



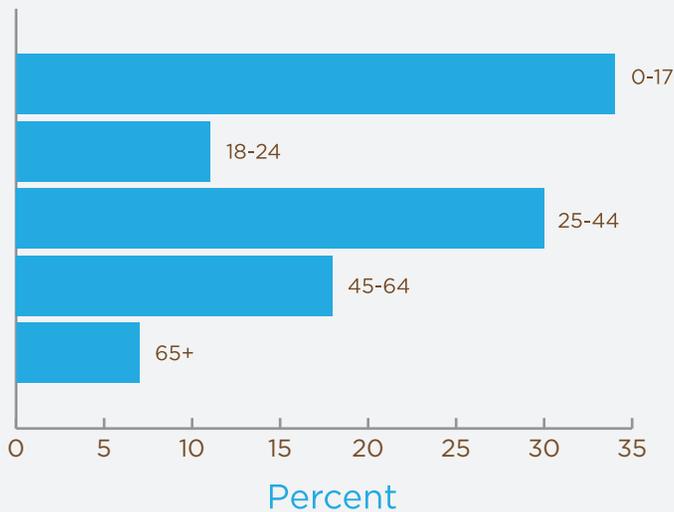
East New York, Brooklyn

Population

173,700

Age

People in East New York are younger than in NYC overall.

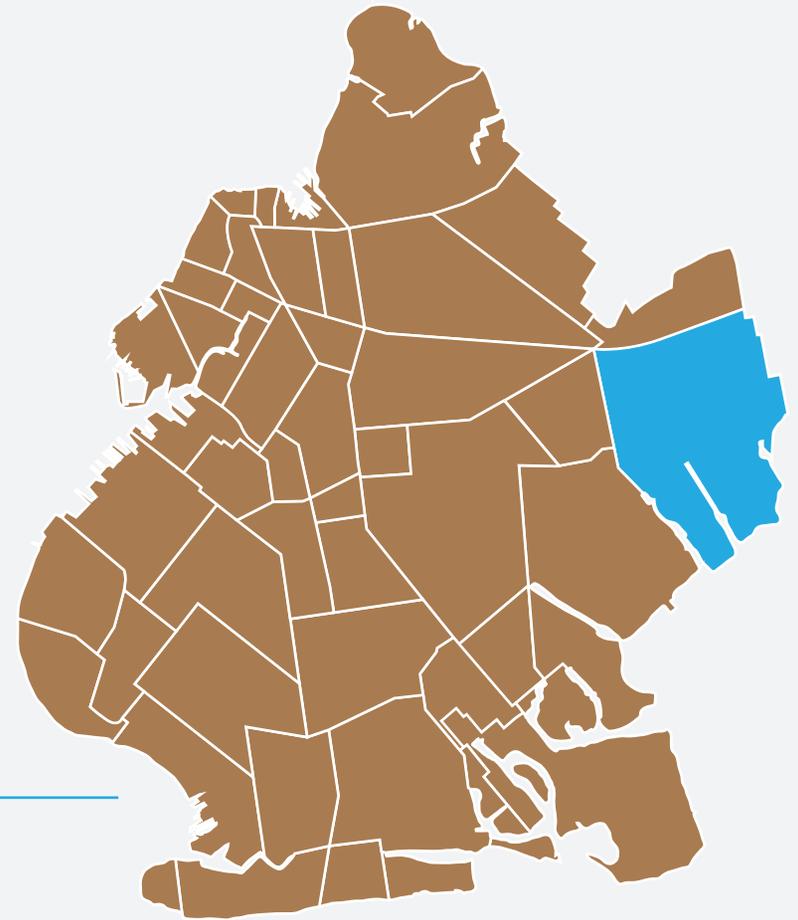
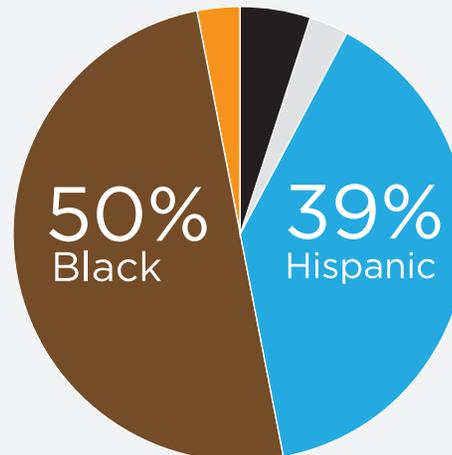


% Foreign Born

33

Ethnicity

East New York has higher proportions of black and hispanic residents than in NYC overall.



Poverty

34

Percent of residents living below the poverty line.

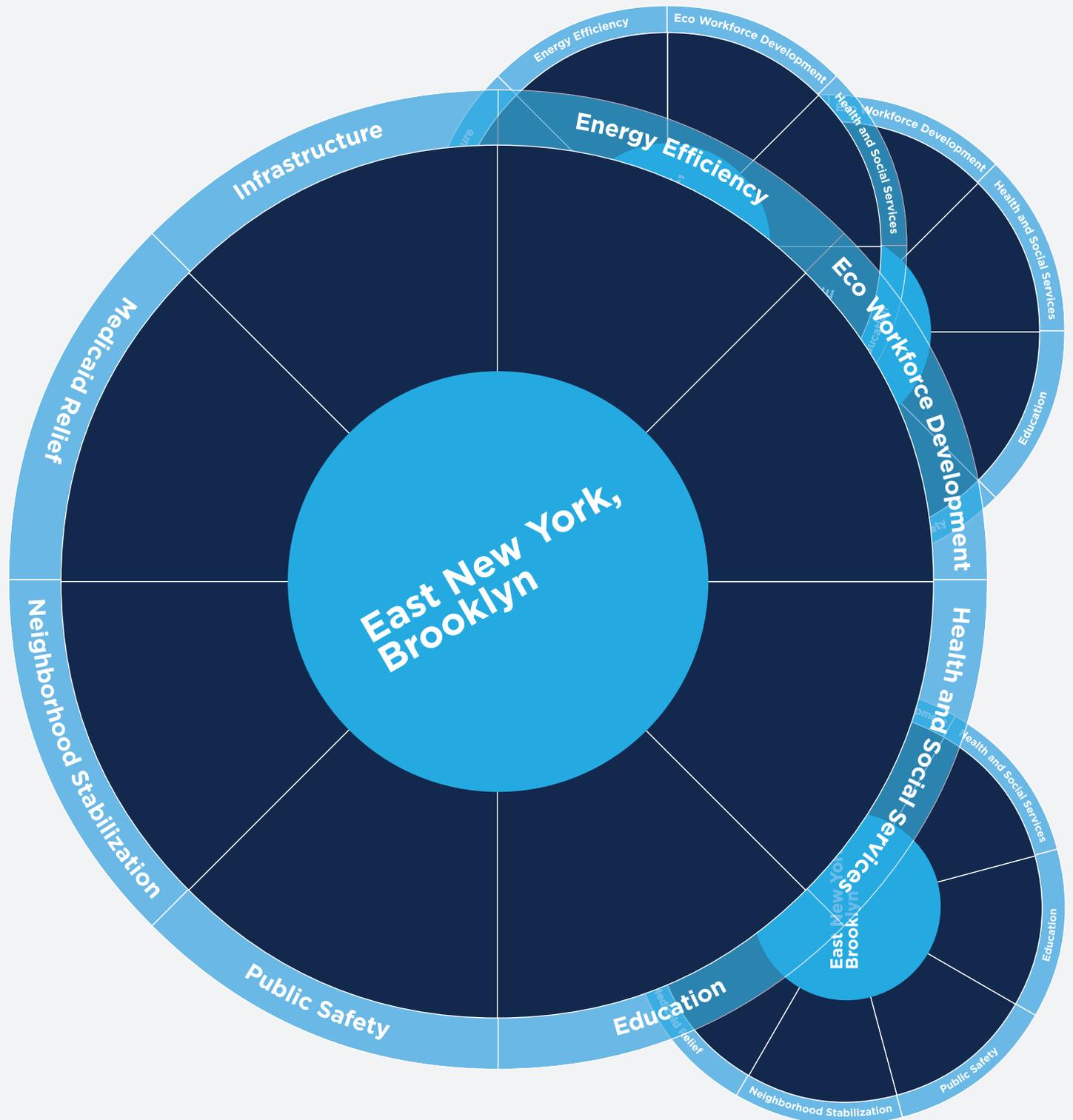
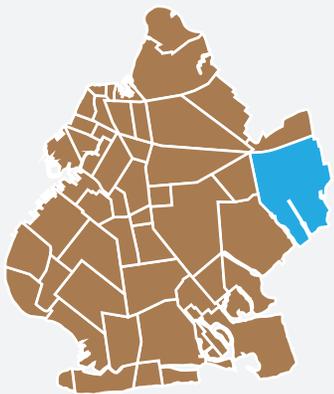
Education

