Our Future Is Here
OUR MISSION

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is dedicated to helping nonprofit community development organizations transform distressed neighborhoods into healthy and sustainable communities—good places to work, do business and raise children. LISC mobilizes corporate, government and philanthropic support to provide local community development organizations with:

- loans, grants and equity investments
- local, statewide and national policy support
- technical and management assistance

LISC is a national organization with a community focus. Our program staff is based in every city and many of the rural areas where LISC-supported community development takes shape. In collaboration with local community development groups, LISC staff helps identify priorities and challenges, delivering the most appropriate support to meet local needs.

OUR STRATEGY

LISC’s strategy—Building Sustainable Communities—seeks to revitalize neighborhoods and improve the quality of life for families who live there. To accomplish this, we work in five areas:

- Expanding investment in housing and other real estate
- Increasing family income and wealth
- Stimulating economic development
- Improving access to quality education
- Supporting healthy environments and lifestyles

Visit www.lisc.org for more information.
By the Numbers

In 2014

LISC invested

$994 Million
in grants, loans and equity

leading to

$3 Billion
in development projects

Since 1980

LISC has invested

$14.7 Billion
in grants, loans and equity

leading to

$44.1 Billion
in development projects

That means

5 million+
people live in better communities!
The Proof Is In

Understanding why so many low-income communities are still stuck in recession-level distress is a complicated, even controversial conversation. And though we are not oblivious to the deeper questions, LISC comes at the issue with an eye toward solutions. We look hard at what works to shift the outlook for disadvantaged people and places, then we replicate those successes across the country.

The impact of that on-the-ground commitment is increasingly clear. In 2014, we analyzed a decade’s worth of data from 63 neighborhoods where LISC has been working. While many factors contributed to better outcomes, we found that in communities where we have significantly invested, residents posted income and employment gains higher than those in comparable low-income areas. They were more resilient. Opportunities opened up. People were living better.

We are diving deeper into that research this year with a new analysis of how our network of Financial Opportunity Centers helps people earn more, improve their credit and increase their net worth.

“In communities where we have significantly invested, residents posted income and employment gains higher than those in comparable low-income areas.”

Knowing what works lets us make our programs even more effective, while helping funders and policymakers focus precious resources on proven strategies.

Consider all of that from the perspective of education—a key component of LISC’s comprehensive community development approach and one you will see featured...
Children who grow up poor tend to have low test scores, but nothing says this has to be. At LISC, we fund quality pre-K programs and help charter schools build facilities where disadvantaged students become academic standouts.

We help launch arts education programs, like a popular after-school orchestra in Cincinnati, that let young people flourish beyond the classroom. And we support school-centered community development plans, like Buffalo’s 97-block federally designated “Promise Neighborhood,” where efforts to improve housing, health, and community safety are directly connected to improving education.

We respond to local needs and create local opportunities. In 2014, that included $994 million in grants, loans and equity investments to improve the quality of life in low-income areas. This isn’t just about measuring dollars. It’s about leveraging that capital to improve outcomes. LISC creates efficient, effective models of success.

What does that look like in practice? In 2014, it was our Healthy Futures Fund working to connect affordable housing and health services in urban and rural areas. It was expanding our line of loan products to businesses and entrepreneurs to rebuild decimated commercial corridors. It was launching a new creative placemaking initiative to ramp up investments around arts and culture that will attract residents, shoppers and visitors to low-income areas.

All of those programs fall under the umbrella of economic development, which for us has grown to mean a mission that is both immediate and long-range: to bring much-needed goods and services to underserved areas, while helping to grow property values, local incomes and jobs.

We’re taking that mission into 2015 with an economic development initiative that will intensify investments in schools, shopping centers, theaters, manufacturing, athletic facilities, office space and business incubators, and make them part of well-considered plans for local growth.

It’s a far cry from where we started in 1980, hoping to revitalize some of the battered housing stock that marred so many disadvantaged neighborhoods. Since then, LISC has invested nearly $15 billion in places where the private market would not otherwise have gone. We get government, philanthropy and the private sector to work together.

Our nation’s economic engine needs power from as many people and places as possible to sustain the growth we all celebrate. From the South Bronx and West Duluth to Appalachian Kentucky and Native American communities in Arizona, we’re helping long-overlooked places share in that progress.

Robert E. Rubin, Board Chair
Michael Rubinger, President & CEO
Investing in the Future

“An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest,” Benjamin Franklin once wrote, and at LISC, we know this truth first hand. Communities thrive when families have access to quality pre-K and high-performing schools and enrichment activities for their children, and when adults can get the skills training and continuing education they need to land and advance in living wage jobs. Education is one of the soundest predictors of economic stability and personal well-being that we know of.

That’s why educational opportunity is a cornerstone of the work we do in neighborhoods across the country. LISC invests in preschool facilities and outstanding public charter schools, like Detroit’s D.E.P.S.A., featured in the video in the online Annual Report (www.lisc.org/annualreport/2014). And we support after-school, arts and recreation programs that promote physical and social health, along with a tapestry of learning initiatives that go beyond the traditional classroom. Not only do strong educational opportunities attract residents with a lasting commitment to a neighborhood, they are the bedrock of the kind of equitable, diverse and sustainable communities in which everyone deserves to live.

LISC Education by the Numbers

$333 Million
invested in schools and early education centers

386
educational facilities developed

100,000
kids have access to better education
Local Stories

Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky
In the Price Hill neighborhood of Cincinnati, a free youth orchestra program called Music for Youth Cincinnati (MYCincinnati) is training kids in classical music—and helping them build self-confidence, focus and good work habits in the bargain. LISC has provided Price Hill Will, MYCincinnati’s parent organization, with more than $500,000 in grants to support its use of visual arts, music and culture to enhance community development work.

