

Housing & Community Development Leadership Institute

CREATING HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
THE NEXT LEADERS IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

April 8, 2025



TODAY'S AGENDA

1. Introductions
2. What is the HCDLI?
3. Program Highlights
4. Learning Through Practice: Former HCDLI Participant, Donna Trowers-Morrison
5. Opportunities for Partnership
6. Q&A

INTRODUCTIONS



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Donna Trowers-Morrison
Former HCDLI Participant; Asset
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Local Initiatives Support Corporation

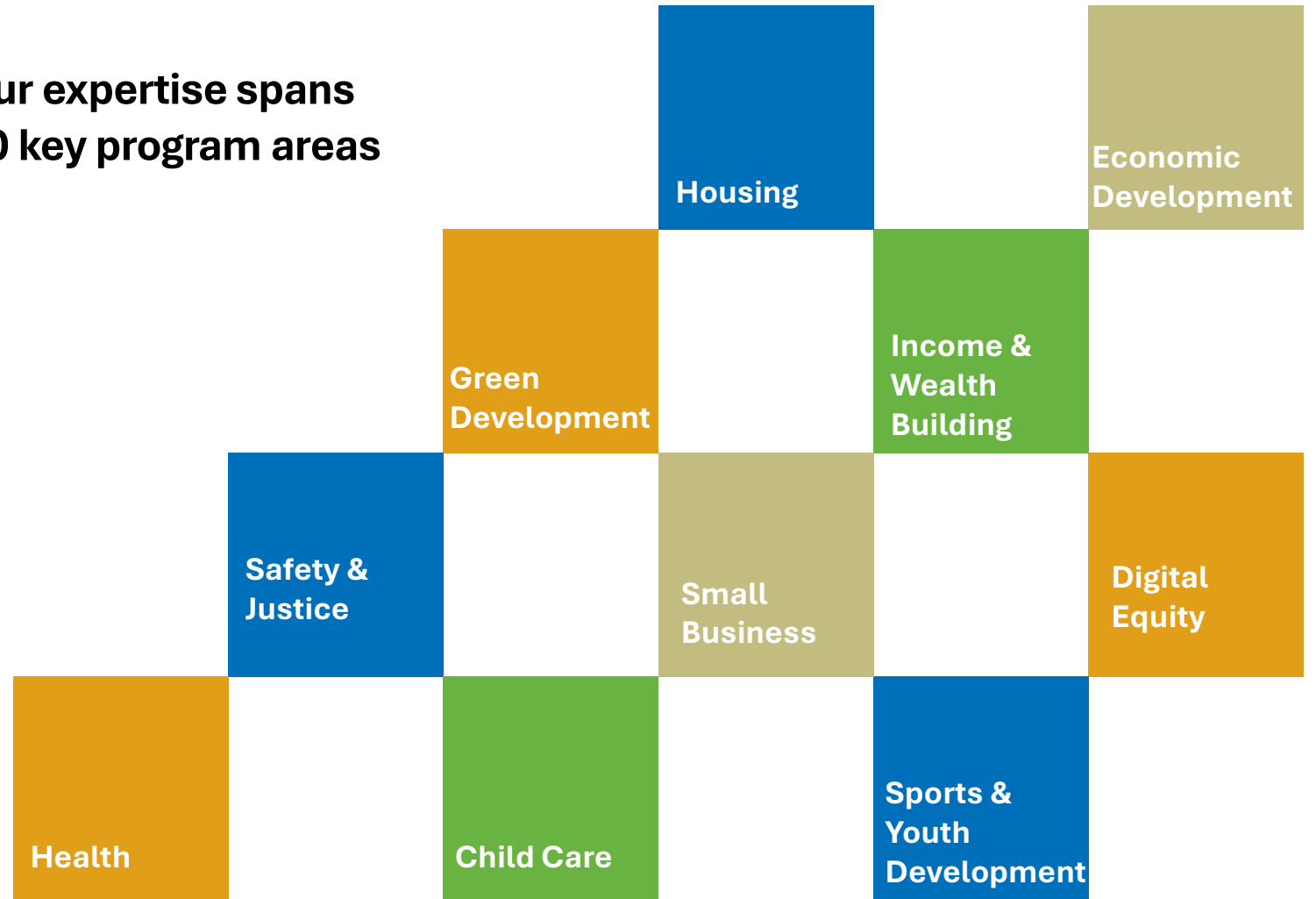
Founded in 1979; launched
work in Hartford in 1984

Invested over \$115M in
communities across
Connecticut

Largest national community
development support
organization in the country

LISC CONNECTICUT

**Our expertise spans
10 key program areas**



**LISC builds the capacity of the community development sector
through technical assistance and financial investments.**

WHAT IS THE HCDDLI?