8

Percent of residents over 25 with a college degree.



Making A Difference One Program At A Time



ARRA Award Investing in Innovation

Lead City Agency NYC Department of Education

Bucket Education

Project Everyday Arts for Special Education (EASE)

Total \$ For This Award
\$4.63 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$4.63 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$231,670

New York City's special education district, District 75, in partnership with Manhattan New Music Project (MNMP), received \$4.63 million in ARRA funding for a five-year initiative to increase the number of effective teachers in special education settings. Everyday Arts for Special Education (EASE) is a professional development program designed to improve student achievement in the areas of communication, socialization, academic learning, and arts proficiency through integrated, arts-based approaches.

Participating teachers learn skills and strategies across multiple arts disciplines (music, dance, visual arts, and theater) in order to integrate the arts into their classroom instruction, thus making learning more accessible to special education students who struggle with more conventional instructional approaches. Over the course of the grant period, the New York City Department of Education (DOE) will train over 600 District 75 teachers in EASE methodology.

P53K@384, one of the 20 partner school sites, is located in the East New York neighborhood. This school was chosen for its population of high-needs special education students, whose disabilities include autism spectrum disorder, cognitive disabilities, emotional disturbance, and severe learning disabilities.

"Learning through the arts provides entry points for students with disabilities and increases their level of involvement and engagement," says Gary Hecht, District 75's Superintendent. "Our students benefit greatly from learning through multiple pathways that provide opportunities for them to thrive and be successful." EASE gives our teachers tools and experience with arts-based instruction and ultimately our students benefit."

Both student achievement and teacher improvement are being researched by evaluators from the Center for Arts Research at Teachers College, Columbia University. DOE expects to see a school-wide incorporation of arts-based instruction, and is measuring its effect on student achievement in the areas of communication, socialization, and academic proficiency.

P53K@384 will remain a partner school in EASE for the program's five-year duration.

ARRA Award

Workforce Investment Act: Youth

Lead City Agency

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development

Bucket

Eco\Workforce Development

Project

SYEP and In-School Youth Program

Total \$ For This Award

\$32.25 Million

Total \$ For This Project

\$24.08 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$839,000+

Through ARRA Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) supported over 540 youth participants from East New York in Brooklyn, providing 14 to 24-year-olds with summer employment and educational opportunities. Teenagers and young adults were exposed to the workplace through their summer jobs at day camps and child care programs, community centers, hospitals, libraries, parks, senior centers, and small businesses. Over \$190,000 was provided to community-based partners in East New York – such as Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, Italian-American Civil Rights League, and the New York City Housing Authority – to administer the program. Over \$500,000 in wages were paid directly to SYEP participants in the neighborhood for their work.

Vicki Cusare, Director of Youth Programs at the Italian-American Civil Rights League, remarked, “Without this funding, hundreds of young people would have been left without jobs. These young people were provided with critical on-the-job work experience and an educational component to learn the fundamentals of work readiness, financial literacy, health awareness, post-secondary education, and career exploration. The program enabled the young people to earn money for food, school supplies, clothes, books, and even household expenses, all largely spent within the community.”

In addition, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development supported the In-School Youth (ISY) Program called “Go to School, Get a Job” during the 2009-2010 program year. This youth workforce development initiative provided subsidized internships to participants on the condition that they remain in or return to high school and meet academic and job performance standards. Over \$149,000 of funding was provided to ISY programs that served the East New York community – including the East New York Development Corporation, Italian-American Civil Rights League, and Sesame Flyers International – which helped to provide close to 200 after-school paid internships with total wages of approximately \$30,000.

ARRA Award

Workforce Investment Act: Adult & Dislocated Worker

Lead City Agency

NYC Department of Small Business Services

Bucket

Eco\Workforce Development

Project

Job Preparation and Placement Services

Total \$ For This Award

\$31.77 Million

Total \$ For This Project

\$11.58 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$220,000

By greatly increasing the competition for available jobs, the recession was particularly harsh for individuals facing multiple barriers to employment who may often be overlooked or underserved. East New York residents were among the City's hardest hit communities, comprising three percent—and two of the top four zip codes—of New York City's average monthly unemployment insurance claimants in early 2010. The community is also among the heaviest users of the City's nine Workforce1 Career Centers, which served nearly 4,000 East New York residents in 2010. To better meet the increased need for employment services during the economic downturn, the New York City Department of Small Business Services (SBS) expanded the reach of the Workforce1 Career Centers by partnering with local organizations to provide specialized services.

Fully supported with ARRA Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds, these organizations serve adults who have recently been laid off or have barriers to employment such as low literacy or criminal records, helping these residents avoid, in some cases, prolonged detachment from the labor force. Program participants receive a variety of services that help connect them to employment, including one-on-one career counseling, resume and interview preparation, and occupational skills training.

[Job preparation and placement services provided to dislocated workers and high-need individuals](#) by these organizations, including Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation in East New York, [have resulted in 117 East New York underemployed or unemployed residents being placed in jobs, including nursing aides, bookkeepers, customer service representatives, computer support representatives, and retail sales managers](#). Overall, ARRA-funded workforce services connected over 10,000 New Yorkers to occupational training and new jobs.

ARRA Award Solar Market Transformation

Lead City Agency
The City University of
New York (CUNY)

Bucket 
Energy Efficiency

Project
Smart Solar
City

Total \$ For This Award
\$932,508

Total \$ For This Project
\$932,508



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$11,000

The City University of New York (CUNY) leads the U.S. Department of Energy Solar America City Partnership in NYC along with the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability and the NYC Economic Development Corporation. ARRA funds help support several of the partnership's initiatives with direct impact on East New York, such as the development of the NYC Solar Map and the establishment of three NYC Solar Empowerment Zones. These efforts provide New Yorkers with the tools to deploy clean energy technology that can lower electric costs for businesses and residents. "ARRA funding is helping NYC streamline the transition to cleaner energy," says Tria Case who heads the partnership for NYC and is the university director of sustainability for CUNY.

