



CITY OF CINCINNATI

BUILDINGS & INSPECTIONS

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Ensuring A Safer, Cleaner, Built Environment

The Department of Buildings and Inspection's 2025 Performance/Service Request Snapshot shows our efforts to improve neighborhoods and uphold city standards. This year, to meet the growing needs of our city and advance our mission, the Department focused on the following strategic priorities:

- Increase staffing to handle the increasing demands
- Take proactive measures to address vacant buildings in the City
- Provide excellent service delivery
- Improve community engagement
- Increase our community investment
- Pave the way for continued success

Our Goals are founded upon:

Ensuring Code Compliance

- Buildings are constructed and renovated to allow for safe occupancy.

Facilitating Efficient Development

- Applicants have a clear, streamlined and positive experience while building in the city

Eliminating Blight and Safety Hazards

- Buildings and premises are maintained so that they are suitable for safe occupancy

Promoting Safe Housing

- Tenants learn their rights / obligations and property owners to learn their responsibilities to support safe housing environments

Mission Statement:

To protect the health, safety, and quality of life in the built environment by ensuring code compliance; eliminating blight and safety hazards; facilitating efficient development; and promoting safe housing.



Staffing That Ensures a Safer, Cleaner, Built Environment

2025 BUILDING INSPECTOR TRAINING ACADEMY



2024

2024 International Code Council Innovation Award

TRAINING ACADEMY COHORT ONE GRADUATES



Cohort One Staffing Levels in 2025

16 Cohort Academy Trainee Graduates Added to Staffing Levels



2025: Department's Authorized Strength raised to 58%

Cohort Two

26 Trainees Hired:
April 2025

96%

Have Passed the Property Maintenance Code Enforcement Exam

Progress has also been made on additional exams:

- 73%** Teaching Module
- 50%** Residential Code
- 23%** Building Code
- 23%** Fire Module
- 15%** Mechanical

Cohort Three

Start April 2026

679

Applications Submitted

For 15 open trainee positions for 2026



Excellence and Equitable Service Delivery:

The City of Cincinnati's Buildings and Inspections Department is delivering faster timelines, equitable service, and top-tier results for every customer, regardless of whether their project is small, medium, or large.

To date, B&I offers three plan review models for residential and commercial properties:

- **Tier 1:** - Same day plan reviews
- **Tier 2:** - Plan reviews for small and medium sized projects
- **Tier 3:** - Plan reviews for large scaled and more complicated projects



97%

97% of initial Tier 3 commercial plan reviews were completed in 15 business days, **exceeding our 90% performance measure.**

96%

96% of initial Tier 3 residential plan reviews were completed in 10 business days or less, **exceeding our 90% performance measure.**

Paving The Way For Continued Success:

In July 2025, B&I began offering a rapid review process, called Tier 2, for medium and small-sized projects that don't qualify for the Tier 1 Plan Review walk-through process.

Tier 2 Plan Reviews were developed to allow our department to offer faster and more efficient processing by reducing the review timelines for commercial projects that qualify, from 15 business days to 5 business days.

The new process furthers our efforts to provide excellent and equitable service delivery. To date, 60% of Tier 2 project reviews are completed within 5 business days of application. The department's goal is to raise the percentage to above 90% in the next year.



Tier 2 End of Year Performance

Since July 2025, 60% of reviews have been completed within 5 business days of application.

Tier 2 Goal

By the end of year one, B&I is aiming for 90%

Comments From all Viewing Agencies on Due Date (CSR)



2024



2025

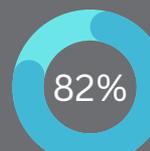
81

Coordinated Site Reviews (CSR) were completed in 2025.

Revision Reviews that occurred within 5 days of application



2024



2025

11%

11% Growth Year to Year Improvement

Tier 1

Same Day Review Applications

1,253

Application Processed

40% Tier 1 + 20% Tier 2

60%

5 DAYS

60% of projects are completed within 5 business days

Housing Services



Safer Homes & Stronger Communities

Through partnerships, planning, and purposeful funding, the City of Cincinnati's Buildings and Inspections Department is not just repairing homes, we're restoring hope.