- The Housing & Community Development Leadership Institute is a professional development program that provides participants with the knowledge, skills, experience, and professional connections to build a career in the affordable housing and community development sector.
- Funded by CT Department of Housing and Connecticut Housing Finance Authority and administered by LISC Connecticut.
- Open to residents of Connecticut or employees of Connecticut-based organizations.

WHAT IS THE HCCLI?

GOALS

- 1) Expand the number of professionals entering the housing and community development sector in Connecticut.
- 2) Create on-going professional development opportunities for the community development sector more broadly.
- 3) Offer networking and collaboration between professionals and organizations.

WHAT IS THE HCDLI?

STRUCTURE

- Virtual and in-person workshops
- Networking events and panels
- Access to professional certifications
- Hands-on learning opportunities w/ community organizations
- Formal and informal mentorships

Networking Opportunities

Lunch & Learn sessions with
Dept. of Housing Commissioner,
Seila Mosquera-Bruno


Lunch & Learn session with staff
from Connecticut Housing
Finance Authority


Invitation to Connecticut
Affordable Housing Conference


Luncheon and panel discussion
with Department of Housing,
CHFA, and Capital for Change



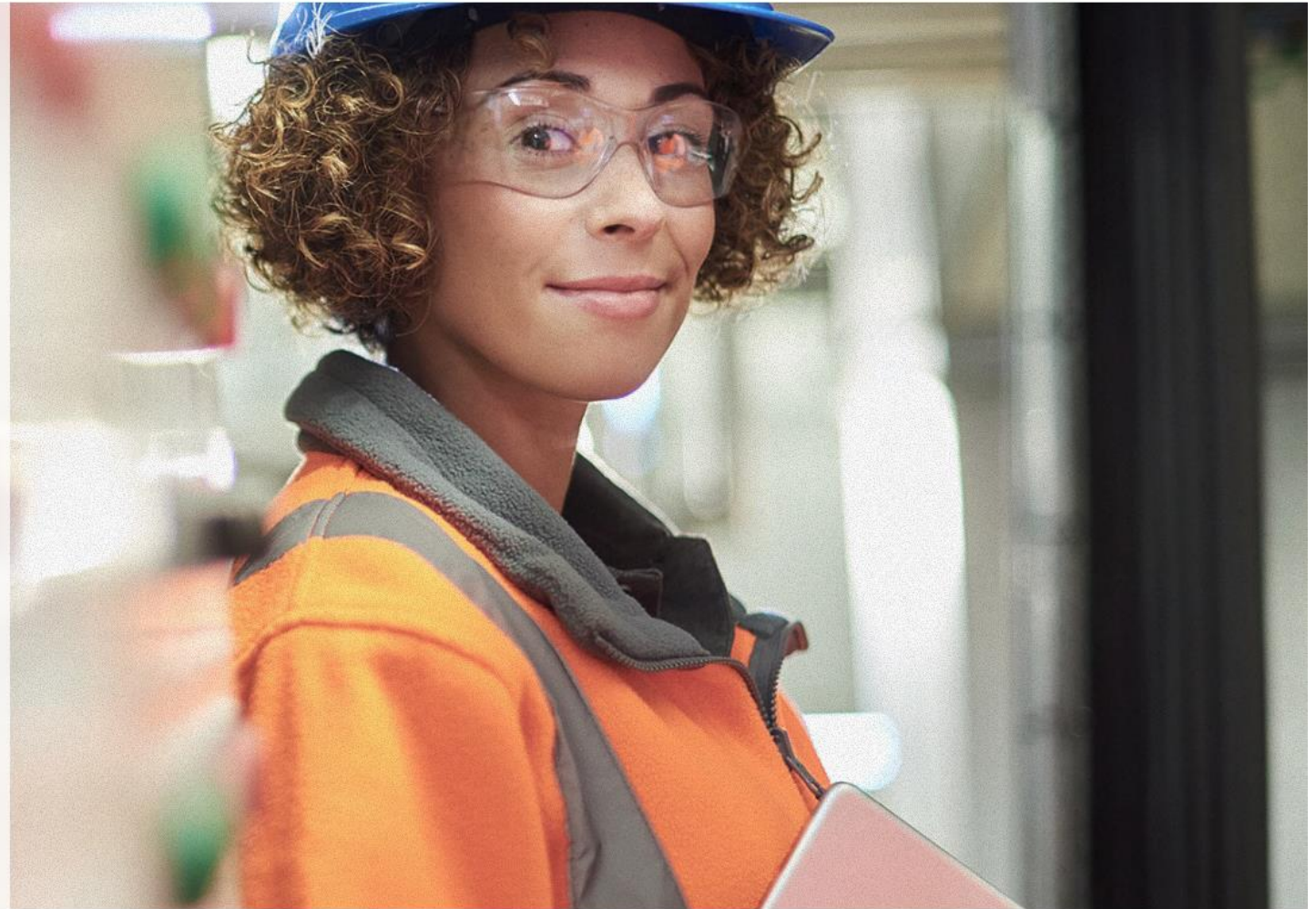
Helping You Build the Skills for a Successful Career in Housing and Community Development