Greater Kansas City
The Upper Room Summer Academy Camp, a free program that gives Kansas City, Mo. youth a safe place to learn and play when school lets out, helps students gain a full academic year in reading achievement every summer. Over the past seven years, LISC has invested more than $19 million in the program, providing bridge loans that have made it possible for the Upper Room to reach thousands of low-income children.
Peoria

Peoria’s Moonlight Coalition for Adult Learning is a “barrier-free” GED program, offering year-round enrollment, go-at-your-own-pace instruction and free testing—and that makes finishing school far more feasible for people with jobs, children and other obligations. Since 2013, LISC has provided $90,000 in funding to Moonlight and pays for an AmeriCorps tutor. As a result, more than a third of Peoria’s GED grads have accessed the program on their path to a brighter future.

Philadelphia

In West Philadelphia, where fewer than 33 percent of third graders are reading at target levels, LISC is working to transform early childhood education. Through an innovative outreach program called Community Connectors, local residents have rallied parents to engage intensively with their young children’s learning. LISC also funds a Family Ambassador program to strengthen ties between families and schools, a key to kids’ academic, social and emotional success.
Last year, LISC invested $1.3 million to help convert an historic, long-shuttered library into the EMERGE Career and Technology Center, which offers the community an open access computer lab, career coaching and industry-specific skills training. In its first year of operation, the center’s programming is expected to help more than 3,000 North Minneapolis adults and adolescents find jobs and launch careers.

DC’s Dance Place is a cultural anchor of the Monroe Street Arts Walk, hosting performances and educational programming 10 hours a day, seven days a week. Dance Place also serves local students, ages five to 13, through its “Energizers” after-school and summer programs, with classes like African dance, chorus, cooking and journal writing. LISC has invested more than $7 million in this thriving area, $46,000 of which went to helping renovate Dance Place.

The LISC 2014 Annual Report celebrates our investment in transformative projects and programs in low-income neighborhoods around the country. To see all of our local stories and the full report, please visit: www.lisc.org/annualreport/2014.
The condensed financial statements of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) include the assets, liabilities and revenues of LISC Parent Only as well as its equity interest in the net assets of its controlled affiliates National Equity Fund, Inc. (NEF), New Markets Support Corporation (NMSC), The Retail Initiatives, Inc. (TRI) and Local Initiatives Managed Assets Corporation (LIMAC), LISC Louisiana Loan Fund (LLLF), LLC, Neighborhood Properties, LLC, and LISC Cook County, LLC. These financials do not consolidate the affiliates nor the entities for which either NEF, NMSC or TRI serves as general partner of managing member of (as prescribed by EITF 04-05, Determining Whether a General Partner or the General Partners as a Group Controls a Limited Partnership or Similar Entity When the Limited Partners Have Certain Rights). Copies of the audit reports and the complete financial statements will be available in the fall of 2015 upon request to Michael Hearne, CFO at LISC, 501 7th Avenue, 7th floor, New York, NY 10018.
LISC Board of Directors

Robert E. Rubin (Chair)
Former Secretary of the U.S.
Treasury and current Co-Chairman
Council on Foreign Relations
New York, N.Y.

Gregory Belinfanti
Managing Partner
One Equity Partners
New York, N.Y.

Lisa Cashin (Vice Chair)
New York, N.Y.

Audrey Choi
Managing Director
Morgan Stanley
New York, N.Y.

Larry H. Dale
Chair
National Equity Fund, Inc.
Denver, Colo.

Michelle de la Uz
Executive Director
Fifth Avenue Committee
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sally Durdan
Executive Vice President
JPMorgan Chase & Co.
New York, N.Y.

Tom Espinoza
President & CEO
Raza Development Fund
Phoenix, Ariz.

Dean Esserman
Chief of Police
New Haven Police Department
New Haven, Conn.

Ellen Gilligan
President & CEO
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Milwaukee, Wis.

Lisa Glover
Executive VP & Chief Risk Officer for Consumer Banking Sales and Support
U.S. Bank
Milwaukee, Wis.

Colvin W. Grannum
President & CEO
Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation
Brooklyn, N.Y.

Lisa Hasegawa
Executive Director
National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
Washington, D.C.

Kevin Johnson
Mayor
City of Sacramento
Sacramento, Calif.

Lynette Lee
Executive Director (retired)
East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation
Oakland, Calif.

Tim McFadden
Senior Vice President
State Farm
Bloomington, Ill.

Brandee McHale
President & CEO
Citi Foundation
New York, N.Y.

Kathy Merchant
President
Kathy Merchant, LLC
Senior Fellow
StriveTogether
Cincinnati, Ohio

Ronald Phillips
Founder & President
Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Wiscasset, Maine

Andrew Plepler
Global Corporate Social Responsibility & Consumer Policy Executive
Bank of America
Charlotte, N.C.

Rey Ramsey
Managing Partner
Fourth Sector Capital
Washington, D.C.

Rip Rapson
President & CEO
The Kresge Foundation
Troy, Mich.

Michael Rubinger
President & CEO
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
New York, N.Y.

Nilda Ruiz
President & CEO
Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha

Mike Smith
President & CEO
State Farm Bank
Bloomington, Ill.

George H. Walker
Chairman & CEO
Neuberger Berman Group
New York, N.Y.

Dennis White
President & CEO
MetLife Foundation
New York, N.Y.

*term ended in 2014

Donors
For a listing of all contributors to LISC in 2014, please visit: www.lisc.org/annualreport/2014/donors.html