



# The Stamford Partnership 2024-25



# Our History

**1978** The Stamford Economic Assistance Corporation is formed by local business leaders.

**1988** The Stamford Partnership takes its current name and form

**1992** The Stamford Partnership helps create the DSSD, known today as Stamford Downtown.

**1987** The Stamford Chamber of Commerce is formed through the Stamford Partnership.

**1996** Stamford Public Education Foundation is launched via The Partnership.

**2000** The Waterside Coalition is formed through the Partnership.

**1998** UConn Stamford opens in downtown Stamford, led by the Stamford Partnership.

**2004** The Mill River Park Collaborative is formed, eventually growing to become Stamford's 'central park.'

**2008** Neighbors Link (now P2P) is launched, supporting Stamford's immigrant community.

**2016** The Partnership leads the effort to refresh the City's branding.

**2012** Advocacy efforts lead to major updates at the Stamford Transportation Center

**2023** The Partnership greatly expands its workforce initiatives

**2019** SWIFI, Stamford's first and only free public WiFi network, launches in downtown Stamford



# A Partnership for the Future

The Stamford Partnership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on improving the quality of life for Stamford's residents, workforce, businesses, and stakeholders. We bring people, companies, governments, and nonprofits together to reimagine our shared future. Focused on economic and social impact, we're guided by our three pillars:



## Public Private Partnership

We create and empower coalitions to help transform Stamford. Together, we foster a city that's fully connected, powered by technology, and with sustainability at the core of all we do.



## Ecosystem Development

We create programs and services for high potential industries and networks—to encourage innovation, growth, and connectivity.



## Talent Development

We believe that the workforce of the future is built on lifelong learning, soft skills, and technical knowhow. And we help individuals and companies grow with these concepts at the forefront.



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## Staff

**Kevin Peraino** CEO | **Isis-Rae Goulbourne** Head of Events and Community | **Scott Conley** Head of Leadership Fairfield County |  
**Shannon Daniels** Program Manager | **Patricia Torres Meyer** Director, Good Jobs Challenge | **Mercury Associates** Bookkeeping



# Our Impact

We foster an economic and social ecosystem that creates new opportunities and helps individuals thrive. Together, we make a lasting, positive impact on our community.

From grant programs for entrepreneurs to fireside chats to community co-working, the Partnership's public projects are designed to serve all the city's residents, cultivating an ethos of inclusive growth. Working hand in hand with community partners, our workforce initiatives prepare area residents to succeed in high-quality tech jobs.

## Stamford Partnership Initiatives

### DreamUp

Grants for Minority Entrepreneurs

### Room for All

Resource Showcase for Entrepreneurs

### Co-Working

Free Location for Office Space

### Leadership Fairfield County

Development Program for Executives

### 501(c)(3) Fiduciary

Applying for Grants on Behalf of City

### Regional Sector Partnership

Co-Convener of SWCT Tech Cohort

### Stamford Tech Talent Pipeline

Digital Workforce Training Initiative



# Project Spotlight, Connecticut Tech Hub



The Stamford Partnership is a convener of the Southwest CT Tech Partnership, which brings together tech- and data-driven leaders to strengthen our region's position as a thriving Tech Hub. Employer partners leverage their collective scale to tackle difficult workforce and economic development issues.



# Project Spotlight, Co-Working

The Partnership's **free** co-working program has been growing rapidly and is expected to continue its steady growth in 2024. Last year the Partnership increased the cadence of its co-working sessions to weekly (versus roughly biweekly the previous year) and added compelling programming including resume-building and access-to-finance workshops.



# Project Spotlight, Room for All

In July 2022 the Partnership piloted its Room for All program—a resource showcase of top organizations, speakers, and mentors giving small businesses and entrepreneurs access to valuable information and tools. This program is expected to continue to grow in 2024.





# Project Spotlight, Dream Up



The Dream Up Fund provides programs for entrepreneurs of color and underrepresented minorities who are creating and leading high-impact businesses and nonprofits. The fund empowers the vast entrepreneurial talent that is underutilized in our economy by addressing unequal access to resources, information, support, and capital.

