

NOVEMBER 22, 2022

EAST SIDE COMPENDIUM

RESEARCH STRATEGY GUIDE

FOCUS AND SCOPE

In partnership with the Buffalo Together Community Response Fund, The John R. Oishei Foundation* prepared a compendium of actionable research and neighborhood investment plans that are inherently connected to the East Side neighborhood of Buffalo.

The information is intended to assist the Community Steering Committee in prioritizing the most critical issues and identifying existing/planned investments as they embark on developing a community investment strategy for long-term systemic change.

Most of the research captured in this report was locally-grounded and made available to the public since 2014, which included case studies, policy briefs, reports, articles, final plans, fact sheets and data portals. Geographic areas of focus included the East Side, City of Buffalo, Erie County and New York State. Sources included local foundations, nonprofits, government, economic development agencies, think tanks and academic institutions.

For questions or to suggest additional sources of information, please contact: Curtis Robbins, Director of Strategy, Research and Evaluation (crobbs@oishei.org)

*Recognizing that we can only achieve our mission of enhancing economic vitality and quality of life for the Buffalo Niagara region if all people are afforded opportunities for success, [The John R. Oishei Foundation](#) is strongly committed to better understanding and addressing issues of racial equity to create greater opportunities for all.



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PART 1: ACTIONABLE RESEARCH

I. RACIAL DISPARITIES

A. Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable: Dividend Report - University at Buffalo Regional Institute and Make Communities, 2016. [LINK](#)

The report provides a comprehensive review of racial disparities in our community and the potential benefits in closing these gaps: economic growth, neighborhood revitalization and a higher quality of life for the entire region.

“Reflecting the impacts of systemic inequity, the divided region we see today shows that neighborhoods of concentrated poverty are, more often than not, also neighborhoods of color. For instance, over half of residents in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty (where poverty rates are 20% or higher) are also within a neighborhood of color.”

B. Working Toward Equality: Employment and Race in Buffalo - Partnership for the Public Good, 2016. [LINK](#)

The report looks specifically at racial inequality in employment, assessing the scope of the problem, causes and solutions.

“PolicyLink has estimated that closing the racial income gap in Buffalo-Niagara would increase the region’s gross domestic product by 7% - over \$3.5 billion per year.”

C. Buffalo Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative - Make Communities and Neuwater & Associates, 2017. [LINK](#)

The Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative was launched by New York State as an effort to reduce financial hardship in 16 high poverty communities across the state. The report provides a complex picture of financial hardship in the City of Buffalo and a nuanced view of the causes of and opportunities to address these interwoven challenges.

D. Pathways to Progress Vol. 2 Report: Women and Girls in WNY - WNY Women’s Foundation, 2017. [LINK](#)

The report takes a deeper exploration into the barriers and opportunities women face throughout their lives.

“41% of Hispanic/Latina Girls and 34% of African-American girls age 12-17 are living in poverty in Erie and Niagara Counties. ”

- E. **A City Divided: A Brief History of Segregation in Buffalo** - Partnership for the Public Good, Anna Blatto, 2018. [LINK](#)

The report explores the history of segregation in Buffalo and offers policy suggestions to advance racial equity.

- F. **Racial Disparities and Homelessness in WNY** - Homeless Alliance of Western New York, 2018. [LINK](#)

The report analyzes racial disparities among homelessness and further examines how equitable the homeless response systems are within WNY.

- G. **Racial Disparities in Buffalo-Niagara: Housing, Income, and Employment** - Partnership for the Public Good, Robert Johnson and Clint McManus, 2018. [LINK](#)

The brief presents information on severe disparities in income, employment, home ownership and homelessness for Buffalo with comparisons to similarly situated cities.

- H. **Indigenous People of Western New York** - Partnership for the Public Good, Kristin Szczepaniec, 2018. [LINK](#)

The fact sheet summarizes some of the available history of Indigenous people in WNY and provides demographic, economic, and health data on these Native communities.

