

LISC INDIANAPOLIS



SPORTS & RECREATION

Safe, well-maintained places to gather, exercise and play are fundamental to the development and well-being of the members of any community—especially children. In distressed neighborhoods, where positive recreational outlets may be scarce, a playing field or park can serve as a welcome refuge from unsafe streets and as a deterrent to gang activity and other negative influences. For parents, youth recreation can mean peace of mind, and a chance to connect with other families in the community.

A neighborhood dotted with well-cared for greenspace and sports fields also attracts commercial investment, enjoys lower crime rates and appeals to people who want to put down roots. Through LISC’s local offices and rural program, we’ve been on the ground to create or revive hundreds of parks, greenways, trails and playgrounds. Because safe, accessible places to exercise are part of what makes a neighborhood healthy and sustainable—and where people want to live.



NFL Foundation Grassroots Foundation

The NFL Foundation Grassroots Program provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations with financial and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local football fields. The program is a partnership of the NFL Foundation, which provides funding, and LISC, which provides technical assistance and manages the program. Fields are newly built or significantly renovated, with improvements such as irrigation systems, lights, bleachers, scoreboards, goalposts and turf. The program has supported the construction or renovation of 431 football fields nationwide since 1998. During that time, the NFL Foundation granted nearly \$61.8M to revitalize playing fields in underserved neighborhoods. Indianapolis has received funding to improve 12 fields:



- Douglas Park (1999)
- Gustafson Park (2003)
- Ben Davis High School (2004)
- Lutheran High School (2005)
- Christian Park (2006)
- Evans Football Field (2007)
- George Washington Community High School (2008)
- Arsenal Tech High School (2009)
- Central Greens Field (2013)
- Decatur Central Devere Fair (2019)
- Phalen Leadership Academies (2022)
- Crispus Attucks High School (2023)

ESPN Home Court Program



The LISC/ESPN Home Court Program is a collaboration between ESPN and LISC that provides non-profit, neighborhood-based organizations, middle schools, and high schools with financing and technical assistance to improve the quality, safety, and accessibility of local basketball courts in selected markets. The Home Court Program began in 2015 and has helped finance 27 projects totaling \$575,000, including a field in Zionsville, Ind. in 2019.

Game On-Community Places to Play Initiative



Game On-Community Places to Play is an initiative of The DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation and LISC. The initiative provides funding and technical assistance to community-rooted organizations working to create and renovate multi-use youth sport spaces in under-resourced communities across the country. The DICK'S Foundation launched this initiative alongside LISC in 2023 with a \$1.5 million grant to fund the renovation of existing indoor and outdoor athletic spaces that serve more than 3,000 youth athletes.

Super Bowl Legacy Project



Indianapolis welcomed its first Super Bowl in 2012 - an event that showcased the city to a huge international audience. LISC played a key role in bringing the Near Eastside Quality-of-Life plan to the Indianapolis Super Bowl Bid Committee, urging it to use the plan as a blueprint for the Super Bowl Legacy Project. In so doing, LISC leveraged the NFL's contribution into a \$152M investment that transformed an entire neighborhood. Projects that culminated with the Legacy Project included new and upgraded housing, a neighborhood health center, and the Chase Near Eastside Legacy Center—a multipurpose fitness facility and community center serving neighborhood residents and organizations.

Foot Locker Foundation Community Empowerment Program



In 2021, LISC and Foot Locker, Inc., through the Foot Locker Foundation, launched a multi-city initiative to support nonprofit community organizations that empower youth in underserved communities. The program aims to bridge gaps driven by racial inequity and promote youth empowerment and community wellness—all while supporting community-based organizations led by people of color. The multi-million-dollar program spans 12 metropolitan areas where Foot Locker, Inc. has a strong presence in the community including Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Newark, Oakland, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Washington DC.