



History

The Stark County Out of Poverty Partnership (SCOPP) of Stark County OH was formed in 1991 from an existing partnership, which assisted families and individuals break the cycle of poverty, called the Out of Poverty Project (OPP). The OPP approach to self-sufficiency was designed to assist families set personal goals for overcoming the obstacles to economic independence while providing an array of support services. Based on a concept paper developed by the [Enterprise Foundation](#), it was recommended that the OPP add affordable housing to the existing family development, job training and employment components that already made up the partnership. Impressed by the collaboration of the organizations involved, Enterprise also recommended that the partnership expand beyond the city of Canton and proposed a county-wide public/private partnership called the Stark County Out of Poverty Partnership (SCOPP). The purpose of SCOPP would be to strategically plan, coordinate and fund the delivery of family support, housing, economic development and employment/job training for Stark County's poorest families. SCOPP's purpose would not be to supplant existing programs, but rather to help focus and coordinate the delivery of programs and services to better meet the needs of low-income families. Existing services would be better utilized as a result.

By May of 1991, Enterprise had begun to lay the ground work for SCOPP's organization and was working with the city of Canton to strategically plan the Partnership's structure and financial resources. In 1992 the [City of Canton](#) approved an ordinance to grant the City's HOME funds to SCOPP allowing the Partnership to administer the city's affordable housing program.

Since its inception in 1991, thru its public/private partnership with the City of Canton and other non-profit affordable housing providers, SCOPP has assisted over 3,000 low-to-moderate income persons acquire housing that is safe, sanitary and affordable or have improved the quality and asset value of their existing home.

For information on SCOPP's various programs see.