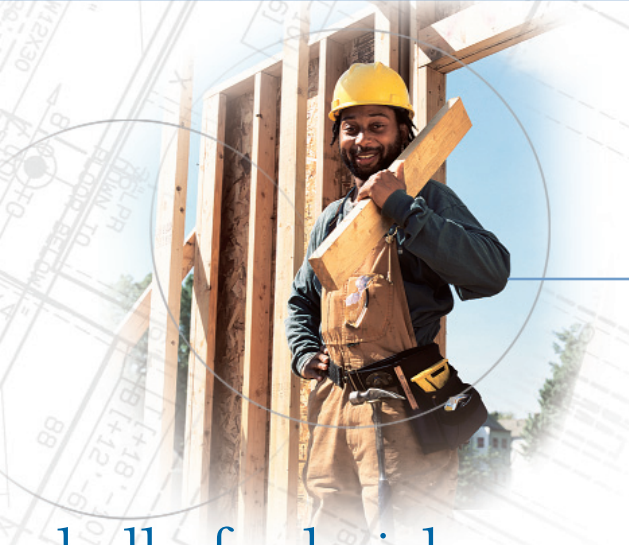
We appreciate the challenges our participants face, but that doesn't stop us from demanding more of them. Experience has taught us that's how they achieve more.

We have many partners, including funders, leaders, government, employers, social service agencies, volunteers, and donors who believe in Co-opportunity's mission. Just as importantly, they recognize our ability to execute to achieve our mission, to "get things done." If you would like to help "get things done" in Hartford, we invite you to take the opportunity to be part of something that's working for people, and working for Hartford.

TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY

Co-opportunity offers individuals the skills and opportunities to improve their lives and their community. We operate workforce development, housing counseling and education, asset building, and community economic development programs that help participants achieve long-term economic well-being and stability, resulting in greater personal success and a higher quality of life for themselves and their families.

Our programs are high quality, professionally run, with an emphasis on outcomes and accountability.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

kelly frederick

“By building houses, I am making a permanent connection to my community, and now I can point, with pride, to my role in strengthening my community.”

Co-opportunity's YouthBuild Hartford program teaches young people how to be successful at work through classroom instruction and on-the-job training.

We teach five sets of skills: 1) basic reading and math skills that are essential for job success, 2) vocational skills such as carpentry and construction, 3) soft job skills such as timeliness, dependability and communication skills, 4) leadership development skills including teamwork and conflict resolution, and 5) critical thinking skills to help participants make better decisions in all aspects of life. YouthBuild Hartford programs last 10 to 12 months at 30 hours a week, and pay an escalating weekly stipend.

Over the last ten years, more than 350 young people have graduated from YouthBuild. 87% of them got jobs or pursued higher education within three months of graduation. Our graduates built or rehabbed 91 homes. We have established a number of partnerships with private contractors who gladly hire our graduates. Our program is one of just 19 YouthBuild programs accredited by YouthBuild USA, out of 200.

YouthBuild has an impressive record of helping young people without clear direction get back on track and become productive contributors to their community.

ASSET BUILDING

It's difficult to dream about the future when you're living paycheck to paycheck. Co-opportunity helps individuals build the assets they need to make their families financially successful.

Because there is no single path to financial security, we offer many asset building programs, including financial education, assistance establishing relationships with financial institutions, guidance on applying for earned income tax credits, and products like IDA's that promote savings. In addition to these existing programs, we continually seek to create new, highly innovative financial products and partnerships to help people acquire assets.

The challenge lies in the fact that people often resist dealing with money issues. We believe engaging people helps overcome that resistance. Co-opportunity leads The Hartford Asset Building Collaborative's free tax preparation program, one way of starting a relationship with people with precarious finances. As we establish trust, individuals open up, and we guide them into one or more asset building programs.

Co-opportunity's Asset Building solutions help families who work hard get a little closer to realizing their financial dreams.



elizabeth navarro

“Co-opportunity gave me the chance to change my future. They taught me how to save money, but more importantly, they taught me to make better decisions about how to use the money I save.”

“Co-opportunity is making a difference in our community.. by making things happen in our community.”



bernice ross

her husband **robert**
and son **anthony**

“Co-opportunity expects a lot, but we have learned that successful homeownership requires a lot.”

Homeownership is fundamental to building strong communities. Education is fundamental to successful homeownership. Our Housing Counseling and Education program teaches eligible participants how to purchase and maintain ownership of a home.

One-on-one counseling helps participants assess whether they are ready to purchase a home. If they are not ready, we help develop a plan to get clients to the point of readiness.

Participants who are ready work with counselors to develop a plan for finding a house, financing their purchase, and overcoming credit problems. They attend classes where they learn about basic

money management, borrowing concepts such as mortgages, interest, and points, how to shop around for the right house, and how to work with realtors, appraisers, and attorneys.

They also learn what it takes to stay in their homes, including routine maintenance, procuring appropriate insurance coverage, budgeting money for repairs, and the importance of avoiding debt. In a recent year, 170 people participated in the program, and 70 program graduates purchased homes.

Our homeownership program is rooted in the belief that owning something in the community changes one's relationship with the community.