Community Investment Allocations:

2025 Housing Repair Services Program



\$2 Million+

Increased from \$1.6 million in 2023-2024.

711

Families Helped



This allotment includes \$300,000 from Duke Energy which was granted by the City's OES Department to carry out energy burden reduction projects.

In 2025, 49 families were served.

Housing Assistance Repair Building Order Remission Program (HARBOR)



\$650,000

Increased from \$500,000 2023-2024.

17

Families Helped

Rental Property Renovation Program



\$500,000

Administered through the NIF Program

13

Rental Units Served

Landscape Maintenance Assistance Program



\$75,000

Administered through the NIF Program

25

Properties Served



Rental Property Renovation “Neighborhood in Focus Initiative” Program

*“Seeing this level of investment in our inner-city streets gives me great pride. It’s clear that that the Neighborhood in Focus Initiative isn’t just about buildings; **it’s about people, stability and the future of Avondale.**”*

-Program Recipient

“This program has been a lifeline, allowing me to raise the living standards for my tenants while contributing to the overall revitalization of our neighborhood.”

-Program Recipient



LEARN MORE

The Rental Property Renovation Program is a program housed within the Neighborhood In Focus (NIF) initiative. NIF is a City Manager Initiative that was created as an intensive, place-based effort to align and concentrate City and partner resources within a small, high-need area.

The program focused on the following key areas: public infrastructure Improvements, new construction infill housing as well as home improvement programs.

B&I administered funds for the following home improvement programs:

- HARBOR
- Rental Property Renovation Program
- Landscape Maintenance Assistance Program



BUILDINGS & INSPECTIONS

CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR PRIORITY



9,341
Permits Issued

Service Delivery

Uniform and time-sensitive processes that encourage development

B&I's Permit Center processes 16 types of permit applications, which are then routed to the appropriate departments and service areas. In 2025, B&I issued 9,341 permits accounting for \$784,707,497.40 dollars in construction value.



92% of permit records are in ready status within 3 business days of last agency approval

85% is the Benchmark



+\$784.7
Million
Construction Value

76% Routed Within 1 Day

76% of applications are routed within 1 business day.



Routed Status

Applications are routed to the various departments for processing

Protecting People ... One Building at a Time.



Safety By Numbers:

43,801

Code Enforcement Inspections
Were Performed in 2025

74,624

Permit Related Inspections Were
Performed in 2025

19,598

Private Lot Abatement Inspections
Were Performed in 2025

5,765

Periodic Elevator Inspections Were
Performed in 2025

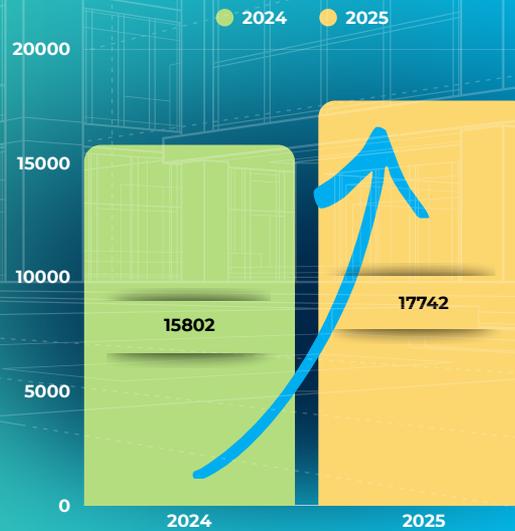


Service Snap Shot

B&I Received:

17,742

Service Requests



- 57.6% - PLAP
- 37.7% - PMCE
- 4.7% - OTHER

Fast Fact:

- B&I received over 2,000 **more** PLAP service requests this year than last year.

