With $131 million invested in Buffalo since 1998, LISC understands what it takes to change the outlook for low-income communities. Our work has always been driven by the understanding that every neighborhood and its residents should have the opportunity to prosper.
Development activity is gaining momentum in Buffalo as expanding investments gradually revitalize our local landscape. But not all of our residents are sharing in this new prosperity.

LISC is working with community partners to ensure that Buffalo's resurgence doesn't stop at the edges of downtown, the medical campus, or along the waterfront. It is our mission to extend that progress to neighborhoods across the city to ensure that they, too, can share in the benefits of Buffalo's economic growth.

With more than $16 billion invested nationwide and over 30 years of experience, LISC's comprehensive community development strategies are a proven, powerful form of economic stimulus for neighborhoods that can create new opportunities for residents.

LISC's investments create jobs and support small businesses, improve educational outcomes, build safe, affordable housing, and expand access to recreational facilities, fresh food and health services. LISC collaborates with local leaders and community organizations to tackle not one, but all of these needs in order to raise standards of living so that all of Buffalo's residents have the chance to thrive.

What does it take to drive growth in low-income neighborhoods?

LISC is the link between capital and impact in Buffalo. We partner with organizations rooted in struggling neighborhoods to build their financial and organizational capacity, invest in their projects, and connect them with a national network of experts and resources that can help make their communities stronger. We work closely with business leaders, policymakers, and philanthropists to assemble the capital that Buffalo needs to seed growth in our neighborhoods. We connect partners that give with partners that can drive change.
LISC has worked with neighborhood agencies on Buffalo’s West Side for more than a decade, financing affordable housing and supporting job training and after-school programming for residents and their families.

LISC worked closely with University District Community Development Association to jumpstart revitalization of the Bailey Avenue commercial corridor, bolstering small businesses and boosting the local economy.
What We Do

Invest in people & places

Build the capacity of neighborhood organizations

Support community engagement

Leverage LISC’s national resources
LISC provides funding for community development projects in target neighborhoods, attracting the private market to overlooked areas and creating economic opportunity for their residents. Our financial support includes:

- Grants for organizational development & strategic planning
- Pre-development and construction loans for capital projects
- Project equity investments for affordable housing through LISC’s National Equity Fund affiliate

**Invest in people & places**

LISC provides organizations with the expertise they need to advance a wide range of community development efforts that respond to local needs. This includes:

- Staff training for neighborhood non-profits
- Grant writing support
- Real estate development assistance
- Organizational and management assistance

**Build the capacity of neighborhood organizations**

Local is fundamental to what we do. LISC convenes leaders and residents, providing strategic planning support so they can develop comprehensive plans to address their specific needs. LISC also works with policymakers to connect citywide economic development plans to community-based efforts with the potential to drive growth and opportunity.

**Support community engagement**

LISC is unique in its ability to bring national funding and expertise to local efforts. With programs in 30 cities, and a rural redevelopment effort that touches more than 1500 counties, LISC invests more than $1 billion annually all across the country. Our Buffalo office can tap into that core of capital, and access technical support from LISC’s National Programs focused on:

- Economic Development
- Commercial Corridor Revitalization
- School Improvements & Education Initiatives
- Family Financial Stability
- Affordable Housing
- Health (Medical, Food & Recreation)
- Safe Neighborhoods
- Community Leadership
- Policy Engagement
- Best Practices Research on Neighborhood Revitalization

**Leverage LISC’s national resources**

Invest in people & places

Build the capacity of neighborhood organizations

Support community engagement

Leverage LISC’s national resources
The East Ferry project is long overdue for our community. It infuses new life into the neighborhood and offers possibilities for programs and events that everyone can enjoy, with a particular focus on what our young people need to flourish. 

– Pamela Dunn, Queen City Football Youth Christian League

NFL Grassroots Grant Program

Pictured: Franklin Campus field

Through the NFL Foundation’s Grassroots Grant Program, LISC provided $50,000 to Saving Grace Ministries to create a safe playing field at the new East Ferry Sports Complex for local youth football teams and community programs.

Current Projects

Massachusetts Avenue Project Farmhouse

LISC secured a $1.36 million construction loan to help the Massachusetts Avenue Project build a community food hub designed to remedy food deserts, provide food-related job training to community members and youth, and improve nutrition throughout the city of Buffalo’s low income neighborhoods.
Bellamy Commons
Bellamy Commons transformed a former commercial site into an attractive rental housing development for 30 low-income families, thanks to the remarkable work of Belmont Housing Resources for WNY, the civic leadership of Herb Bellamy, Jr., and financing from LISC.

Partnerships are crucial to a project like this. Operational support from LISC helped us transform a long-abandoned industrial building into a vibrant place for families to live and grow.”

—Michael Riegel, Belmont Housing Resources for WNY

LISC’s support for MAP’s Farmhouse and Community Food Training Center is helping to build a community hub that will create jobs for hundreds of young people, new markets and enterprise resources for farmers and food entrepreneurs, greater healthy food access in Buffalo’s neighborhoods and a place to gather, share and innovate around food.”

—Diane Picard, Massachusetts Avenue Project
Our Impact

BY THE NUMBERS
LISC’s impact is tangible in our local neighborhoods.

2,574 affordable homes
355,000 sq ft of retail and community space
$254M leveraged

FOR EVERY DOLLAR DONATED TO THE LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT CORPORATION...
...WE PROVIDE $16.50 IN INVESTMENT TO HELP REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES.

$1.00  $16.50

2016 Progress
Last year, LISC invested $35 million in Buffalo’s neighborhoods. Our investment leveraged an additional $60 million in funding and resources.

Join LISC in Building a Better Buffalo
Because of our unique ability to leverage additional investments, donors are able to multiply the impact of their funding – touching more non-profits, more neighborhoods, and more families. Your contribution helps us build a stronger Buffalo – one where residents have the chance to thrive, and every community can be a good place to live, work, do business and raise families.

buffalolisc.org