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.

Date: 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 track (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

65% 25% 45% 52%

City officials share information with the neighborhood
I have a positive image of my neighborhood
I can easily access information about my neighborhood
Residents gather for socializing

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
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.
Thank you!

For more information, contact: Alisa Costa, Initiative Director, Working Cities Pittsfield
ACosta@berkshirehabitat.org, 413-442-0003
http://workingcitiespittsfield.org/