



Space Matters

LISC & Early Childhood Facility Policy

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Who is LISC?

- For over forty years Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), has invested in underserved communities by working with local partners and Community Development Corporations (CDCs) using pooled public and private funds
- LISC and LISC-founded affiliates and entities operate nationwide with 37 local offices and a rural program that reaches more than 2,200 counties in 45 states

LISC LOCAL INITIATIVES
SUPPORT CORPORATION



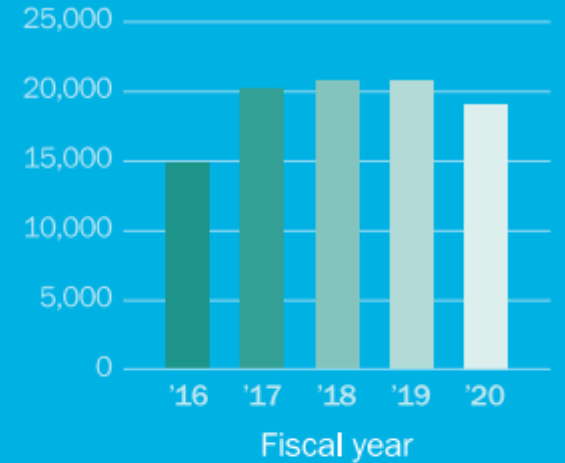


LISC: 2020 Benchmarks of Impact

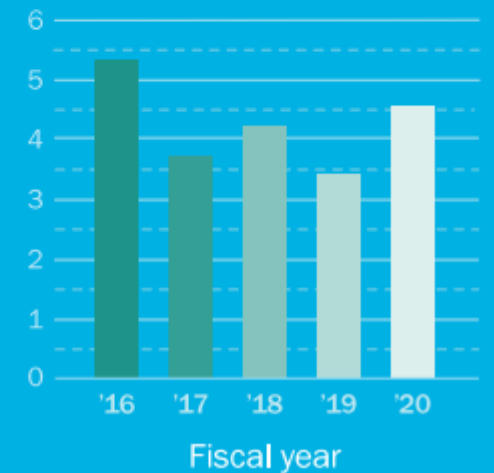
- LISC supported many low-income communities and minority-led businesses that federal pandemic relief programs failed to reach
- LISC invested more than \$2 billion and leveraged \$4.6 billion yielding 18,965 affordable homes and/or apartments and 4.5 million square feet of commercial and community space



Affordable
Homes &
Apartments



Sq. Feet of
Commercial
Space
(millions)



National Child Care & Early Learning Team

- **Assembling flexible capital** to address the most pressing child care market needs
- **Delivering technical support** to care providers and developers to enhance project implementation and to explore innovative approaches and partnerships
- **Building a national platform** of support for equitable early learning facility access that engages childcare and education providers, advocates, developers, other CDFIs, funders and policymakers

All children deserve access to high-quality, developmentally appropriate, healthy, and safe early care and learning spaces



Childcare in American

- Decades of neuroscience and behavioral research identify high-quality early child care and education as a key indicator for future success
- Despite an immense archive of scientific evidence, high-quality early child care and education continues to be inaccessible, unavailable, and unaffordable in America:
 - Child care deserts in counties across the country
 - Available care is costly; the average annual cost of infant child care is \$11,000
- Federal funding for early child care and education is grossly inefficient



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With once-in-a-generation investments in child care facilities imminently on the horizon at the federal level, and increased traction in funding for infrastructure and the early care and education sector emerging at state and local levels, there is growing urgency to articulate the specific ways in which physical space plays a direct role in the child care access and quality equation. Logic dictates that one cannot grow access without space to house new programs. However, questions on type, amount, and non-negotiable features of the space all require more thoughtful consideration and better articulation. Decades of early childhood research have left questions relating to the impact of the physical environment largely unanswered and often entirely ignored.

Space Matters: Literature Review

“The results of this narrative review of studies on the relation between spatial characteristics and children's behavior and development suggest that the indoor physical environment of daycare centers is indeed related to children's social and cognitive behavior and development.”

(Journal of Environmental Psychology, 2020)

Space Matters: Hierarchy of Basic Needs

LISC



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96% OF CHILDCARE FACILITIES INSPECTED DURING AN UNANNOUNCED VISIT HAD ONE OR MORE HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND NONCOMPLIANCE WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Research shows there are specific attributes of physical space in early care and education environments that are essential to child well-being and provider success



NATURAL LIGHT



SAFE DRINKING WATER



AIR QUALITY/
VENTILATION



ABATEMENT OF HARMFUL TOXINS LIKE ASBESTOS, LEAD, MOLD AND RADON

Space Matters: Regulations by State

- Early care and education programs are subject to a myriad of state and local regulations, ordinances, codes, and standards
- Licensing regulations, laws and facility standards vary greatly by state:
 - **As of 2019, only 11 states required licensed child care facilities to test their drinking water for lead and as of 2015 only a third of states' child care facilities laws and regulations addressed asbestos**





Space Matters: **Next Steps**

- Gather essential stakeholders, including architects, practitioners, regulators, advocates, funders and technical assistance providers, to better understand perceptions about space
- Explore foundational intent of guidance and regulation related to space and its connection to what the research shows
- Utilize learnings to make direct recommendations for how to shift paradigms as needed and identify areas needing further exploration

Thank You, Andrea Garrido!

Thank You, LISC!

Thank You, Cecille de Laurentis!

