

# Community Development

Our vision **for a healthy Trenton** includes making all city neighborhoods thriving places to live, work, and play.



Decades of disinvestment have created persistent barriers to community development in Trenton. Many residents lack access to safe housing, reliable transportation, and thriving local businesses.

This leads to higher stress, limited healthy food access, and fewer economic opportunities, weakening community resilience. Without equitable growth and resident-led planning, Trenton risks deepening disparities.

Breaking this cycle demands coordinated action across health, housing, workforce, and neighborhood development.



**25%** of Trenton residents live below the poverty line, 2.5x higher than the rest of the state.

**>64%** of Trenton households are renters, almost 2x the statewide rate.

Housing unit vacancy is **1.4x** higher than the state, with thousands of vacant lots/abandoned properties in Trenton.

**2.5x** lower available vehicles per housing unit in Trenton compared to statewide.

The city's unemployment rate is consistently **1.5-2x** higher than the state average.

*THT drives community development by leading neighborhood revitalization efforts that deliver measurable impact.*

## Trenton Neighborhood Initiative (TNI)

This 5-year project, carried out in partnership with Capital Health, focuses on the Battle Monument/North Trenton neighborhood, addressing housing, small business support, maternal and child health, and digital equity. THT leads implementation ensuring residents benefit directly from programs that strengthen homes, families, and businesses.

### Results to date include:

- Live: Housing Assistance Program Financial Counseling (192 residents); Housing Improvement Program (41 closings); Healthy Home Assessments (13); Lead Remediations (11).
- Work: Small Business Trainings/Workshops (99); Small Business Thrive Grants (7).
- Grow: Family Support Assistance provided (239 families).

## Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit (NRTC) Planning Program

In July 2025, the Battle Monument/North Trenton Neighborhood Plan received approval for a 10-year period, positioning THT to access NRTC Program funds for continued community investment.

## SHORT-TERM GOALS

- Expanding access to home ownership counseling, housing improvements, and lead remediation.
- Increasing the number of small businesses supported through training, workshops, and grants.

## LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

- Increasing the proportion of safer, healthier homes across Trenton, free from hazards like lead.
- Reducing the proportion of Trenton households that spend 30% or more of their income on housing.
- Reducing the number of properties that are vacant, abandoned or deteriorated.