



# Springfield Transforming Communities Initiative

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# Desired Outcomes

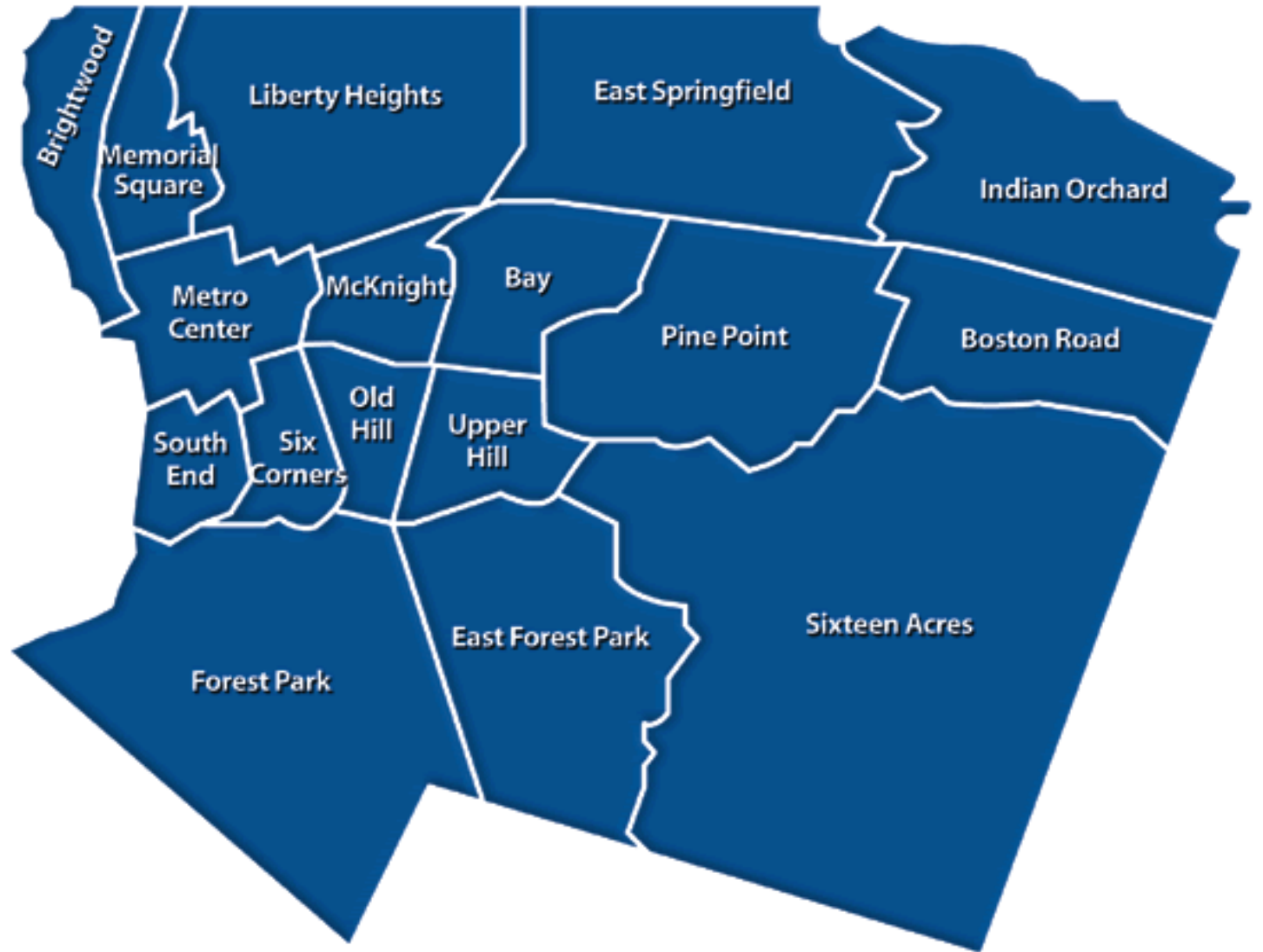
- **Overview of the City of Springfield**
- **TCI Springfield Committee**
  - Description, Structure and Process
- **Four housing strategies and our lessons learned**
  - Access to Council
  - Tenant Support office
  - Springfield Housing Trust Fund
  - Corporate Landlord Practices
- **Next Steps**