- I. **The Harder We Run: The State of Black Buffalo in 1990 and the Present** - University at Buffalo, Center for Urban Studies, Henry-Louis Taylor, Jr., Jin-Kyu Jung, and Evan Dash, 2021. [LINK](#)

The report uses the State of Black Buffalo Project as a reference point to determine if African Americans have made progress over the past thirty-one years. It aims to determine if the Black socioeconomic trajectory is trending upward or downward.

For instance:

- The Black unemployment rate was 18% in 1990; today it remains in double digits at 11%.
- Average Black household income was \$39,350 in constant dollars; now it's \$42,000.
- Approximately 38% of Blacks had incomes below the poverty line; today it's 35%.
- There were more African Americans without a high school diploma than with a college degree; that remains true today, though the ratio is narrowing.
- About 33% of Blacks owned their homes in 1990; today it's about 32%.

J. **How to Better Welcome Refugees and Secondary Migrants: A Case Study of Buffalo, NY** - Cornell University ILR Buffalo Co-Lab, Laila Rahbari, 2022. [LINK](#)

The case study explores existing supports, current impediments, and ways forward for Buffalo's refugee and secondary migrant population. Findings were developed based on 14 semi-structured interviews and a literature review.

II. POVERTY AND HUMAN NEEDS

A. **New York State Profile of Young Children in Deep Poverty** - NCCP, Health Foundation for Western & Central New York, Allyn Family Foundation and the Schuyler Center, Sheila Smith, Maribel Granja, and Uyen Nguyen, 2017. [LINK](#)

The profile offers information about young children, age birth to nine, living in deep poverty in Erie County and New York State, and about policies that could support their healthy development and success.

- [Young Children in Deep Poverty Info-graphic](#) - [LINK](#)

B. **Planning the City of Good (and New) Neighbors: Refugees' Experiences of the Food Environment in Buffalo, NY** - University at Buffalo, Samina Raja, 2017. [LINK](#)

The article explores the experiences of refugees from Burma in navigating food environments and the extent to which local governments are supporting or hindering their access to culturally preferred, nutritious foods.

- C. **The Geography of Poverty in Erie and Niagara Counties** - Partnership for the Public Good, Eli J. Levine, 2018. [LINK](#)

The brief examines poverty rates in Western New York and highlights the concentration of poverty in the urban centers of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport and the Tuscarora/Cattaraugus Reservations.

- D. **Poverty in Buffalo: Causes, Impacts, Solutions** - Partnership for the Public Good, Sam Magavern, 2018. [LINK](#)

The report examines the scope of poverty and inequality in Buffalo-Niagara, the causes of poverty, and its impacts across health, homelessness, education, and more. Solutions from the local to the federal level are also presented.

- E. **Voices for 2020: Ending Family Homelessness** - Homeless Alliance of Western New York, 2020. [LINK](#)

The report provides several community-based strategies for local action to end family homelessness following a stakeholder engagement process, literature review on best practices and local environment scan.

- F. **Numbers in Need in Buffalo Niagara Website** - [LINK](#)

The Numbers in Need website was developed through a collaboration between the Mobile Safety-Net Team (MSNT) and the University at Buffalo Research Institute (UBRI). The MSNT is an initiative of The John R. Oishei Foundation, created by the Foundation after the 2008 economic downturn to strengthen the region's safety-net by assessing community-based human services, removing access barriers, and identifying areas of unmet need.

Numbers in Need assesses poverty and factors that contribute to economic vulnerability such as access to higher-paying jobs, educational attainment, safe and affordable housing, transportation options, and the availability of services in 12 representative communities.

These communities represent urban, suburban and rural areas in Erie and Niagara Counties. Data findings are supplemented with input and perspectives from residents, service providers and community leaders. UBRI, in partnership with the Mobile Safety-Net Team, engaged these individuals through surveys, focus group

conversations and one-on-one interviews. To date, thousands of perspectives and experiences contributed to the findings contained in Numbers in Need.

