

40 Years of LISC CT

#CountDownto40

In honor of LISC Connecticut's 40th year anniversary, a series of capacity building stories will be shared -- featuring prominent partners, funders, and community members.

Tammy's Story



Tanisha's Story



Davine's Story



“If I can get up, a single mother who came from nothing, you can do it, too.”



Client Success Stories. Click each client story to hear how The Village and the FOCs have positively impacted their lives.

Featuring

The Village for Families & Children

Increasing Upward Economic Mobility for Families

The Village for Families & Children (The Village) strengthens families by providing more than 40 programs covering a full range of behavioral health, early childhood and youth development, substance use treatment and support services for children and adults throughout Greater Hartford.

Recognizing that financial health is pivotal to emotional and physical health, family stability, intergenerational growth and overall wellness, The Village's partnership with LISC CT since 2020 has expanded the scope of impact through its Financial Opportunity Center.

Thousands of Village clients have benefited from the center's continuum of services, helping them to achieve sustainable financial growth and economic mobility.

Tanisha Stewart shared how The Financial Opportunity Center was a place for hope when she had nowhere else to turn: "I was at a breaking point. I needed help. The Village has helped me financially, emotionally, and now I'm able to pay my bills, I have a vehicle and am on my way to owning a home."

The Village embraces the model of bundled services and holistically addresses client financial, employment, education and income needs, including:

- One-on-one individualized financial coaching
- Budget Bootcamp financial literacy workshops
- Financial literacy conversations with students at local schools
- Bilingual services for Spanish-speaking clients
- Career coaching
- Mobility mentoring

The result? Families are increasing net income, credit scores and savings, are gainfully employed and are achieving homeownership.

To learn more about The Village and the services provided to families in Greater Hartford with low-to-moderate income through its Financial Opportunity Center in partnership with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut, visit thevillage.org/FOC.

Background

Financial Opportunity Centers (FOCs)

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As part of its community economic development strategy, LISC CT invests in programs to help people of color maintain financial stability and build enduring wealth. One of these strategies is its Financial Opportunity Centers (FOCs). Based on a model developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, LISC CT operates a network of seven FOCs in six cities: The Village for Families & Children (Hartford) serves adults in Greater Hartford with low-to-moderate income. Community Action Agency of New Haven focuses on single-female-headed households with children and the re-entry population; Urban League of Greater Hartford focuses on communities of color; Open Doors (Norwalk) focuses on individuals and families experiencing housing insecurity; Human Resources Agency of New Britain focuses on youth; and Naugatuck Valley Community College (Waterbury) focuses on SNAP eligible students.

FOCs are career and financial coaching service centers that utilize an integrated approach to help low-to-moderate income individuals and families achieve long-term financial stability. They provide one-on-one employment and financial coaching and connect clients with low-cost financial products that aid in building credit, savings, and assets. Additionally, clients are connected to income supports such as SNAP benefits, utilities assistance, and affordable health insurance. FOC services are available to all individuals with low-to-moderate incomes.

"I was at a breaking point. I needed help. The Village has helped me financially, emotionally, and now I'm able to pay my bills, I have a vehicle and am on my way to owning a home."

- Tanisha Stewart, The Village Client