

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

THE PROBLEM WE TACKLE: INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY

At Human Solutions, we define poverty as a lack of power, choice and control over circumstances, typically caused by a lack of income, assets and resources at a personal and community level. People and communities who experience poverty typically inherit it as a product of deep structural inequality caused by adverse systemic forces like racism, misogyny, ableism, and mass incarceration.

As a result of historic, ongoing and intentional policies that concentrate wealth and power, far too many people – especially people of color - continue to experience intergenerational poverty. In our home of East Portland and East Multnomah County, people and communities experiencing poverty typically reside in neighborhoods that have experienced years of disinvestment and lack basic amenities like healthy food, safe streets and welcoming places to gather and play. Entrenched, intergenerational poverty and a landscape of disinvestment leave people and whole communities vulnerable to poverty's compounding conditions: powerlessness, residential displacement, lack of educational and economic opportunity, and the recurring trauma of hopelessness and homelessness.

OUR APPROACH: INVEST IN TRANSFORMATION AND LONG-TERM SUCCESS

Human Solutions works to counter the forces that keep people and communities in poverty. We partner with individuals, families and communities to support their long-term success and transcendence from the conditions of poverty. Here's how:

- We provide trauma-informed programs that offer hope, support and a pathway to stability and opportunity to our community's most vulnerable families and individuals.
- We develop and maintain healthy, high-quality affordable and supportive housing that responds to the needs and desires of people experiencing housing insecurity and homelessness.
- We offer employment training and career coaching to help people build skills that lead to higher incomes and greater economic opportunity.
- We partner to strengthen poverty-concentrated neighborhoods by developing housing, resources and community amenities that support the success of future generations.
- We advocate for public policies and investments that expand housing and economic opportunity, eliminate wealth inequality, and end poverty.

We believe Human Solutions can counter structural causes of poverty by sharing and aligning our influence, resources, programs, investments and expertise with individuals and communities so they can build wealth, power, security and influence.



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