

# COLLECTIVE IMPACT LINCOLN



2020-2023



Collective Impact Lincoln is a collaborative initiative between Civic Nebraska and Nebraska Applesed. We focus our work on Lincoln, Nebraska's core neighborhoods-Belmont, Clinton, Everett, Hartley, Near South, and University Place-identified through the 2015 Lincoln Vital Signs report.



**It takes more voices from people who are underserved to be loud in a productive way to get our share of the pie.**

- Gloria Eddins, Clinton Resident Leader



# MISSION

Collective Impact Lincoln creates lasting, meaningful, resident-led investment and positive change in Lincoln's core neighborhoods. Through community events and conversations, workshops, and policy advocacy, we support neighbors as they examine their communities' natural strengths and adopt new ways to improve.

# VISION

- Diverse community members, especially those from underrepresented communities and neighborhoods, are equitably engaged in public decision-making.
- Public policies and practices are shaped by and respond to the needs of the community.
- All community members have access to decent housing, quality jobs, and public support structures so they can thrive.
- Every neighborhood is seen as vibrant and vital to our greater community, with none experiencing extreme poverty.

# WE WORK WITH OUR NEIGHBORS ON

## Community Engagement & Leadership

**Development:** We conduct community canvassing and lift up neighborhood-specific needs. We identify neighbors who show a spark for leadership and provide training and mentorship to develop those skills.

**Neighborhood Improvements:** We support residents to create and lead projects that make neighborhoods more vibrant, center and strengthen existing community assets, and demonstrate the neighborhood's vitality.

**Grassroots Organizing:** We show up regularly to build trust and authentic relationships with community members and weave together allies, stakeholders, and individuals directly affected by issues.

## Policy Research and

**Advocacy:** We translate community needs into policy ideas, identify avenues to push policy forward, and develop campaigns and pathways to create change.



FOCUS ON:

# HOUSING JUSTICE WORK

## EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT SCORECARD



Collective Impact Lincoln created this rubric to provide a fair and uniform way to score housing developments in Lincoln receiving public subsidies. The Equitable Development Scorecard can be used by **local decision-makers** to assess if a proposed housing development should receive public funds through TIF (Tax Increment Financing), **community members and advocates** to evaluate the equity and affordability of proposed developments and apply public pressure if needed, and **housing developers** to understand how to create equitable developments and identify areas for improvement. We tested the scorecard with a local housing developer and then shared and promoted the final tool with Lincoln City leadership.





Photo courtesy of KLNK-TV

## 'Evicted Experience'

Collective Impact Lincoln and partners **hosted a three-part virtual 'Evicted Experience' to educate and engage community members on the harmful issue of evictions**, including a tour of the Nebraska History Museum's 'Evicted' exhibition; a screening of 'Behind on Rent,' a local film highlighting evictions in our communities (138,154 views); and a Community Builder Workshop on state-level advocacy.

### BY THE NUMBERS:

## Testimonies per year at the Legislature & City Council

**YEAR 4**  
**13**

**YEAR 5**  
**11**

**YEAR 6**  
**13**

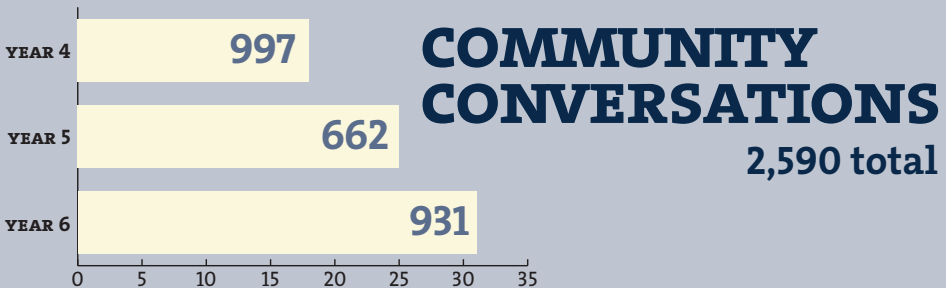
**TOTAL:** CIL testified **37** times before Lincoln City Council & The NE Legislature and gathered **43** comments on eviction protections from community members.

## FOCUS ON:

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

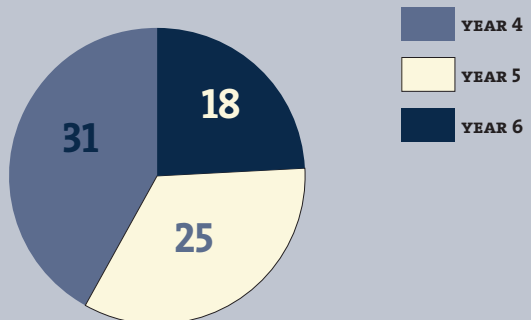
In Fall 2022, CIL and NeighborWorks Lincoln began monthly programming for housing advocates, alternating workshops with potlucks. Conversations highlighted issues in core neighborhoods, including a zoning code amendment proposing "collaborative living" as a conditional use. Earlier, a Near South resident partnered with a CIL organizer to rally City Council testimony supporting an Oxford House. Despite mixed reactions, the Oxford House-providing communal housing for individuals in recovery-was approved. This approval spurred the Planning Department to draft a zoning code amendment formalizing housing paths for Oxford Homes. CIL and NWL supported listening sessions, uniting residents, officials, and impacted tenants, fostering leadership and policy change.