# City of Springfield

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- Located in Western Massachusetts, Springfield is the third-largest city in the Commonwealth.
- **Population:** 153,337
- **Race/Ethnicity:**
  - African American: 20%
  - White (Caucasian): 40.8%
  - Hispanic/Latino: 47.41%
  - Asian: 2.8%
  - American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.05%





The Springfield Transforming Communities Initiative (TCI) is a collaborative effort working with community partners and residents to improve health outcomes, promote racial justice, and achieve health equity for Springfield residents by addressing issues of housing and homelessness.

# TCI Advisory Committee Structure

**Convene a coalition of partners for different sectors of the community**

## **Community Partners**

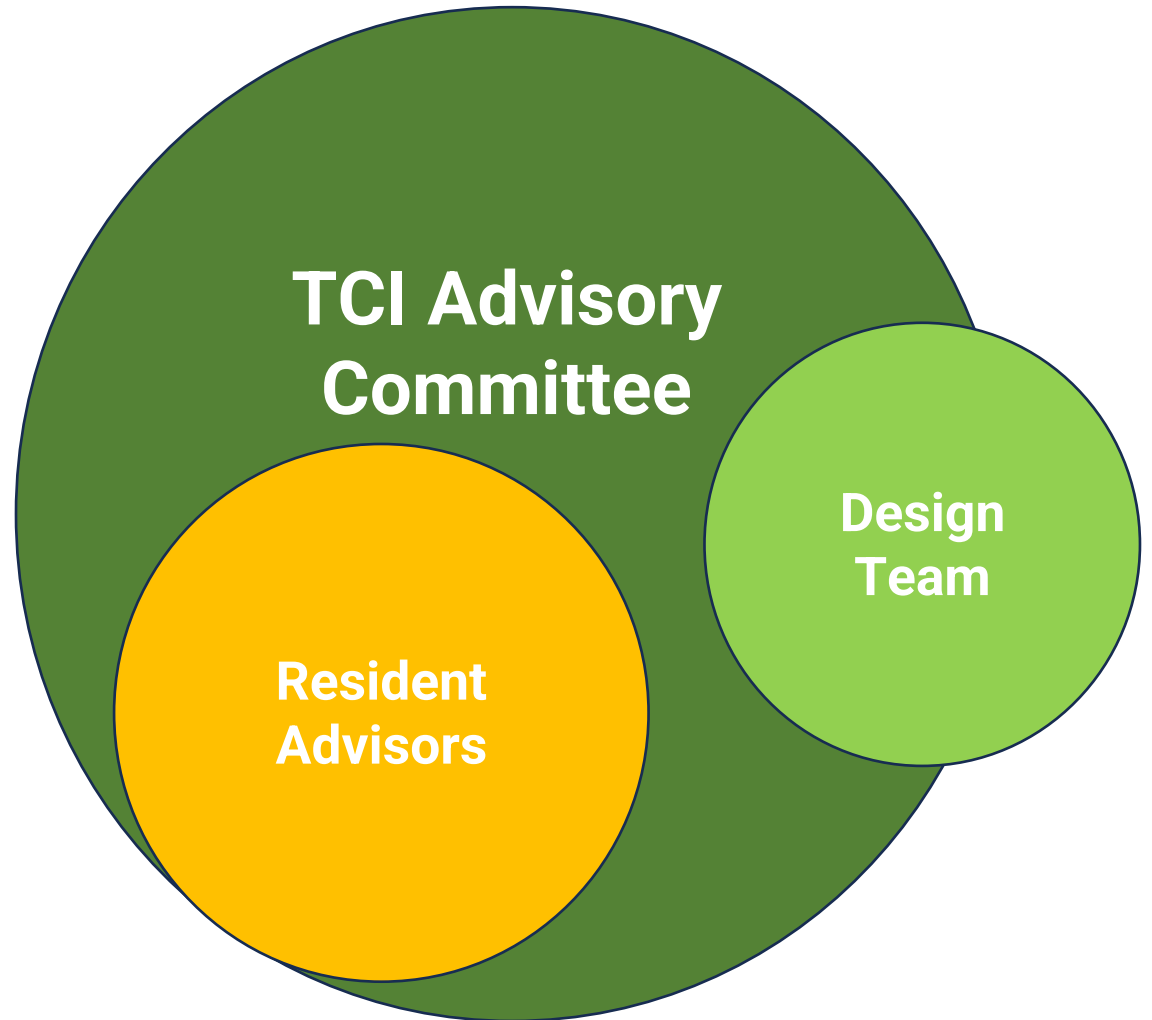
- City of Springfield, community organizations, grassroots organizations, housing services