 Property & Asset Management

 Affordable Housing Development

 Housing Education & Counseling

Apply Today



IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Number of Cohorts:** 5 cohorts
 - 3 virtual long-term cohorts (12-14 months), 2 hybrid cohorts (8 weeks)
- **Total Number of Individuals Enrolled:** 63 participants
 - Includes the 23 participants in the recently launched Hartford cohort
 - An additional 30+ have participated in individual trainings
- **Total Number of Internships:** 6 internships
 - 4 out of the 6 participants were offered employment by their host sites
- **Total Number of Participants Connected to Additional Professional Training Opportunities:** 17
 - Consortium for Housing and Asset Management, GrowAmerica, NeighborWorks America Virtual Training Institute
- **Demographic Breakdowns**
 - Over **80%** of participants have been women
 - Over **75%** identify as Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, or other Person of Color

LESSONS LEARNED

- Participants have varying interests for when the cohort concludes
- Participants enter the program with different backgrounds and varying levels of base knowledge
- Identifying opportunities for internship placements can be challenging, as many organizations lack capacity
- Still working to make all organizations aware of the full potential of HCDLI and ways to increase visibility of the program through different avenues of marketing
- Opportunities to learn from program alumni and past participants working in the field about specific gaps and challenges in trainings and workshops
- Need for more avenues of information and resource sharing for residents, especially when it comes to opportunities like the HCDLI

Past Internship Sites

Fairfield County's Center for Housing Opportunity

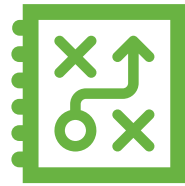
Mutual Housing Association of Greater Hartford

Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven

North Hartford Partnership

Town of Windsor

WHY INTERNSHIPS?



Provides hands-on learning experience for HCDLI participants



Builds confidence in participants by applying knowledge and skills acquired in workshops



Builds networks and connections for future employment and mentorship opportunities



Provides opportunity to learn the challenges facing community development organizations

MEET DONNA



- ❑ Participant of the inaugural HCDLI cohort
- ❑ Completed an internship w/ the Town of Windsor
- ❑ Past experience included as a real estate agent and property manager
- ❑ Currently works as an Asset Manager with the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority

STAY CONNECTED

- Sign-up to receive the HCDLI e-newsletter
- Reach out to learn more about hosting an intern
- Consider mentoring a participant looking to change careers or advance in their role
- Provide sponsorship to host additional training opportunities
- Recommend someone in your network to participate

*Scan the QR code to sign-up for the
e-newsletter:*



QUESTIONS?

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