



Reshaping Systems to Fight Poverty

Project HOPE

We identify and break down barriers to economic opportunity and interrupt the cycle of poverty. By reshaping the systems that provide pathways to economic opportunity — including education, employment, housing, health care and social services — and increasing access to financial institutions, we foster thriving, connected communities that are integral parts of a strong Dubuque region.

Why It Matters

While poverty and income inequality touch all demographics in Dubuque, the differences in impact by race and ethnicity are stark. For example, more than 52% of Dubuque's Black residents live below the poverty line, compared to just 8% of White residents. Living in poverty can affect family stability, a child's readiness for school and ability to learn, high school dropout rates, and physical health. All of these factors can affect someone's ability to advance their economic future.

Our Unique Role

Project HOPE is facilitated by the Community Foundation of Dubuque, and we build on the Foundation's role as a convener and collaborator, forging partnerships with leaders in areas like government, education and nonprofits.

Together, we implement efforts focused on factors that impact economic mobility, such as high school dropout reengagement, connecting individuals to job training and careers, and connecting families to financial services.

Importantly, we seek the voices of those representing communities and residents facing poverty and income inequality, ensuring that solutions are shaped by those impacted.

How It Works

Our work is driven by research that identifies patterns of poverty and income inequality as well as gaps in services. Sharing this data and discussing it with community partners helps hone in on opportunities for systemic solutions and implement them.

Our Accomplishments

- Created a network map highlighting over 750 relationships among more than 150 nonprofit and government agencies
- Through our brain health access initiative, supported new efforts to connect residents with services, including the Hillcrest Mobile Crisis Unit and a jail diversion program
- Connected more than 500 opportunity youth who did not complete high school to alternative education options and post-secondary education through the Re-engage Dubuque initiative
- Through the Opportunity Dubuque training and employment partnership, helped nearly 700 students become accepted into career training programs and nearly 600 graduate
- Partnered with Operation: New View and the United Way to expand EITC/VITA outreach and awareness

Get Involved



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