East New York lies within the [Greenpoint-Gateway Solar Empowerment Zone](#), an area where solar power can play a critical role by adding megawatts that help reduce peak demand and associated pollution from dirty peaking plants, while also potentially deferring or eliminating the need for costly upgrades to the electrical system that would increase rates. Building owners in the Zones are eligible for special benefits including free site assessments, technical support, added incentives, and a free data acquisition system.

In 2010 alone, installations nearly doubled for the borough of Brooklyn in which East New York lies, and solar production increased 8-fold, including an 80 kW installation at Dumont Green, a low-income housing facility in East New York. The developer, Hudson Companies, says the solar installation helps lower the monthly utility bill and notes, "The greatest long-term threat for the operation of affordable housing is the possibility that operating costs increase faster than rents." In addition, solar installations support local green contractors such as with AeonSolar, the Brooklyn-based company that installed the system at Dumont Green.

Over the past year, NYC Solar Ombudsman Noah Ginsburg completed solar site assessments in East New York for six public buildings. "It was inspiring to walk through the NYC public schools and up to the rooftops," says Ginsburg. "Not only was our ARRA-funded program helping to prepare these buildings for potential solar energy systems, it will help provide students access to technology that can open the door to new career paths." East New York schools are now eligible for grants and if selected for solar installations, will receive ARRA-funded web-based data-monitoring systems, enabling teachers to integrate solar energy into course curriculum.

ARRA funds also supported the NYC Solar Map—[nycsolarmap.com](#)—the world's largest LiDAR-based solar map. Launched June 16, 2011, it is a new interactive online tool that estimates the solar energy potential for every building in NYC, dramatically increasing the transition to cleaner energy for all of New York City.

““

Learning through the arts provides entry points for students with disabilities and increases their level of involvement and engagement.””



Gary Hecht, District 75 Superintendent
Investing in Innovation

“Without this funding, hundreds of young people would have been left without jobs...The program enabled the young people to earn money for food, school supplies, clothes, books, and even household expenses, all largely spent within the community.”



Vicki Cusare, Director of Youth Programs at the Italian-American Civil Rights League
Workforce Investment Act-Youth

““

It was inspiring to walk through the NYC public schools and up to the rooftops. Not only was our ARRA-funded program helping to prepare these buildings for potential solar energy systems, it will help provide students access to technology that can open the door to new career paths.””



Noah Ginsburg, NYC Solar Ombudsman
Solar Market Transformation

ARRA Award Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant

Lead City Agency
NYC Department of Citywide
Administrative Services

Bucket 
Energy Efficiency

Project
Energy Audit
Program

Total \$ For This Award
\$80.8 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$5.0 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$190,000

Since 2007, the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services has completed a number of larger building retrofit projects that have helped reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Potential retrofit projects are identified through the City's building audit program. The audit program targets those buildings with the greatest opportunities for energy conservation – specifically buildings that are 50,000 square feet or larger and have United States Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star Benchmark Scores below 75. There are currently 80 energy audits moving forward as a result of \$5 million received through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

In East New York, audits are being conducted at four public schools – IS 302K Rafael Cordero Middle School; PS 13K Roberto Clemente School; PS 115 Daniel Mucatel School; and JHS 218 James P. Sinnott School.

Implementation of some of the Energy Conservation Measures identified in the audits – such as upgrades to heating and ventilation systems and enhanced lighting levels – will result in improved comfort and air quality for students. These projects are helping create better learning environments for children in one of the City's highest poverty neighborhoods.

In addition to the improvements in comfort for students and teachers, these audits will lead to projects that [have the potential to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by close to 1,500 metric tons annually, and reduce energy costs for each of these schools by almost \\$100,000 annually.](#)

ARRA Award Senior Nutrition Program

Lead City Agency
NYC Department
for the Aging

Bucket +
Health and Social Support

Project
Congregate\Home-Delivered
Meals for the Elderly

Total \$ For This Award
\$2.83 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$2.83 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$53,000

East New York is among those neighborhoods in New York City with a disproportionate number of seniors living in poverty—28% of New Yorkers over the age of 60 in this community live at or below the national poverty level (which is approximately \$18,000 for a family of three) in one of the most expensive cities in the world. This is about 80% higher than the citywide average.

About 70% of seniors who utilize New York City Department for the Aging's (DFTA) senior centers currently live in poverty. These DFTA senior centers provide free congregate meals to its participants among other social services. Over 800 seniors living in East New York count on the congregate meals program for nutritional needs, social interaction, and access to other services and benefits. For many participants, the congregate meals program represents their "second home."

Meanwhile, 33% of homebound seniors served by DFTA's home-delivered meals program currently live in poverty. Over 250 homebound elderly living in East New York count on the home-delivered meals program for daily nutritional needs and the regular social interaction with their meal deliverer.

Both the congregate meals program and the home-delivered meals program are seen as two of the core services provided by DFTA in assisting seniors to stay in their homes and delaying institutionalization. [ARRA funding allowed local community-based organizations supported by DFTA to purchase raw food and disposable items like containers, plates, and utensils for 14,000 congregate meals at senior centers in East New York and another 5,800 home-delivered meals for homebound elderly in the community.](#)

ARRA Award Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Lead City Agency
NYC Department of Youth &
Community Development

Bucket +
Health and Social Support

Project
Multiple
Projects

Total \$ For This Award
\$50.48 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$39.55 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$781,000+

ARRA Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding enabled the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD) to offer a range of programs and support to East New York residents. Out-of-School Time (OST) was funded with \$52,000 and [allowed seven summer camps in East New York, Brooklyn to extend the length of their sessions for two summers in a row](#). These OST programs were managed by four community-based agencies – Bushwick Community Action Association, Inc., Groundwork, Inc., United Community Day Care Center, Inc., and Be'er Hagolah Institute – and [served a total of 560 elementary school-aged children, providing high-quality childcare for working families](#).

With \$35,000 in ARRA CSBG funding, East New York's Beacon Community Center [provided an after-school program for 160 children](#) through the East New York Development Corporation. This program supported working families by providing high-quality childcare and allowing working parents to improve their own employment and educational opportunities.

The Fatherhood Re-entry Jobs Program (FRJP) in East New York received \$194,000 in ARRA CSBG funding, and through the Italian American Civil Rights League, [gave 30 fathers with previous involvement in the criminal justice system an opportunity to participate in a 14-week internship program that incorporated ongoing education, as well as other follow-up participant and employer supports](#). After graduating from this program, seven men were successfully placed in permanent full-time jobs and one man was enrolled in an educational program.

In fiscal year 2011, ARRA CSBG funds also supported the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) by [providing funding for 380 summer jobs in East New York](#). SYEP offers work experience, teaches valuable employment skills, and provides youth with a summer income. SYEP educational activities enhance the experience, allowing participants to develop career awareness, understand personal money management, and foster work-related social skills. East New York Development Corporation and the New York City Housing Authority received over \$50,000 to administer the program. [Over \\$450,000 in wages were paid directly to SYEP participants in the neighborhood](#).

ARRA Award Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

Lead City Agency
NYC Human Resources
Administration

Bucket 
Health and Social Support

Project
Food Stamp Benefit
Increase

Total \$ For This Award
\$1,728 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$1,728 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$1.44 Million

The New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) manages the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, whose benefits, excluding administrative costs, are entirely funded by the federal government. SNAP provides food stamp benefits for individuals and families with limited income to purchase food items at participating grocery stores and farmers' markets. This is particularly important in areas with limited access to affordable healthy foods, such as East New York.

