

# Housing & Homelessness



- **35%** of households in Hampden County are housing-cost burdened (meaning they spend more than 30% of their income on housing)
- Between 2010 and 2019, **homelessness increased three-fold** in Hampden County
- There is a **shortage of affordable housing units**--UMass Donahue Institute projects a housing gap of over 13,000 units in Hampden County by 2025
- **Housing stock is old** and deferred maintenance can lead to problems that affect health; Springfield is a **high-risk community for childhood lead poisoning**

## Racial Equity

- housing cost burden was greater for people of color in the Pioneer Valley- could be related to lower median incomes, and higher proportion of renters
- People of color are overrepresented in the Hampden County's unhoused population
- History of housing discrimination/redlining continues to reverberate today

## Assets/Momentum

- There are great allies in the legislature.
- There are many housing providers in Springfield, including subsidized housing, emergency housing, shelters, and transitional housing.
- There are several home repair programs in Springfield, including lead-based paint hazard reduction, emergency home repair, and healthy home and accessibility improvements.
- Medicaid flex services program fund home repair and housing efforts (Revitalize CDC, Way Finders)
- There are a few organizations that provide housing and homeownership counseling.
- There are several housing advocates, including Springfield No One Leaves, Arise for Social Justice, and Neighbor to Neighbor.
- There are several organizations working on housing discrimination issues.
- There are several local and regional housing collaborations: Springfield Healthy Homes, (PHIWM convened); Regional: Hampden County Continuum of Care (convened by Springfield Office of Housing)

## Opportunities/Gaps

- Affordable housing
- Housing conditions
- Needs of currently homeless
- Barriers to getting into housing
- People with CORIs
- People with DV situations
- Aging homeless population
- People with severe mental health conditions/substance use disorders
- Address CORI, gap for young people with associates degree to get affordable housing, housing conditions (mold)
- Advocacy to create more affordable housing,
- Housing as healthcare-what can Medicaid pay for to get into housing, both condition of housing and having housing
- Housing discrimination- redlining/zoning