## **Design Team Partners**

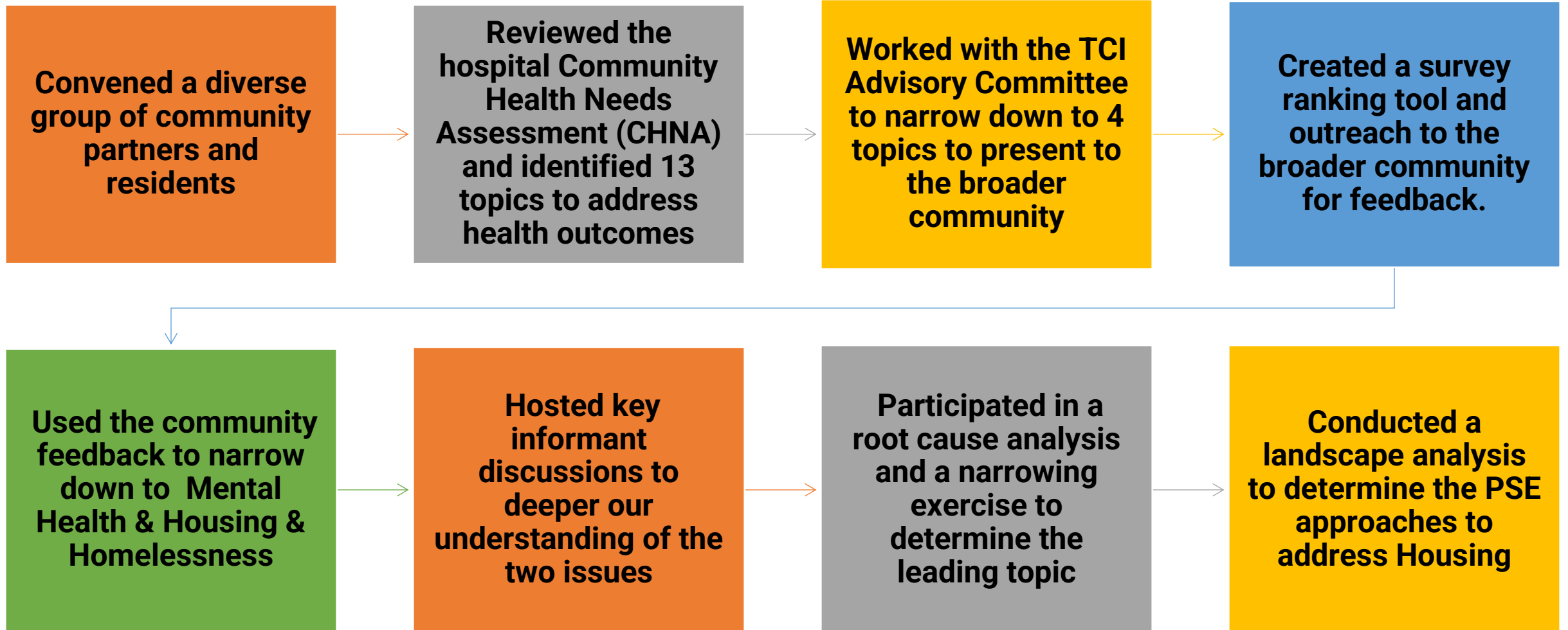
- Convener, evaluator, regional health ministry, funded partner organization

