

About the Partnership

In 2005, Hennepin County and the University of Minnesota launched a broad initiative to capture value for both organizations through a more strategic collaboration—connecting the two organizations where mutual benefit can be found. This includes collaboration on community-based research, sharing of academic and practitioner expertise, and providing students with valuable real-world experience.

Vision Statement

The Hennepin-University Partnership is a strategic alignment between the state’s primary research university and the state’s largest county—focusing on *connecting where it counts*.

Goals of the Hennepin-University Partnership

- Facilitating the sharing of academic and experiential expertise
- Brokering relationships between practitioners and academics to support joint research
- Connecting students with county internship opportunities

Focus Areas

The partnership has chosen to focus on five areas that are of special interest due to their importance and immediate relevancy to the well-being of communities in Hennepin County.

Educational Achievement

Increasing high school graduation rates is considered one of the most effective ways to improve the well-being of a community. *What are the most effective ways for the county to influence high school graduation rates?*

Child Well-being

Programs for children whose parents cannot care for them sometimes do not achieve the goal of providing a stable and secure place to thrive. *How can the County increase successful outcomes for children placed in foster care?*

Impacts of an Aging Population

Demographics are changing as the “baby boomers” grow older and have changing needs and preferences. *What are the implications of this aging population on County services and operations? What are the implications for the University?*

Ending Homelessness

Hennepin County's Office to End Homelessness has been working with University faculty and graduate students to analyze the Heading Home Hennepin program and determine its viability for use as a collaborative model.

Transitway Impacts Research Program

Looking toward the future of public transportation in the Twin Cities region, researchers and policymakers need to discuss the impacts of transitways and prospects for future development. The Transitway Impacts Research Program (TIRP) was launched in 2006 through collaboration between the University and Hennepin County facilitated by the Hennepin-University Partnership. It has since expanded to include a wide range of stakeholders representing regional organizations, local governments, and regulatory agencies.

Management Team



Jan Callison is the 6th District County Commissioner for Hennepin County.



Ed Goetz is Director of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and Associate Dean of the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota.



Thomas Scott is Director Emeritus of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and a Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota.



Richard P. Johnson is the County Administrator for Hennepin County.



Cathy Jordan is Executive Director of the Children, Youth, and Family Consortium and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota.



Kristine Martin is Director of the Research, Planning and Development Department for Hennepin County.



Kathie Doty is the program director for the Hennepin-University Partnership.