

Vision: *For all people in Pittsfield to experience a just, thriving, and safe community that leads to an improved quality of life.*



Working Cities Pittsfield is a resident-driven initiative focused on building economic opportunity for all regardless of background. We celebrate residents as leaders in building their own community.

Data: September 1, 2016 – April 15, 2019

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

- Berkshire County pop 126,313
 - 63,322 employed
 - 12.4% poverty rate
 - Median household income: \$55,190
- Pittsfield pop 43,289
 - 21,341 employed
 - 16.7% poverty rate
 - Median household income by census tract (2015)
 - 9002 (Morningside): \$28,347
 - 9001 (Downtown): \$17,813
 - 9006 (Westside): \$24,351



What is Working Cities?

- A challenge grant from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston to "gateway cities"
- Align sectors toward common goals – collective impact model
- System change
- Pittsfield's theory of change works through individual, institutional, and community lenses



What makes a city work?

The Berkshire Bridges – Working Cities Pittsfield Initiative is designed to support the journey from poverty to sustainability by collaboratively building community resources and removing barriers by:

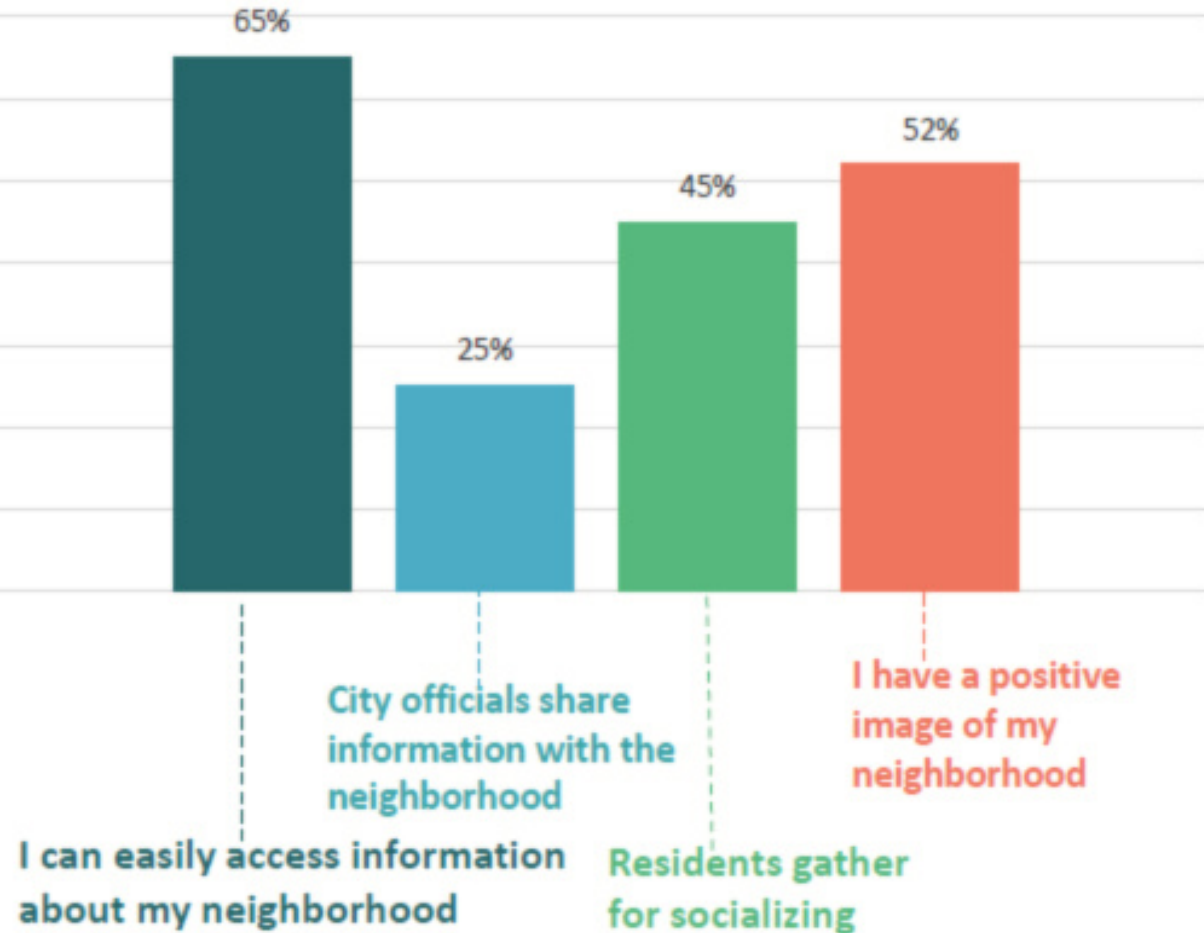
- Listening openly to resident voices
- Appreciating and understanding different perspectives
- Responding authentically and respectfully
- Working collaboratively toward common goals



RESIDENT VOICE

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

100 resident responses



WORKING CITIES WEDNESDAY RESIDENT-LED PROJECTS COMPLETED

-  Harvest of Hope
-  Pittsfield Pillow Express
-  Community Bike Ride
-  Homeless Prevention Committee
-  Dower Square BBQ
-  Plogging Team *(picking up litter while jogging)*
-  Dance Flash Mob
-  Neighborhood Traffic Safety
-  Community Caroling
-  Co-op Transportation
-  Police Outreach Office



**GETTING AHEAD
PEOPLE SERVED**





194 People served through Getting Ahead since Working Cities began.



97 People attended full day, second session, Bridges out of Poverty: Applying Bridges Concepts.



36 Unique partners have connected through Working Cities.



32 Resident-led pitches at Working Cities Wednesday.



71 Community meetings or events attended by Community Navigators

Opportunities

- Culturally appropriate community engagement is becoming an expected norm.
- Residents are seeing their voices reflected in policy decisions.
- New community spaces are being developed by city and private partners.
- Berkshire County is small and our reach can spread quickly.

Challenges

- There is no county government.
- Systems that perpetuate poverty
 - Transportation
 - Child care
 - Cliff effect
- Lack of diversity.
- Funding sources are limited in region.



Nothing about us without us.

Thank you!

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