

IForums 2018

Ideas
Inspiration
Innovation

Presented by **PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONG COMMUNITIES**

Housing: The Hub of Public Policy

The Partnership for Strong Communities, in conjunction with generous partners, presents its 14th season of policy forums. This year's IForums will focus on housing as a key to Connecticut's most complex public policy challenges, including: affordable housing and transit, how to use and interpret housing data, family homelessness, and the links between health care and housing.

8:30am - 9:00am: Conversation, coffee

9:00am - 11:00am: Program

The Lyceum, 227 Lawrence St. Hartford, CT
Directions/parking: www.lyceumcenter.org

Events are free and open to the public, but donations are welcome! A donation of any amount at registration or at the door will help defray costs of offering these public events. Thank you!

Monday, January 29
**Housing Success: Tools, Techniques,
Leadership & the Law**

Tuesday, February 27
**Why Affordable Homes Near Transit
Can Protect the Environment**

March
**Drowning in Big Data: Translating
Numbers into Meaningful Messages**

April
**Ending Family Homelessness: A
Focus on the Entire Family**

May
**The Health Care System and
Housing: Intrinsicly Linked for
Optimum Health**

For more information and to register, visit www.pschoosing.org/2018-iforums

Sponsorships are available for the entire series and individual forums!
Contact Wendy Kohn at wendy@pschoosing.org for more information.

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IForums 2018



Monday, January 29, 2018 *(snow date February 1)*

Housing Success: Tools, Techniques, Leadership & the Law

Many towns in Connecticut face aging populations, fewer kids in schools, shrinking grand lists, and less state aid. How are towns responding? Municipalities are diversifying their housing stock by including smaller, denser, more affordable homes close to transit, town centers, shopping and services. In this IForum, we will explore how towns can best meet the housing needs of their community within the existing legal, demographic and economic environment while ensuring municipal growth and stability.

Tuesday, February 27, 2018 *(snow date February 28)*

Why Affordable Homes Near Transit Can Protect the Environment

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) has clear public benefits. It can fill the need for affordable housing and benefit the economy by increasing property tax revenues and creating more prosperous commercial zones. TOD's environmental benefits are less well known but equally important. TOD promotes energy-efficient denser development which can reduce automobile dependence. It also helps preserve open spaces by reducing sprawl and reclaiming unusable space through brownfield remediation. This IForum will explore how natural allies — advocates for affordable housing, mass transit, energy conservation and environmental protection — can work together to focus on smart growth planning in conjunction with environmental quality and justice.

March 2018

Drowning in Big Data: Translating Numbers into Meaningful Messages

We live in an age of big data. The proliferation of housing-related data provides new opportunities to explore why housing matters. Effectively synthesizing and translating results in a meaningful way can be challenging. Tiffany Manuel, Vice President of Knowledge, Impact and Strategy at Enterprise Community Partners will share why messages supporting affordable housing expansion often backfire and how we can make simple changes to avoid these common pitfalls. Additionally, a panel of data practitioners from across Connecticut (CT Data Collaborative, United Way, and the Public and Affordable Housing Research Corporation (PAHRC)) will provide an interactive review of how to access and leverage data to effectively expand support for a range of housing issues. Using live polling, the panel will explore how to locate these data and share best practices when using data for housing advocacy.

April 2018

Ending Family Homelessness: A Focus on the Entire Family

What is the key to ending family homelessness? In Connecticut, we are creating a response system that quickly exits families out of homelessness and connects them to services that focus on improving the overall well-being, health, education and economic stability of both parents and children. This IForum will explore a collaborative approach that crosses these multiple systems to ensure that the needs of the entire family are addressed.

May 2018

The Health Care System and Housing: Inextricably Linked for Optimum Health

Without a stable place to live, it's difficult to access preventative care and very hard to stay healthy. Housing is considered an essential social determinant of health, meaning it is crucial to establishing optimum health. It follows that individuals who have complex healthcare needs are at very high risk of poor health outcomes if they do not have safe and stable housing. One approach being tested is Community Care Teams (CCTs), a system of cross-discipline teams of health care providers, housing providers, and social service providers who work together to identify and assist individuals with complex health and social issues who are frequent users of Emergency Departments. This IForum will share the successes and lessons learned from a two-year study of the CCTs funded by the United Health Foundation and CT Health Foundation. In addition, we will explore the growing impact of the opioid epidemic on health and how various housing interventions may lead us to promising practices and evidenced-based approaches for assisting people with Opioid Use Disorders.

More information available at www.pschohousing.org/2018-iforums