

## WHAT IS THE INVEST HEALTH NETWORK IN GRAND RAPIDS?

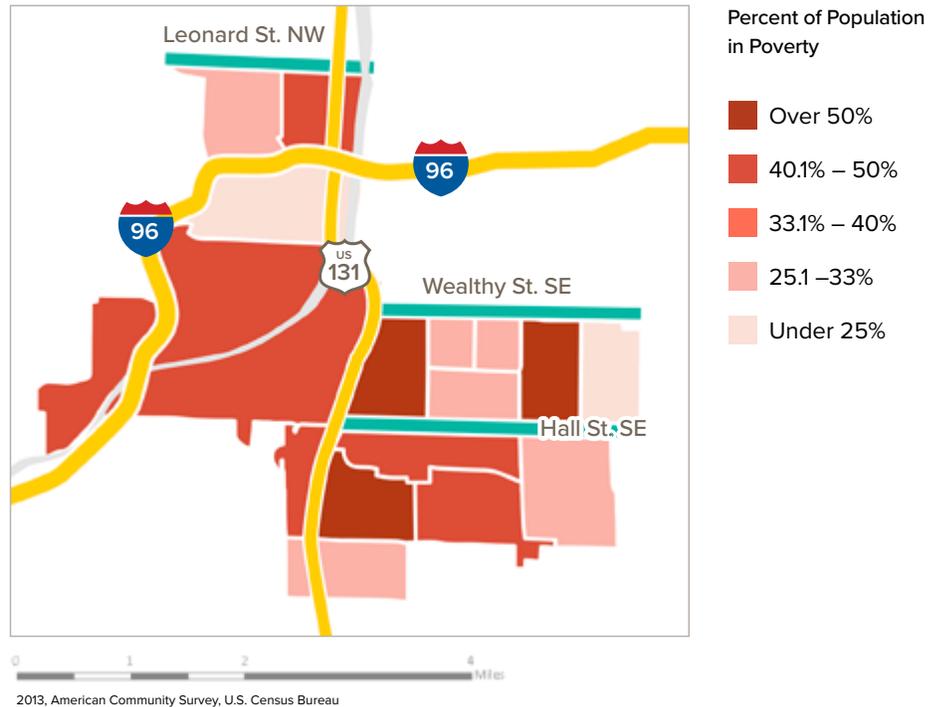
Invest Health is an initiative that brings together diverse leaders from mid-sized U.S. cities across the nation to develop new strategies for increasing and leveraging private and public investments to accelerate neighborhood revitalization efforts in communities facing the biggest barriers to better health. The program is a collaborative partnership between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Reinvestment Fund.

Spectrum Health, the City of Grand Rapids, LINC UP, Access of West Michigan and IFF provide leadership in this effort. The focus of the Invest Health Network in Grand Rapids is increasing equitable health outcomes in targeted census tracts by advancing policies and practices that align community investment systems and increase capital flows to equity-promoting built environment investments. The team does this by advancing a pipeline of financeable built environment projects focused on increasing equity as a long term-strategy to improve community health.



## NEIGHBORHOODS OF FOCUS (NOF)

Map of Census Tracts  
Grand Rapids, Kent County, Michigan



## GEOGRAPHY

Invest Health is focused on the housing, economic security and health within 17 urban census tracts (32% of Grand Rapids total population). These census tracts, mainly in the 1st and 3rd ward, are home to half of all people living in poverty in Grand Rapids.

## VISION

Scale and sustain targeted hiring and retention in neighborhoods of Advance health equity for the people living in the census tracts of focus by:

- ▲ Supporting policy changes and built environment projects that will improve health outcomes for residents
- ▲ Researching and leveraging innovative forms of capital deployment;
- ▲ Building a collaborative network that will increase social capital in communities

# GOALS FOR INVEST HEALTH IN 2020

## CAPITAL DEPLOYMENT

- ▲ Break ground for LINC UP West Garfield affordable housing apartments
- ▲ Identify and secure funding for LINC UP new housing development within the 49507 zip code
- ▲ Secure funding and start construction of an early childhood education center in the SE side of Grand Rapids
- ▲ Complete business modeling and scaling up of Healthy Retail Markets in several locations throughout the census tracts of focus
- ▲ Launch a construction and lead abatement company that recruits and supports independent contractors from the census tracts of focus