## BY THE NUMBERS:



## ACTION COMMITTEES

CIL team members were active in a total of **74** different associations serving their communities.



## FOCUS ON:

# GRASSROOTS ORGANIZING

Since September of 2022, in collaboration with NeighborWorks Lincoln, CIL has hosted monthly events to bring housing advocates together to learn, connect, and build our network. These events include education on topics such as code enforcement and how affordable housing is developed; potlucks; grill outs; and an annual end-of-year celebration!

## COMMUNITY BUILDER WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

21

21 workshops and trainings were held from 2020-2023. These workshops provided residents with valuable skills, including:

- o Navigating the legislature
- o Testifying at city council meetings
- o How to support your neighbor in a mental health crisis

**NUMBER OF LINCOLNITES TRAINED: 310**

During the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, a series of workshops empowered attendees to engage with the Nebraska Legislature effectively. Participants learned about the legislative process, connected with local activists and organizers on key issues like food security and quality jobs, and focused on housing advocacy. Events like "**How to Make Your Voice Heard in Nebraska's Legislature**" and the "**Housing Advocate's Guide to the Legislative Session**" provided updates on relevant bills, outlined advocacy strategies, and fostered collaboration among advocates, particularly through partnerships like the one with NeighborWorks Lincoln. These workshops equipped advocates with the knowledge and tools to influence legislative outcomes.

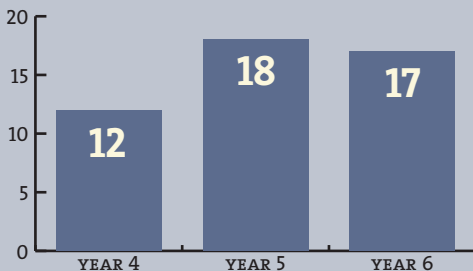


# FOCUS ON: COMMUNITY ART ALLEY

Residents from across the core neighborhoods applied for Collective Impact Lincoln (CIL) mini-grants in 2021 and went on to accomplish phenomenal placemaking projects that strengthened their community bonds, safety, and access to information and resources. The goal of the Community Art Alley project was to improve the walkability and safety of the University Place neighborhood.



## BY THE NUMBERS NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS:



47 neighborhood projects were brought to life by resident leaders with the support of CIL. These initiatives strengthened community bonds and improved neighborhood safety.

# COLLECTIVE IMPACT LINCOLN: A ROADMAP

We work alongside our neighbors to advance affordable, safe, and accessible housing for all Lincolniters.

**Build Community with Impacted Residents:** CIL is committed to building a community of housing advocates by engaging with residents, understanding their housing experiences, and supporting resident-led initiatives.

**Advance Affordable Housing Development:** CIL supports the development and public investment in affordable housing by advocating for transparency in the City's progress toward meeting its housing goals.

**Advocate for Right to Counsel in Eviction Court:** CIL is dedicated to establishing a right to legal counsel for individuals facing eviction to enhance housing stability and prevent displacement.

Scan QR code to check out CIL's website!



# BUILDING ON OUR SUCCESS



Over the last two phases and six years of the project, we have uplifted our neighbors through city and state-level advocacy, creating stronger connections between residents and the institutions that serve them. CIL has advanced public policy to strengthen housing rights, such as the Lincoln Ordinance 19-52, and facilitated dialogue between developers and community members, exemplified by the 2022 Equitable Development Scorecard. Our residents have been appointed and elected to formal decision-making positions, now serving on boards and commissions that impact the Lincoln-Lancaster community.



In phase three, the Collective Impact Lincoln team continues to build upon the foundation set in prior years. Activities include hosting Community Builder Workshops; supporting neighborhood projects; attending partnership and coalition meetings; hosting and co-hosting events for neighborhood leaders and residents; and continuing community conversations.

# THANK YOU

TO OUR COMMITTED  
PARTNERS, FORMER AND CURRENT, AND  
GENEROUS DONORS WHO MAKE COLLECTIVE  
IMPACT LINCOLN POSSIBLE!

Civic Nebraska, Nebraska Appleseed, and the South of Downtown Community Development Organization (SDCDO) formed the original Collective Impact Lincoln partnership. In 2022, SDCDO staff transitioned and stepped back from Collective Impact Lincoln. We want to acknowledge the incredible work SDCDO and their team committed to the partnership and Everett and Near South neighbors.