Despite the growth:

↑ 3%

Private Lot Abatement Program-PLAP

The # of PLAP Inspections closed within 2 business days of complaint **grew 3%**



Additionally:

↑ 4%

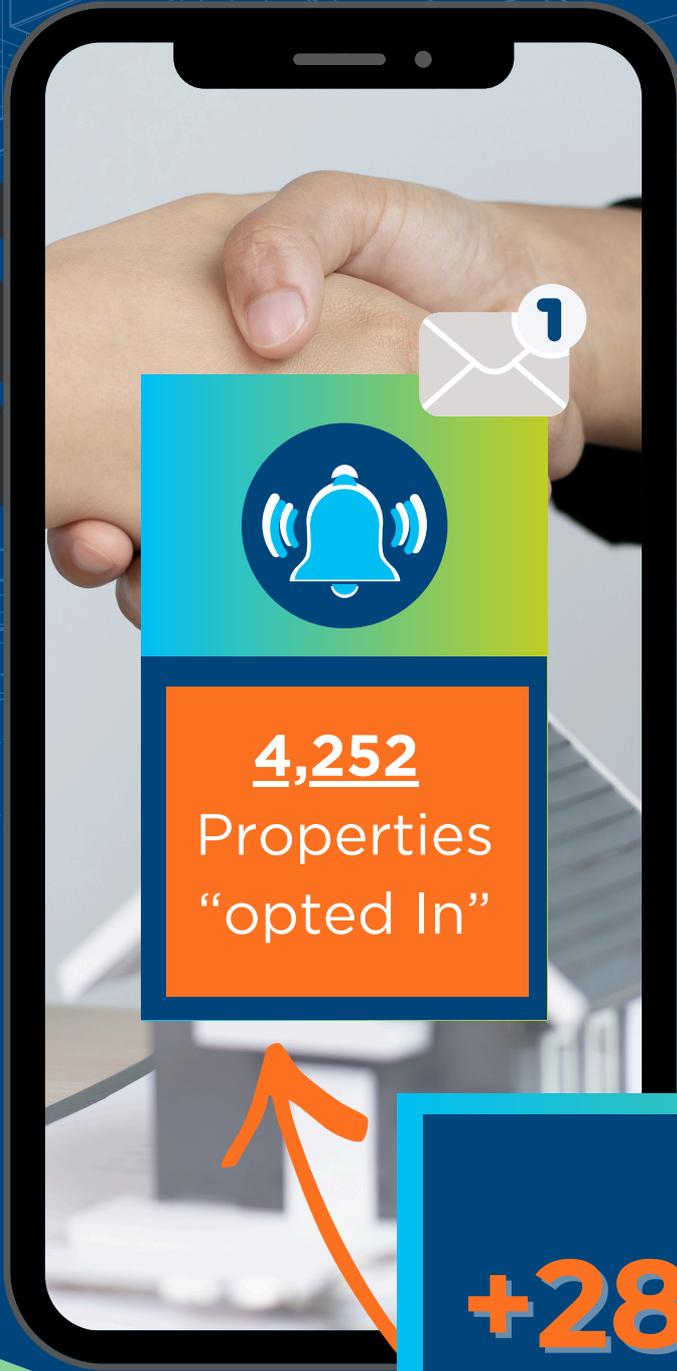
Property Maintenance Code Enforcement -PMCE

The # of PMCE Inspections closed within 5 business days of complaint **grew 4%**



Keeping Our Residents Informed

B&I offers Residential Rental Registration, a program designed to help landlords when they face an emergency or property issues.



✓ 1 Get notified of citizen complaints in real time, keeping you informed before citations occur.

✓ 2 Stay up-to-date on property ordinances

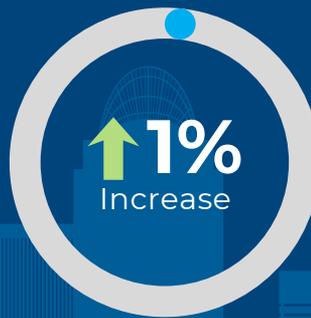
✓ 3 Avoid unnecessary fines by staying in the know



Performance Increases

782

There were 43% more Vacant Site Inspection Customer Service Requests in 2025 than in 2024. In 2025, there were 782 requests.