New York City has been successful in increasing the number of SNAP beneficiaries. It is estimated that over \$3.3 billion in SNAP benefits will be provided to 1.8 million New York City residents in City Fiscal Year 2012. Since January 2008, there has been a 52% increase in total SNAP recipients (from 1.2 million to 1.8 million recipients). However, the most dramatic growth has been in the non-cash assistance population. The number of SNAP recipients – who rely on Food Stamps as a work support but do not receive cash welfare – is at its highest recorded level in New York City. This population has increased by 79% since January 2008 (from about 787,000 recipients to over 1.4 million recipients).

On April 1, 2009, as an enhancement to current benefit levels, SNAP recipients began to receive benefits that were 13.6 percent higher than what they had been the previous month, thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). As a result of the ARRA increase, 1,682,832 average monthly recipients citywide received more than \$801,572,222 ARRA funds during the period April 2009 through April 2011. That equates to a monthly benefit increase of \$20.00 for every food stamp recipient.

In East New York, for that same time period, an average of 71,738 monthly recipients received a total of \$11,406,342, of which \$1,434,760 was the result of ARRA funding. This money not only provided families with additional nutritious food but also brought additional revenue to East New York when the recipients shopped for their groceries in their local stores, generating more business for the community. [The East New York Food Center is the fourth largest local Food Stamp Center in the City of New York.](#)

In a recent publication, HRA Commissioner Robert Doar stated, "America's food stamp program, currently called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is one of our nation's proudest achievements. It provides assistance to millions of struggling families by helping them put food on their tables during difficult times. [Every day, the program helps seniors on fixed incomes, working families, and people facing hardships due to unemployment or disability.](#) During the recent economic downturn as our economy struggles to get back on its feet, the program has responded like no other social safety net..." (City Limits)

ARRA Award TANF Emergency Contingency Fund

Lead City Agency NYC Human Resources Administration

Bucket Health and Social Support

Project Subsidized Jobs Program

Total \$ For This Award
\$94.05 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$13.14 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$1.1 Million

The New York City Human Resources Administration's (HRA) Subsidized Jobs Program is an important component of the mission to assist clients in achieving self-sufficiency. During City Fiscal Year 2010, HRA served approximately 12,000 participants in the program, more than 15% of whom were supported with ARRA funds. The ARRA-funded initiative operated in all five boroughs and focused on the hard-to-employ individuals. Between September 2009 and December 2010, the Subsidized Jobs Program spent approximately \$12 million dollars in ARRA funds, serving over 2,000 participants citywide with 388 transitioning to unsubsidized employment. [In East New York alone, 183 individuals from the neighborhood participated in the program with 55 transitioning to unsubsidized employment.](#)

The program offered participants the opportunity to gain work experience and training with employers in the community. Beyond subsidizing wages for individuals, ARRA funds were used to help them to enhance soft skills such as interviewing and job search techniques; complete training programs; and gain marketable credentials to make them more competitive applicants in the future. Participants engaged in a range of programs across industries and fields including green construction and weatherization; administrative positions; direct care; facilities management; retail; food service; and transportation. Participants could also take advantage of training courses on a variety of topics including GED and adult education; class D and CDL driver's licenses; photovoltaic installation and brownfield remediation; computer skills; budgeting and financial literacy skills; English as a Second Language; and others.

In addition to the work experience and training, participants were screened for enrollment in other work supports such as subsidized child care, food stamps, and Medicaid to ensure that they had ample assistance to succeed.

According to HRA Commissioner Robert Doar, "HRA is proud to run employment-focused programs that are a key component of the agency's work first strategy leading to a low welfare caseload and thousands of job placements, even during tough times. By engaging in job search, training and experience activities, clients on cash assistance improve their ability to get and retain a job and stay out of poverty." (April 13, 2011 HRA Press Release on Job Fairs)

“Affordable housing creates jobs, and when complete, provides safe, clean, and reasonably priced homes. These homes give people peace of mind, as well as an opportunity to plant roots, save for the future, and establish themselves in the East New York community.”



Mathew Wambua, HPD Commissioner
Tax Credit Assistance Program

“America’s food stamp program, currently called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, is one of our nation’s proudest achievements. It provides assistance to millions of struggling families by helping them put food on their tables during difficult times.”



Robert Doar, HRA Commissioner
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

“In my opinion, the development looks much better and is safer. We have more lighting on our grounds, around our buildings, and at our entrances. We got new roof tanks, which is important because the old ones were rusted and corroding. And our elevators no longer close on you like they did before. The sensors work!”



Carmen Wichard, Resident Association President of Linden Houses
Public Housing Capital Fund Recovery Grant

ARRA Award

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Lead City Agency

NYC Department of Information Technology

Bucket 
Infrastructure

Project
NYC Connected Learning

Total \$ For This Award

\$22.16 Million

Total \$ For This Project

\$22.16 Million



**East New York,
Brooklyn**

\$307,817

NYC Connected Learning (NYC-CL) is funded by \$22 million in ARRA funds through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), and \$5.9 million in match funding provided by the New York City Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) and its partners. NYC-CL will provide more than 18,000 sixth grade students in 72 low-income schools with home computers, discounted broadband service, digital literacy training, and an array of resources to link the home and school learning environments. Its broad aim is to support sustainable adoption of broadband within a key segment of the City's low-income population, while simultaneously boosting educational outcomes and social and economic prospects for participating students and their families.

The City's data shows that broadband is widely available to City residents, but that a stark disparity exists in the adoption of that service. Low-income residents are estimated to adopt broadband at less than half the rate of their moderate- and high-income counterparts. Data further shows that multiple issues tend to impede adoption in low-income households, including cost of computers, software, and broadband service; lack of recognition of the value of the technology; and poor digital literacy skills. Given the increasingly important role broadband plays in social and economic well-being, this gap in access puts the City's low-income residents at risk. Such a gap in broadband adoption can have a particularly negative impact on academic performance. Because students spend only 13% of their waking hours in the classroom, extending the learning environment to the home is a key factor in academic success.

To date through NYC-CL, 8,747 families have received home computers and educational software; 19,067 individuals have attended digital literacy training; 17,671 hours of professional development have been delivered to 1,276 teachers and administrators; and approximately 3,604 NYC-CL households have newly subscribed to broadband.

The East New York Family Academy, one of the 72 NYC-CL schools, was chosen because of its high-needs population, as well its ability to be innovative and its demonstration of the strong leadership necessary to fully leverage the program. During the 2010-2011 school year, 46 of the school's sixth grade families (or 96%) participated in the program, receiving home computers, discounted broadband offers, and digital literacy training. Students at East New York Family Academy also engaged in web-based research to create a collaborative inquiry project and presentation focusing on Biomes. Using WebQuest, students formed teams, each with a geographer, climatologist, botanist, and zoologist, with the goal of researching and presenting their findings on living and non-living natural environments.

ARRA Award
**Public Housing Capital Fund
Recovery Grant**

Lead City Agency
**NYC Housing Authority
(NYCHA)**

Bucket 
Infrastructure

Project
**Linden Houses
Development**

Total \$ For This Award
\$423.28 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$5.87 Million



**East New York,
Brooklyn**

\$5.87 Million

On March 15, 2010, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Chairman John B. Rhea announced HUD's approval of New York City's application to qualify 21 NYCHA developments, consisting of 20,000 housing units, for federal subsidies. In order to qualify, the developments were sold to a partnership managed by NYCHA. The New York City Housing Development Corporation issued bonds to finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of the units.