## **Resident Advisors**

- Individuals with lived and professional experience who care about the issue of housing



# Coalition Process







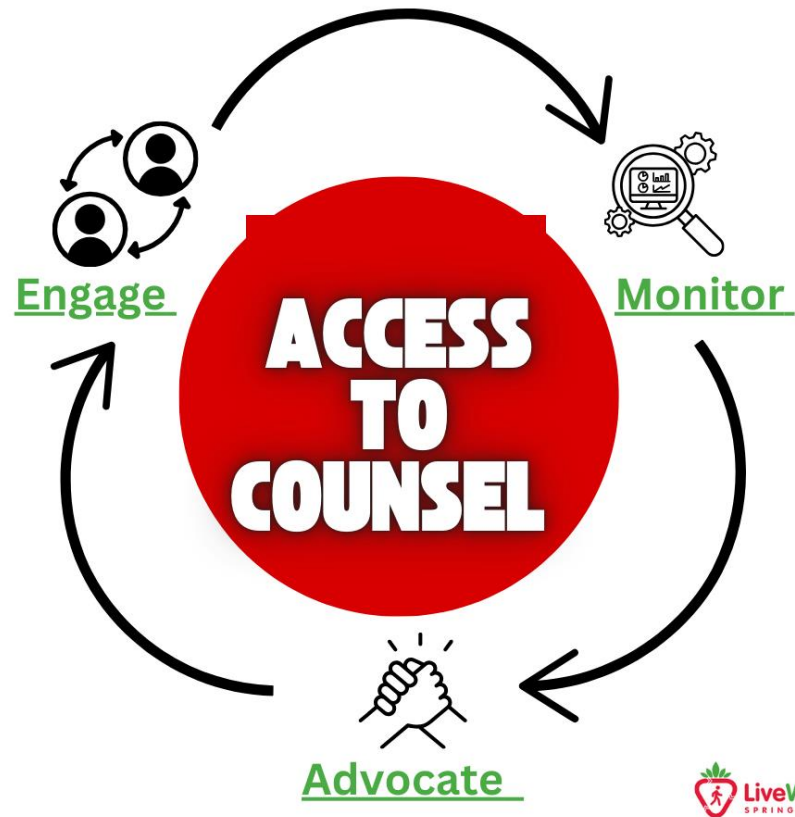
# Capacity Building Resources to Understand Housing & Homelessness

- TCI Housing & Homelessness Report
- Policy, Systems, and Environmental Strategies Chart
- Key Stakeholder Discussion



# ACCESS TO COUNSEL (STATEWIDE)

## Transforming Communities Initiative



### ENGAGE, MONITOR & ADVOCATE AT THE STATE LEVEL:

- Actively participate as a partner in the statewide group.
- Support statewide advocacy efforts to increase ATC funding in the next fiscal budget.

### DEFINR FUNDING GOALS:

- Develop a shared understanding of the ideal funding amount needed for Access to Counsel statewide.

### UNDERSTAND IMPLEMENTATION PLANS:

- Have a shared understanding of the MLAC process to implement ATC across the state.
  - **MA Legal Assistance Corp** to designated non-profit orgs to increase Access To Legal Representation for low-income tenants & owner occupants in eviction proceedings