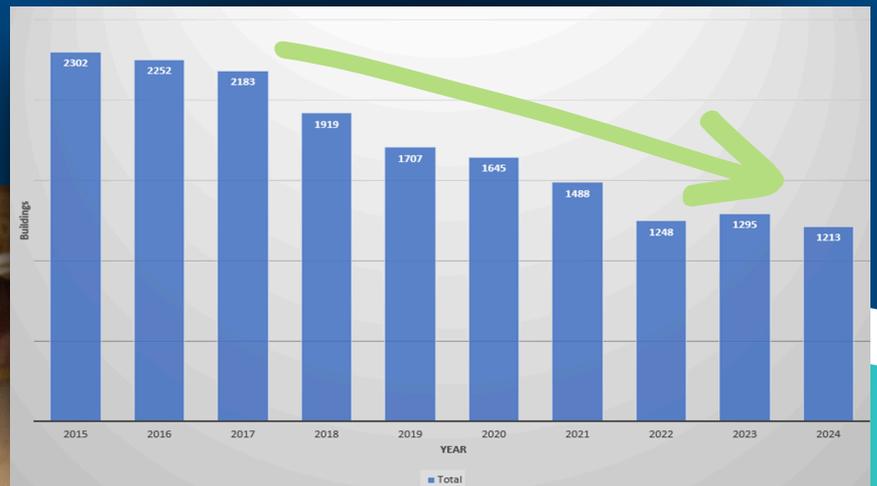
Despite the growth, B&I still increased the percentage of cases completed within 5 business days of complaint or registration by 1%

74

74 blighted properties were stabilized or removed in 2025

Vacated Building Data Over The Years

There are Approximately 1,209 Vacated Buildings in 2025.



The City of Cincinnati has seen a reduction in the number of Vacated Buildings (VBML) Citywide Since 2015.



Proactive Approach to Addressing Vacant Properties

In February 2025, Cincinnati's City Council passed an ordinance establishing the Vacant Building Registration (VBR) Program requiring owners to register their vacant properties. VBR will become part of the Department's suite of programs geared towards addressing vacant buildings.

These programs will work together to:

- Monitor the over 4,500 vacant buildings across the city
- Prevent buildings from falling into expensive disrepair
- Reduce crime on blocks with a higher density of vacant buildings
- Create safer street blocks

Effective Date:

VBR is expected to go into effect in March 2026, with the rollout of CAGIS eZtrak, a web-based system designed to streamline processes for a better customer experience and a more efficient workflow.

Vacant Building Suite

Learn more about B&I's vacant building programs:

Vacant Building Registration

This program requires all properties that have been vacant for 180 days or more to register with the City.

Vacant Foreclosed Property Registration

This program is for residential properties only and must be in the foreclosure process and found vacant.

Vacated Building Maintenance License

This program is for properties that have been identified as uninhabitable due to serious code violations.



Buildings & Inspections

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Future Inspectors

Keeping Stakeholders Informed and Engaged



Participated in 57 Community Engagements.

Landlord Training



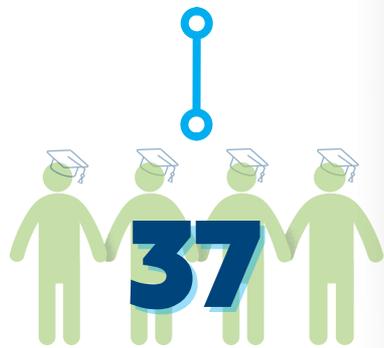
Keeping property owners within our community informed

64 training certificates issued:

- Encompasses 3,421 units
- 3% outside of Cincinnati
- 97% in Cincinnati

Establishing Our Digital Footprint

Began sending quarterly outreach to developer and to rental property owner communities



37 of those events involved sharing career pathways with youth.



Engagement Impact

Measuring the average email open rate for government agencies:

88% above Benchmark

16,084 digital sends to developers, contractors, architects

Doubled Benchmark

10,057 digital sends to rental property owners





2025

**BUILDINGS &
INSPECTIONS**