## LOCAL POLICY

- ▲ Identify innovative programs that would support small local business access to capital in the census tracts of focus
- ▲ Research and advocate for models that would allow access to small project capital by local businesses
- ▲ Support early initiatives by local insurance companies to invest in affordable and healthy housing
- ▲ Support the City of Grand Rapid's efforts to create policies that mitigate the affordable housing crisis

## NETWORK CAPACITY

- ▲ Collaborate with and support the work of local corridor improvement organizations in the census tracts of focus
- ▲ Connect local organizations to the work and best practices of other Invest Health partner cities
- ▲ Bring innovative ideas and national expertise to local decisionmakers
- ▲ Finding ways to communicate our local achievements in system transformation

## HIGHLIGHTED SUCCESSES

Since 2016, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities has received \$135,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The initiative has invested an additional \$800,000 of partnership funding into organizations working to impact the 17 census tracts of focus in Grand Rapids with historically poor health outcomes.

The Invest Health Network in Grand Rapids has also leveraged over \$52M of direct investments into the census tracts of focus. These investments have led to incredible outcomes. Below are some of the highlights

### CAPITAL DEPLOYMENT

- ▲ Invest Health advocacy has directly and indirectly supported changes to the State of Michigan's allocation plan for Low Income Housing Tax Credits in 2018, resulting in over \$50 million worth of credits — about 30% of the state's available credits at the time — to projects located in the Invest Health target area. This will result in several hundred units of new affordable housing, including two affordable housing projects through our primary partner LINC UP.
- ▲ Invest Health leveraged two feasibility studies for our community partners Healthy Homes Coalition and Health Net of West Michigan to develop an operational and financial model for a program focused on providing home repairs for in-home environmental triggers for pediatric asthma high utilizers. Priority Health recently finalized funding for this model by providing \$50,000 to remediate 25 homes.
- ▲ Affordable housing partner, LINC UP, received a \$500,000 grant from Project Reinvest of Neighborworks to support affordable housing projects and efforts to connect residents with construction opportunities.

### LOCAL POLICY

- ▲ In 2019 the City of Grand Rapids adopted the Invest Health framework into its strategic planning process, an important step to ensure Invest Health outcomes continue to be prioritized at the local level.
- ▲ The City of Grand Rapids, as part of the City Health initiative, provided Invest Health access to NYU's developed City Health dashboard. Using several public sources of data, it measures 37 measures of health, the factors that shape health, and drivers of health equity to guide local solutions for 500 U.S. cities. We will continue to use this with the Invest Health Network to examine neighborhoods, determine decisions, and educate policy makers.
- ▲ Spectrum Health Healthier Communities invested \$17,000 to work with Urban Core Collective to research and build a community of practice model that seeks to amplify the voices of community of color in local decision-making process.

### NETWORK CAPACITY

- ▲ Over 30 government entities, for-profit organizations, foundations, and non-profits are engaged in the Invest Health Network, and at least 12 organizational leaders have engaged in deep learning through attendance of convenings or specialized network-building trips to other cities.
- ▲ Companies involved in Invest Health such as Fifth Third and Amway have funded partners in the Invest Health Network in their targeted food security work.
- ▲ Invest Health is currently testing economic security approaches that show race/geography does not determine their 100 Ideas winners to advance an entrepreneurial ecosystem that works for people of color, if emergency loans risk assessment should require employment over 6 months instead a baseline of a year, and whether high demand career development connected with Strong Beginnings can support family economic security for new moms.

## INVEST HEALTH PARTNERS

- ▲ Access of West MI
- ▲ Amway
- ▲ City of Grand Rapids
- ▲ Essential Needs Task Force
- ▲ Fifth Third
- ▲ Great Lakes Health Connect
- ▲ Green & Healthy Homes Initiative
- ▲ Healthy Homes Coalition
- ▲ Health Net of West Michigan
- ▲ IFF
- ▲ Kent County Health Department
- ▲ LINC UP
- ▲ Michigan State University Extension
- ▲ Reinvestment Fund
- ▲ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- ▲ The SOURCE
- ▲ Urban Core Collective
- ▲ Spectrum Health
- ▲ StartGarden
- ▲ Strong Beginnings
- ▲ WMCAT
- ▲ YMCA