The sale of these 21 developments takes advantage of a one-time opportunity in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to qualify NYCHA's unfunded units for federal support. All 21 developments remain public housing and residents will retain all of their rights and protections as public housing residents. [This transaction is one of the largest tax credit bond deals in the nation's history.](#)

As a result of the transaction, NYCHA received more than \$400 million in public and private funding, the majority of which is being used for capital improvements. The sale enabled HUD to include the buildings in a federal subsidy program that will deliver \$65-\$75 million every year for ongoing maintenance.

Linden Houses, a 1,586 unit public housing development located in Brooklyn, NY, is one of the 21 developments in this program. Approximately \$5.7 million in ARRA funds were supplemented with \$3.9 million in mixed-finance dollars in order to perform much-needed capital repairs on the 19 residential buildings that make up the development. [The work includes new entrance and exit doors, two new 10,000 gallon rooftop water tanks, and masonry repairs.](#)

Carmen Wichard, Resident Association President of Linden Houses observed, "In my opinion, the development looks much better and is safer. We have more lighting on our grounds, around our buildings, and at our entrances. We got new roof tanks, which is important because the old ones were rusted and corroding. And our elevators no longer close on you like they did before. The sensors work!"

[The long-term quality of life for the more than 3,600 residents of Linden Houses will be improved as dedicated funding and subsidies result in upgrades to building standards and conditions, as well as service enhancements into the future.](#)

ARRA Award

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program

Lead City Agency

NYC Department of Homeless Services

Bucket

Neighborhood Stabilization

Project

Homebase Prevention and Diversion

Total \$ For This Award

\$73.93 Million

Total \$ For This Project

\$44.05 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$3.85 Million

East New York contributes more families to the homeless shelter system than any other community in New York City and is the third most common destination for formerly homeless families leaving shelter.

The Partnership for the Homeless manages a comprehensive Homebase program in the heart of the neighborhood. ARRA funds have been allowing them to work with the whole family by addressing safety net, crisis-oriented issues (e.g., accessing food stamps, public assistance, and emergency housing) as well as longer term issues that contribute to family stability and the prevention of homelessness (e.g., employment, permanent housing, education, and community support networks). Through this web of services furnished by the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS) is helping residents on the verge of homelessness pay security deposits, utility bills, moving fees, and rent checks. DHS also connects them with other work and community-based support services, so that they can remain housed and on the path to long-term economic stability. Having a stable place to live is often the base for everything else – for employment, for keeping kids in school, for health, and for a general sense of security.

Since July 2009, The Partnership for the Homeless has spent over \$1.8 million dollars in ARRA funds, serving nearly 1,000 households in East New York at risk of homelessness through case management and services such as benefits advocacy, housing location, legal referral, and over \$200,000 in flexible financial assistance. Over 90% of these households have not entered a homeless shelter a year after receiving services.

According to DHS Commissioner Seth Diamond, “Our agency has been a pioneer in homelessness prevention and developing housing first models that move families and individuals from shelters and the streets to permanent housing. The HPRP investments allowed the City to build and strengthen these innovative reforms to serve the homeless. In the past year, we have seen a 3% decline in the number of families in shelter and a 15% decline in individuals living on the streets.” The Partnership for the Homeless will continue to serve East New York through the end of the ARRA funding in 2012.

ARRA Award Tax Credit Assistance Program

Lead City Agency NYC Department of Housing Preservation

Bucket Neighborhood Stabilization

Project Livonia Terrace Housing Rehabilitation

Total \$ For This Award
\$85 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$9.5 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

\$9.5 Million

East New York, overtaken by blight in the 1970's, is an area of major focus for the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). Housing in this neighborhood faces many challenges, including deteriorating and aging buildings. HPD utilized ARRA funds to improve the living conditions of hundreds of East New York residents.

The Livonia Terrace project consists of the much-needed rehabilitation of seventeen (17) three- or four-story residential buildings. Tenants living in these buildings were relocated temporarily while construction occurred. On-site improvements for the refurbished buildings included repairs to masonry, fire escapes, concrete, plumbing, and electrical work. Residents returned to apartments with new bathrooms, functioning kitchen appliances, and some new doors. Combined, the 17 buildings now contain 173 one- to five-bedroom apartments.

Preserving affordable housing in East New York is a central component of the Bloomberg Administration's Five Borough Economic Opportunity Plan to create jobs for New Yorkers today, implement a vision for long-term economic growth, and build affordable, attractive neighborhoods. "Affordable housing creates jobs, and when complete, provides safe, clean, and reasonably priced homes," notes HPD Commissioner Mathew Wambua. "These homes give people peace of mind, as well as an opportunity to plant roots, save for the future, and establish themselves in the East New York community."

The U.S. Department of Labor and HPD monitor federally-funded projects for compliance with prevailing wage requirements. Non-compliance issues have been identified. Both agencies work closely to ensure that employees working on ARRA-funded construction projects receive legal and fair pay.

ARRA Award
Community Development
Block Grant

Lead City Agency
NYC Dept. of Parks and
Recreation and Dept. of Ed

Bucket 
Neighborhood Stabilization

Project
Graffiti Removal in Parks and
Code Violation Removal in Schools

Total \$ For This Award
\$48.32 Million

Total \$ For This Project
\$10.39 Million



East New York,
Brooklyn

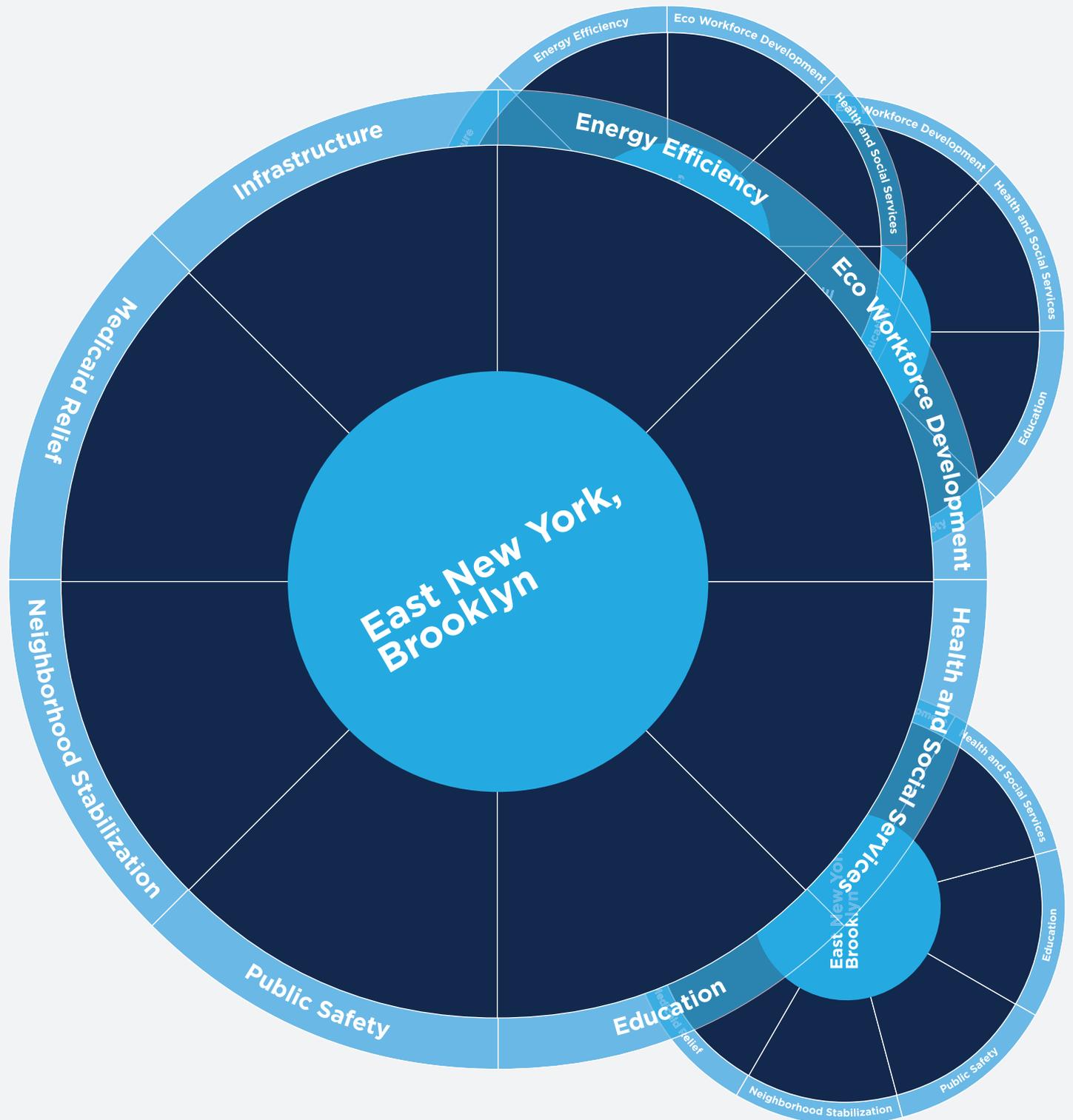
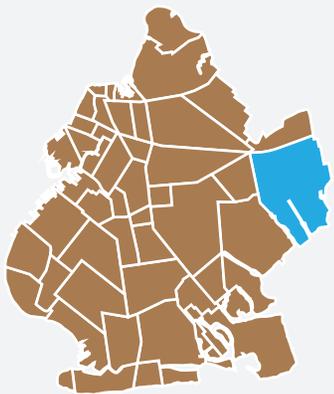
\$531,515