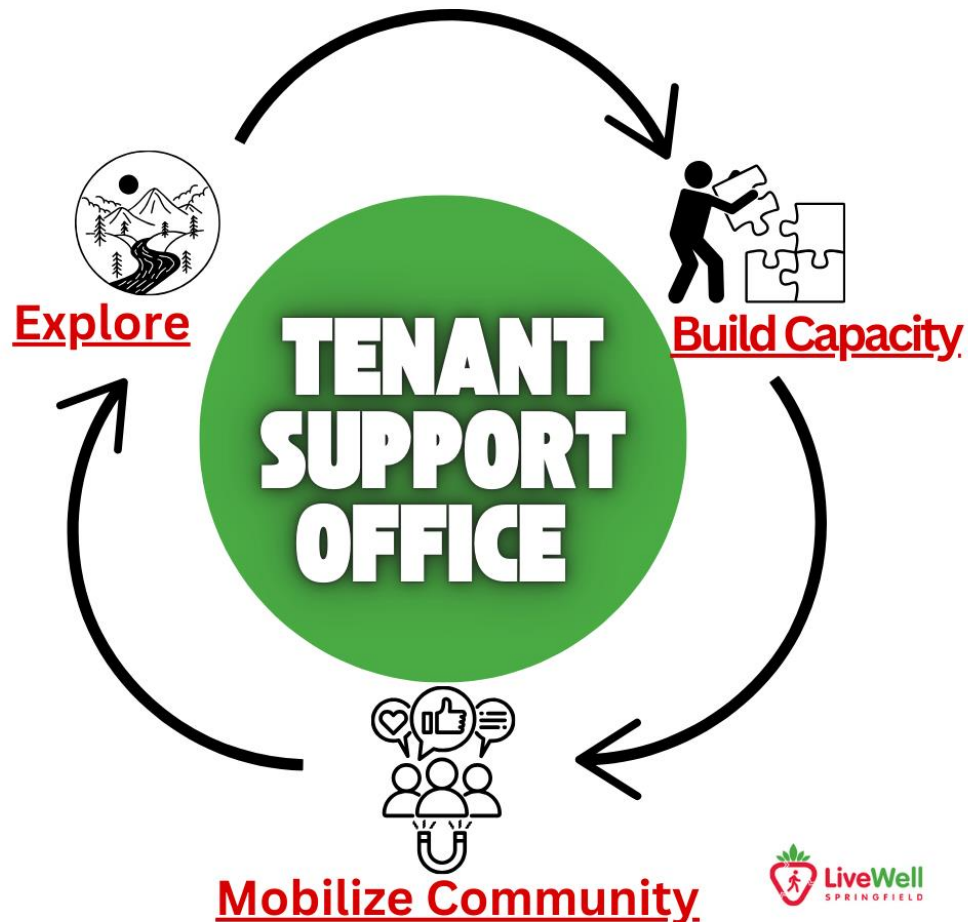
# SPRINGFIELD HOUSING TRUST FUND (SHTF)

- **ENGAGE & MONITOR PROGRESS:**
  - Reach out to Gerri McCaffery to confirm the first SHTF meeting of the year.
  - Track the frequency of SHTF meetings to ensure consistent progress toward their model. Advocate for regular meetings if they are not established.
- **TRANSPARENCY & PARTICIPATION:**
  - Confirm whether SHTF meetings are public and whether TCI coalition members can attend to better understand the direction of their work.
- **REPORTING:**
  - Provide quarterly updates to the TCI Advisory Committee on the trust fund's progress.
- **FUNDING**
  - **(Question)** What is the funding resource for housing trust funds like this?



