



Executive Summary: Community Investment Program

Our Mission and Vision: NewVue Communities is led by community members of diverse incomes and backgrounds; we develop quality housing, create economic opportunities, and foster civic engagement in North Central Massachusetts. We envision healthy neighborhoods where residents choose to live, work and invest.

Our Work: We work from Athol to Harvard in North Central Massachusetts. NewVue Communities, formerly Twin Cities Community Development Corporation of Fitchburg and Leominster, was founded in 1979. Last year we changed our name and expanded our territory to serve the 240,000 residents who live in North Central Massachusetts who were not served by any community development corporation. We have four main lines of business: Housing Development, Homeownership, Small Business, and Community Organizing.

Our Plans

Serve the Entire Region: We adopted a strategic plan in 2015 and are now initiating programs and real estate development throughout the 22 communities in our region. We brought a \$3 million federal deleading program to Athol, Clinton, Fitchburg and Gardner and are expanding our homeownership work to help save the homes of 40 families who are facing foreclosure (our region was one of the hardest hit in the state) and helping another 90 families purchase their first home. We are also launching our first real estate project in Gardner. Finally, we are assisting small businesses throughout the region, with a special emphasis on farms, food and the creative economy. We anticipate assisting over 100 businesses, packaging 20 loans worth over \$1 million and helping to create and/or preserve over 200 jobs.

Build Great Neighborhoods: NewVue is focusing on making the poorest neighborhood in the region, North of Main, Fitchburg, a great place, to live, work, play and invest. We championed Fitchburg's winning entry to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Working Cities Challenge with the City, Fitchburg State University and the region's anti-poverty agency. As the placemaking partner we lead the efforts to build community by launching an intensive NeighborCircles campaign to help neighbors meet one another and build resident power. We are rebuilding the neighborhood's weak housing market by converting an abandoned school into 55 units of affordable artist preference housing across the street from the Fitchburg Art Museum and restarting development of smaller projects.

Lead and Innovate: Our region has suffered from years of neglect, we help redevelop forgotten neighborhoods, homes and businesses by creating new ways to bring capital into our region through new community scale production, artist housing and small business expertise.

Sustainability: We are converting an abandoned school in Leominster into 39 Leed-Certified affordable apartments using historic tax credits.

Some of our recent successes: Our housing portfolio has tripled in the last few years, we now own 137 apartments with over 100 apartments under development. Our last large project in Leominster redeveloped an abandoned mill that was located at a critical intersection into forty units of affordable housing. Meanwhile in Fitchburg, for the past five years we have hosted a neighborhood pride day that has brought between 300 to 500 volunteers together to make the North of Main Neighborhood beautiful by building community gardens, rebuilding porches, painting murals and cleaning streets.