

Community Teamwork
Community Investment Plan
Executive Summary

Community Teamwork is a catalyst for social change. We work together to strengthen communities and reduce poverty by delivering vital services and collaborating with key stakeholders to create housing, education and economic opportunities. For the past 50 years, Community Teamwork has worked to address, in a comprehensive way, the wide-ranging needs of the low-income population across our region.

As a Community Action Agency, a Community Development Corporation, and a Regional Housing Agency, Community Teamwork works with the low-income community to reduce poverty in our neighborhoods through the development and provision of affordable housing, job training, business development, microfinance, energy conservation, financial education, and early education and care. Our work is deeply rooted in local advocacy efforts that aim to ensure that all of our neighbors have an opportunity to reach their potential and promote economic development in the communities in which we live.

Community Teamwork serves 63 cities and towns across the Commonwealth but its core service area is Greater Lowell including the city of Lowell and the seven surrounding towns of Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Dunstable, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford.

CTI has developed the following goals and activities as part of our Community Investment Plan:

Housing and Homelessness: Work closely with DHCD and our regional partners to expand homelessness prevention services for families and individuals.

- Stabilize 400 at-risk families by helping them retain their housing through initiatives such as Residential Assistance to Families in Transition (RAFT), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and other funding.
- Continue to educate local communities about affordable housing and develop 36 units of affordable housing in Westford through CTI's subsidiary Common Ground Development Corporation.

Jobs and Job Training: Increase our capacity to support the development of a competitive entry-level workforce by expanding collaborative partnerships.

- Develop and conduct job skills training in partnership with the Regional Vocational Schools
- Provide job search assistance and increased access to local employers via enhanced partnership with the Lowell Career Center.
- Partner with our Child and Family Services transportation department to assist parents who need assistance to get to work

Financial Literacy, Income Management and Asset Development: Assist low-income individuals to increase their financial knowledge, improve their ability to practice good money management skills and help them to better position themselves to be able to invest in their future.

- Provide high quality one-on-one financial coaching and peer support to 45 individuals.
- Increase the ability for 40 individuals to acquire an asset such as homeownership, small business start or post-secondary education through the Individual Development Account (IDA) initiative.

Children, Youth and Families: Continue to deliver quality care for children from birth to 14 years of age, while expanding childcare, before and after school care, WIC and family development programs to underserved areas.

- Provide early education and care services to 600 children and expand childcare services to other parts of the community.