Through the Graffiti Removal in Parks and Playgrounds program, funded with \$388,263 from the ARRA Community Development Block Grant (CDBG-R), New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff performed graffiti removal activities in low- and moderate-income areas throughout the City. Funds covered the staffing, supplies, equipment, and vehicles necessary to increase services in these areas. [Of the nearly 50 parks served, the following five parks were located in or around East New York: Ethan Allen Playground; Linden Playground; Powell Playground; Sperandeo Brothers Playground; and Van Dyke Playground.](#) Over the life of the grant, approximately \$48,000 in CDBG-R funds were used for personnel costs to remove graffiti at the above-listed sites.

Through the Code Violation Removal in Schools program, funded with \$10,000,000 of CDBG-R, New York City Department of Education staff and contractors prevented or removed code violations in New York City schools that serve children from low- and moderate-income households. The activities may include the installation, repair, or replacement of emergency lighting, elevator guards, corridor doors, door closers, fire rated doors and hardware, panic hardware, fire alarm systems, fire suppression systems, fire extinguishers, sprinklers/standpipes, radiator shields, potable water systems, sewage systems, kitchen ventilation/exhaust systems, and heating/cooling/refrigeration systems; flame-proofing curtains; building elevator and sidewalk elevator upgrades; and the repair of bleachers, retaining walls, interior masonry, plaster, damaged flooring, ceilings, electrical fixtures, and wiring. [Over the life of the grant, \\$483,515 in CDBG-R funds have been used to address 224 violations at 30 schools in East New York.](#)



Making A Difference One Person At A Time



ARRA Award Investing in Innovation

Lead City Agency NYC Department of Education



“The EASE program has brought so much to my classroom and to me as a teacher. I now have many more ways to reach, and therefore teach, my students. I look forward to learning more in the EASE program, and to teaching ‘with EASE’ for many years to come.”

John (The name has been changed to protect privacy) came into our classroom crying and sullen in September 2010. He was a handsome five-year-old with a wide smile that lit up the room, but we rarely saw that smile. It was difficult for him to separate from his father in the mornings. John had trouble following directions and routines in the classroom. During morning meetings, he would cry uncontrollably if he did not get a turn posting the date on the calendar. I was at a loss for how to keep him joyfully engaged in classroom activities.

By November, the EASE (Everyday Arts for Special Education) program was initiated in three classrooms at P53K@384. My class consists of twelve students, aged 5-7, with significant emotional disturbance and learning disabilities. Teaching artists from Manhattan New Music Project showed me the EASE methodology: how to use arts activities to improve students’ socialization, communication, behavior, academics, and art skills. The artists teach these skills through highly engaging, fun age-appropriate activities such as dancing with ribbons, painting, and playing musical instruments.

One of the most important skills taught by the EASE artists was self-control. They taught me a dynamic, movement-oriented chant that helps students internalize what self-control feels and looks like. The chant, with accompanying movements, goes, “I have self control! I’m cool. I can wait!” I use this chant when working with enticing arts materials, but its effect has spread through the classroom; the students repeat this chant throughout the day, in unison or to themselves, during difficult moments.

My student John now demonstrates the EASE skills during the entire day. He has learned self-control and turn-taking in the opening rituals and classroom reading activities. Once I observed him twitching and overheard him saying in a quiet voice, “I have self-control. I can wait.” John now sits and waits his turn to use the laptops. He does not complain when he is corrected or redirected. He used to race to the front of the line when it was time for gym or lunch; he now waits until his name is called and stays in his designated position. Although one of the youngest, he can now lead the class, holding ‘stop’ and ‘go’ signs. The permanent smile on his face all day brightens our room and lets us know that he’s happy to be learning in school and comfortable within himself and others. The EASE program has brought so much to my classroom and to me as a teacher. I now have many more ways to reach, and therefore teach, my students. I look forward to learning more in the EASE program, and to teaching “with EASE” for many years to come.

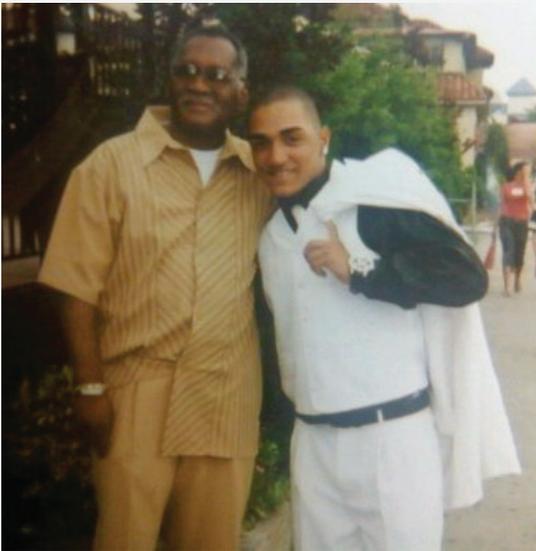
AUDREY JAMES

ARRA Award

Workforce Investment Act: Youth

Lead City Agency

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development



“It (ISY and SYEP) was very helpful, it got me my job... I learned communication skills, how to speak in public, and my resume is now quite impressive.”

Brian Caldwell is a high school graduate from Canarsie High School in Brooklyn, New York. He lives with his parents, sister and brother. His school records show that he is dependable, responsible, dedicated, and self-disciplined. He loves sports. He wanted to join the Marines, but was involved in a car accident and was still receiving physical therapy.

