



# Education

Education is one of the soundest predictors of economic stability and personal wellbeing that we know of. Communities thrive when families have access to quality child care, pre-K, 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.

That's why educational opportunity is a cornerstone of the work we do in neighborhoods across the country. Not only do strong schools and resources 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.





## Child Care and Early Education

We start at the beginning: early childhood education is an essential part of a functioning community. It prepares young children for school and life, supports working parents, improves family well-being and is known to be the single most effective means to close the achievement gap. Moreover, in impoverished neighborhoods, early learning centers serve as vital hubs for social service supports and community contact.

Having access to safe, quality child care, including before and after school care, is essential to working families, and especially critical for lower income families who may be entering the workforce for the first time. That's why LISC has invested to help build or refurbish 202 child care and early learning facilities in under-served neighborhoods around the country. Here in Rhode Island, LISC operates the Child Care and Early Learning Facilities Fund: [www.riccelff.org](http://www.riccelff.org).



The first use of LISC New Market Tax Credits to support a child care project in Woonsocket, RI, where an abandoned school was transformed into a vibrant community center.

## Charter School Funding

To increase educational choice and access to quality schools in distressed places, Charter School Financing at LISC supports public charter schools that put their all into preparing students for college, career and beyond.

Since 1997, LISC has provided more than \$265 million in loans, tax credit allocations, guarantees and grants to finance charter school facilities in low-income neighborhoods across the nation. Here in Rhode Island, \$3.6 million of LISC grant and loan dollars have supported Charter Schools in their efforts to expand and offer innovative educational opportunities to even more children. We also seek to bring about change in public policy that promotes financing tools to help charters become the best schools they can be.



LISC supports charter schools that offer families educational options for their children.

## Enrichment, Adult Education & More

LISC also supports learning outside the school building, and that extends well past childhood. We fund community partners who bring college-readiness, high-school equivalency and parent-teacher engagement programs, and an extraordinary range of after-school and summer enrichment options to the neighborhoods where they work.

Our "bridge" programs offer intensive literacy and numeracy classes for job-seekers who need to master basic skills in order to train for and land living-wage employment. Here in Rhode Island we administer a state-wide employment and training program for thousands of Rhode Islanders working to transition from public benefits to self-sufficiency. By supporting education in all its forms, LISC helps people help themselves and build stronger communities.



Learning math through cooking at a Providence "bridges" program.

To date

**\$333 million invested**

in schools and early education centers

**100,000+ children**

have access to a better education

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