# TENANT SUPPORT OFFICE (N2N) (ACTIVITY)

## Transforming Communities Initiative



- **EXPLORATION & CAPACITY BUILDING:**

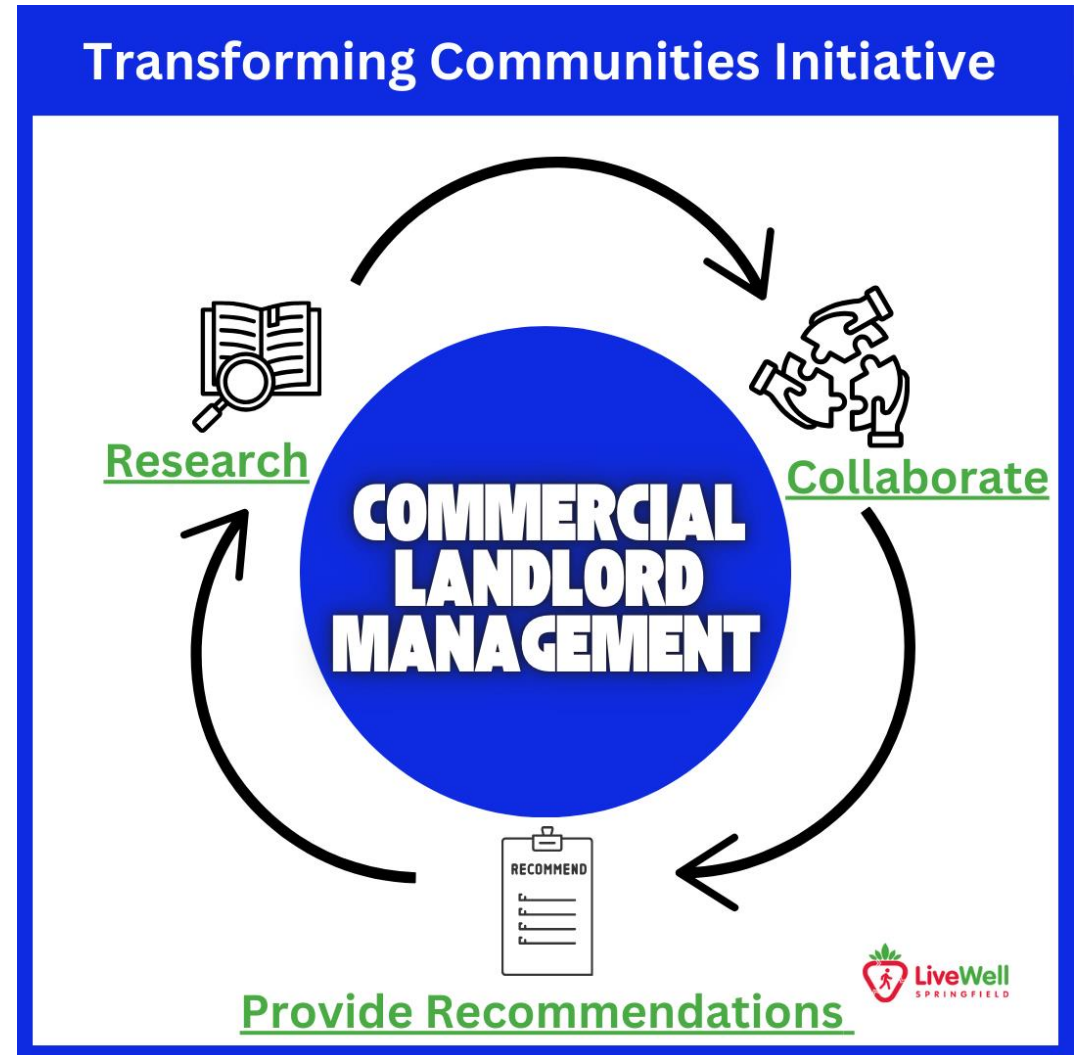
- Collaborate with the TCI Coalition to evaluate the current state of Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) efforts regarding a Tenant Support Office in Springfield.
- Develop an understanding of past N2N efforts and the community's needs for a Tenant Support Office.

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

- Create a summer community engagement plan to gather feedback and gauge community impact.

# COMMERCIAL LANDLORD MANAGEMENT (RESEARCH)

- **RESEARCH & COLLABORATION:**
  - Investigate what steps have been taken to address and dismantle slumlord practices among commercial landlords.
  - Study efforts in Connecticut and at the national level for best practices.
- **CITY-LEVEL ACCOUNTABILITY:**
  - Identify city departments and staff responsible for property management and code enforcement. Determine the point of contact for these areas.
- **UPDATES ON SPRINGFIELD GARDENS:**
  - Request a status update on the sale of Springfield Gardens.
  - Investigate who within the city is responsible for managing rental property conditions.





# Next Steps

- Support our partners, N2N, in collecting **Landlord Report Cards** over the next two months.
- Train residents to **conduct canvassing and door-knocking** interviews with tenants.
- **Implement a coalition survey** to assess the engagement and participation levels of committee members.
- **Advocate for and monitor** efforts related to Access to Counsel and the Springfield Housing Trust Fund.
- In June, **host a Housing Resource Fair** to connect the community with resources and information related to housing needs.