Caldwell was a part of the In-School Youth “Go to School, Get a Job” initiative as well as the Summer Youth Employment Program supported with ARRA Workforce Investment Act funds. He started with a subsidized job at a Staples store and was eventually hired by Staples at the end of the program. The wages that Caldwell earned allowed him to pay for senior year school supplies and clothes.

Now, almost three years later, Caldwell continues to work at Staples and has saved enough money to buy himself a car. Caldwell excelled at his job. He was recognized by Staples management for his customer service skills as he ranked 2nd for the region in selling product protection plans. He has received pay raises and was also offered a higher position.

“It (ISY and SYEP) was very helpful, it got me my job. It gave me a chance to save money, and learn how to be responsible. I work 28-35 hours per week now. I would not have had this opportunity without the Italian-American Civil Rights League and SYEP. I learned communication skills, how to speak in public, and my resume is now quite impressive.”

BRIAN CALDWELL

ARRA Award Senior Nutrition Program

Lead City Agency NYC Department for the Aging



“ They really are interested in the people they deliver food to and not just dropping off the meals. They want to take care of me. ”

Celestine Ferguson is a 79-year-old widow who has lived in East New York for over 30 years. She worked for decades as a hospital radiologist and had been an 1199 union delegate until she was forced to retire in 1998 due to health problems. She has been receiving meals on wheels since 2009 after a case manager visited her at home and recommended the service to her. She was suffering from asthma and other health problems at the time. She decided to try the service.

“I doctor it (the meal) up because I like my food real spicy,” Ferguson says with a smile. “They try hard, but you can’t please everyone, so I do what I have to do for myself!” She goes on to explain, “The meals come on time, they are so polite, and they ask me how I am doing. Once, when they couldn’t deliver the food because I had gone to a doctor’s appointment, they called me. Then they called my son and my niece to try to find me. I was annoyed at first, but then it was explained to me that they are just concerned and I came to understand that. Even the Director of the program has called me. They really are interested in the people they deliver food to and not just dropping off the meals. They want to take care of me. They consider my doctor’s schedule so that they can make sure I get my meal. They do their best to help everyone.”

Ferguson is glad to know that, with all the medical appointments she has and living alone, her home-delivered meal program keeps in touch with her and ensures that she has a daily meal. “In my neighborhood, you need people who you can trust to bring you food. I appreciate that.”

CELESTINE FERGUSON

ARRA Award Senior Nutrition Program

Lead City Agency NYC Department for the Aging



“The center has been a fountain of youth for me, and I feel like I’ve gained a new family since joining.”

Zoila Velez is 80-years-old and is a member of the Cypress Hills Senior Center, which received ARRA funding to purchase food and disposable items like containers, plates, and utensils for congregate meals. Born June 26, 1931 in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Velez grew up under poverty stricken conditions to humble parents. She went to school and completed her high school diploma. She participated in many radio shows as a singer of Ecuadorian national music during these years. She married at the young age of 19 and had eight children with her husband, Jorge. They struggled to provide for their large family—Jorge as a bus driver, and herself as a housewife, doing sewing jobs on the side for extra income.

Velez reflects back on her life. “It has been a struggle from the day I was born, tragedy after tragedy.” She lost three of her eight children from a robbery, pneumonia, and SIDS. Her husband died of a massive heart attack in 1986, only six months after her son was murdered. To help cope with her tragic losses, she worked as a literacy volunteer, going into rural areas teaching people how to read for five years. Her remaining children had immigrated to New York and petitioned for her residency. She landed in New York on April 15, 1996 and did not have any idea of what an “old lady” was going to do in such a big city.

Luckily, Velez was able to find work as a seamstress in East New York which she proudly did for five years. After her lay off, she found herself in a depressed state. Through a church friend, she learned of the Cypress Hills Senior Center and decided to join. “The center has been a fountain of youth for me, and I feel like I’ve gained a new family since joining,” she comments. [Velez participates in daily exercise classes from yoga to zumba and is a regular at the gym. She has controlled her hypertension through these activities as well as the nutritious congregate meal program.](#) Sitting down together in the dining room over a hot, well-balanced, delicious meal provides opportunities for socialization and companionship. She loves the feeling of coming in and feeling the warmth from both staff and friends she has made throughout the years.

Velez recently became a United States Citizen in May 2011 with application assistance from the center’s resource staff and credits the center’s English as a Second Language (ESL) course as a great help in passing the test. As she says, [“My life has changed for the better since joining this center. I will continue to support and attend as long as God grants me life and health. God bless this center that has given me so much to live for.”](#)

ZOILA VELEZ

ARRA Award TANF Emergency Contingency Fund

Lead City Agency NYC Human Resources Administration



“The subsidized jobs program gave me the foundation and support I needed to become independent.”

In 2009, the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) introduced the Subsidized Jobs Program with ARRA funds. The initiative included agreements between HRA and NYC employers to hire and train cash assistance participants for 3-6 months. There was an expectation that 50 percent of the participants recruited for this initiative would be permanently hired by their employers. In addition, employers would be supported by the Visiting Nurse Service of NY (VNSNY) Comprehensive Care Management (CCM) program, including assistance with administrative and participant concerns throughout the initiative and for an additional six months if participants were permanently hired. Through this initiative, VNSNY developed partnership agreements with 12 employers in the health care and transitional sectors and successfully placed 32 participants, of whom 19 were permanently hired by the employer.

Elton Best is a 47-year-old who enrolled in the VNSNY CCM program on September 17, 2008. Best was initially referred with substance abuse, medical, mental health, and housing barriers to employment. He was living in a three-quarter house in Brooklyn and aspired to obtain his own apartment. Best maintained a positive relationship with his mother, who supported him throughout his recovery. Prior to enrolling with VNSNY, he had achieved his GED and an Office Associate certificate. Upon enrolling with VNSNY, Best was referred to the Bowery Resident Center for substance abuse treatment, which he successfully completed in April 2010.

When the HRA Subsidized Jobs Program was introduced, Best was eligible to participate. VNSNY worked with Best on a continuous basis to further assess his skills and future goals in order to determine a good job fit. During the same time, VNSNY developed an agreement with North Crown Heights to hire an Administrative Assistant from the initiative’s participant pool. Given Best’s past work experience, training, and skills, he was given an opportunity to interview for the position and was hired in April 2010.

As a result of this opportunity, Best received training, enhanced his administrative skills, and increased his eligibility for future career options. Best was also afforded the ability to rent and furnish his own apartment in Brooklyn and maintain his self-sufficiency. Best continued working full-time with North Crown Heights until he earned a promotion, which included a significant salary increase and benefits in September 2010 with Housing Works. Best has continued full-time employment with Housing Works and reports job satisfaction and appreciation for the opportunity that he has been given as a result of the Subsidized Jobs Program. According to Best, “The subsidized jobs program gave me the foundation and support I needed to become independent.”

ELTON BEST

ARRA Award TANF Emergency Contingency Fund

Lead City Agency NYC Human Resources Administration



“I don’t know where I would be if it weren’t for the stimulus plan. I had my back against the wall. I lost my job. I lost my apartment. I lost all hope... Now thanks to the stimulus plan, I am currently working.”

In 2009, the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) introduced the Subsidized Jobs Program with ARRA funds. The initiative included agreements between HRA and NYC employers to hire and train cash assistance participants for 3-6 months. There was an expectation that 50 percent of the participants recruited for this initiative would be permanently hired by their employers. In addition, employers would be supported by the Visiting Nurse Service of NY (VNSNY) Comprehensive Care Management (CCM) program, including assistance with administrative and participant concerns throughout the initiative and for an additional six months if participants were permanently hired. Through this initiative, VNSNY developed partnership agreements with 12 employers in the health care and transitional sectors and successfully placed 32 participants, of whom 19 were permanently hired by the employer.

Marie Bigaud is a 29-year-old who enrolled in the VNSNY CCM program on September 11, 2009. She was initially referred with substance abuse and housing barriers to employment. Bigaud was living in a shelter in Queens and aspired to have her own apartment. She maintained a positive relationship with her mother, who was a great source of support throughout her recovery. Bigaud had previously achieved her GED and a Home Health Aide certificate.

When the HRA Subsidized Jobs Program was introduced, Bigaud was eligible to participate. VNSNY worked with her on a continuous basis to further assess her skills and future goals in order to determine a good job fit. During the same time, VNSNY developed an agreement with Personal Touch Home Health Services to hire Home Health Aides from the initiative’s participant pool. Given Bigaud’s past work experience, training, and skills, she was given the opportunity to interview for the position and was hired in January 2010.

As a result of this opportunity, Bigaud received training, enhanced her caregiving skills, and increased her eligibility for future career options. She was also afforded the ability to rent and furnish her own apartment in Brooklyn and maintain her self-sufficiency. Bigaud has maintained full-time employment with Personal Touch Home Health Services and reports job satisfaction and appreciation for the opportunity that she has been given as a result of the Subsidized Jobs Program. According to Bigaud, “I don’t know where I would be if it weren’t for the stimulus plan. I had my back against the wall. I lost my job. I lost my apartment. I lost all hope. I was going through some hard times. I didn’t know where to go for help. Until VNSNY came into my life. They gave me hope again. Now thanks to the stimulus plan, I am currently working.”

MARIE BIGAUD

ARRA Award

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program

Lead City Agency

NYC Department of Homeless Services



“If I didn’t have [this assistance] I don’t know what would have happened... They helped me to understand what it means to get up and move on.”

Just a few years ago, Loreen Gaines was working in the banking industry and contributing to her 401K retirement plan. When she lost her job and no similar positions were forthcoming, she soon went through her savings and could no longer afford her rent of \$1,500 per month. She and her two daughters found themselves evicted from their apartment and living in a homeless shelter. Eventually, Gaines was able to find an apartment with transitional assistance from the New York City Department of Homeless Services (DHS).

As she left the shelter, her housing worker told her that if she had any issues with her housing, or wanted any assistance or referrals, she needed to visit her local Homebase program, run by the Partnership for the Homeless, located in their Family Resource Center in East New York. The Homebase program in East New York, which would have been drastically cut without the infusion of ARRA funds, has enrolled nearly 1,000 households at risk of homelessness since 2009, preventing homelessness through case management and services such as benefits advocacy, housing location, legal referral, and over \$200,000 thousand dollars in flexible financial assistance.

Gaines was very busy looking for work and seeking to improve her job skills. She found several temporary jobs while continuing to search for a permanent position, but eventually her rent exceeded her income and she fell behind. She came to Homebase with an eviction notice, and the staff assisted her in applying for a TANF-based rental subsidy and negotiated with the landlord in order to ensure that she and her children could remain in their apartment.

While participating in employment and training programs through the New York City Human Resources Administration, which oversees TANF, Gaines received a medical assistant certificate. She is currently an outreach worker for a medical service agency. Her eldest daughter, Janelle, is now 23-years-old and has started her first job as a paraprofessional in the public schools. Christina, 7, is enjoying her new weekly swimming lessons and will soon be enrolled in a summer school program.

In addition to helping her avoid returning to the shelter, Gaines especially valued the credit counseling services at the Family Resource Center. She learned how to use and understand her credit card for the first time, which helps her keep her finances balanced and her rent up-to-date. Gaines believes that the Homebase program was vital for her and many like her in the community, stating, “If I didn’t have [this assistance] I don’t know what would have happened.” She explains that the Homebase staff were there in her time of need and that they, “helped me to understand what it means to get up and move on.”

LOREEN GAINES

ARRA Award Public Housing Capital Fund Recovery Grant

Lead City Agency NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA)



“I now have a sense of stability...I am hopeful that this opportunity will lead to better opportunities, such as picking up a trade and joining a union. For this, I am grateful.”

Ty-rik Harris is 35 years old, single and a lifelong resident of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). Growing up in Bayview Houses, Harris has struggled to make ends meet. Music is Harris' passion, he dreams of a career in the music industry writing songs for rap artists. He is also practical and knows that he needs a stable income. He tried working security, loss prevention, and other positions, but they always ended. When he was between jobs, Harris was fortunate to always be able to count on getting work at the local barbershop doing odd jobs for the owner. Most recently, he worked in that barbershop for a year until he was contacted by Jeneen Gilliam from NYCHA's Office of Resident Employment Services.

NYCHA residents can apply for jobs with contractors working on modernization projects at NYCHA developments by signing up at their management office. Harris had previously obtained employment in this manner, and in April 2011, Gilliam offered Harris an opportunity to work for ASHNU, Inc., a contractor working at Linden Houses. NYCHA even paid for him to take the required 10-hour safety class in order to qualify for the position.

As Harris says, “Since earning employment with Linden Houses in April 2011 as a Carpenter/Masonry Helper, I now have a sense of stability. I know that in the future doors will open to more opportunities because of the position granted to me through the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) Section 3 program. I appreciate that I'm able to learn new things and meet new people. I especially enjoy earning more money; the money has made a huge change in my life. Overall, I look at things differently in my neighborhood. Now I know how things are done because of the work that I perform in the developments. I am hopeful that this opportunity will lead to better opportunities, such as picking up a trade and joining a union. For this, I am grateful.”

That job ended in July, but instead of going back to work in the barbershop, Harris is currently working as an Assistant Superintendent with STV, Inc, one of the construction management firms at Linden, Boulevard and Bayview Houses in Brooklyn, NY. He received this job offer because of his hard work and positive attitude while working for a subcontractor on the project. Harris states, “This was the first time in my life that I could see a career path. I knew I had to put my best foot forward every day because there was more at stake than just a pay check.” Not only does Harris plan to go back to school to get his associate degree in engineering, but he has a cousin and a friend who are also NYCHA residents working in construction jobs and learning new skills. Together, the three men plan to learn everything they can and eventually open their own contracting business. Harris says that he likes the way the kids look up to him when he comes home from work, carrying his STV hard hat and he wants to “change the perceptions some people have about inner-city youth that come from these developments.”

TY-RIK HARRIS

Chief Recovery Officer

Michelle Light

Research and Content Development

Noreen Chambers

Design

Jeffrey Garofalo

Many people worked very hard to produce this spotlight on East New York, showcasing a sample of New York City's ARRA investments and how these investments have made a difference in one community.

First and foremost, thank you to the multiple contributors across several City agencies. They deserve specific mention and are listed below. With great commitment and pride, they have helped to implement the ARRA-funded programs, track their data, report on their activities, and communicate their accomplishments.

Thank you to our Bucket Coordinators who collaborated with the City agencies under their purview and facilitated the information-gathering process.

And thank you to the individuals from the neighborhood who generously agreed to share their personal stories and testimonials: Elton Best, Marie Bigaud, Brian Caldwell, Vicki Cusare, Celestine Ferguson, Loreen Gaines, Ty-rik Harris, Audrey James, Lori Parker, Zoila Velez, and Carmen Wichard. They demonstrate how ARRA has touched the lives of real New Yorkers.

—Michelle Light, Chief Recovery Officer for the City of New York, August 2011

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