1. Buffalo-Niagara Regional Report - [LINK](#)

The Numbers in Need Buffalo Niagara Regional Report summarizes findings from all 12 of the community reports and presents strategies, models, and considerations for the future, including the potential ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Individual Community Reports

- **Buffalo (East) - [LINK](#)**
- **Buffalo (West) - [LINK](#)**

G. Western New York Regional Food System Initiative: Final Report (2021-2022) - SCALE, Inc., 2022. [LINK](#)

The report explores the many strengths and opportunities in the region's food system in addition to 32 project recommendations to move from planning to action.

III. EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE

A. Public Education in Buffalo and the Region - Partnership for the Public Good, 2018. [LINK](#)

The brief presents a case for how residential segregation by race and income produces sharp disparities in educational outcomes.

B. Improving Teen Engagement in Buffalo and Erie County - Partnership for the Public Good, Hannah Sosenko, Emily Bramhall, and Sara Jablonski, 2018. [LINK](#)

The policy brief looks at the various levels of youth engagement, participation barriers, existing teen-centered programs and best practices for strengthening engagement.

C. Looking Toward the Future: A Review of Western New York's Early Childhood System - Cornell University ILR Buffalo Co-Lab, Public Sector Consultants, 2018. [LINK](#)

The report provides an outside, objective review of early childhood systems and programs in the region. Lift-off (WNY Early Childhood Funders for Change)

commissioned the report to better understand how the region serves its youth, how other communities structure systems to improve learning opportunities for children, and how stakeholders across the system could come together to affect change.

- D. **The True Cost of Child Care: Erie County, NY** - Cornell University ILR Buffalo Co-Lab, Lou Jean Fleron, Russell Weaver, and Catherine Creighton, 2022. [LINK](#)

The phase I study illuminates both kinds of costs: current operational monetary costs per child at the enterprise or institutional level, and indicators of broader social costs of the existing child care system itself in Erie County and New York State.

IV. HEALTH CARE

- A. **Renewing our Pledge: A path to ending lead poisoning of Buffalo's Most Vulnerable Citizens** - CGR Promising Solutions, 2017. [LINK](#)

The report provides a comprehensive assessment of lead poisoning data to develop a common understanding of the landscape for lead exposure and potential collaborative community strategies for addressing lead head-on.

- B. **Advancing Health Equity and Inclusive Growth in Buffalo** - PolicyLink and PERE (USC Program for Environmental & Regional Equity), 2017. [LINK](#)

The profile analyzes the state of health equity and inclusive growth in the City of Buffalo. The accompanying policy brief summarizes the data and presents recommendations to advance health equity and inclusive growth.

- **POLICY BRIEF** - Health Equity: The Path to Inclusive Prosperity in Buffalo - [LINK](#)

- C. **Policies to Reduce Lead Exposure: Lessons from Buffalo and Rochester** - Partnership for the Public Good, Sam Magavern, 2018. [LINK](#)

The article compares local policies and programs to reduce lead exposure in Buffalo and Rochester. Through this assessment, suggested interventions include: increasing housing inspections, forming a dedicated advisory group, lowering blood level thresholds and providing more opportunities for interactive education.

- D. **Community Health Needs Assessment / Community Health Improvement Plan** - Catholic Health, 2019. [LINK](#)

The report brings to light, health concerns and issues faced by local residents, while providing a framework to address the identified and prioritized community needs.

- E. **Reaching the Five Percent: A Profile of Western and Central New Yorkers Without Health Coverage** - Health Foundation for Western & Central New York and United Hospital Fund, Peter Newell, 2019. [LINK](#)

The report provides a statistical analysis of health coverage rates by age and income and concludes with a series of compelling real-life stories from the uninsured, or those who recently gained coverage.

V. HOUSING AND NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

- A. **Fruit Belt Neighborhood Asset Inventory** - Partnership for the Public Good, Sara Alpert, 2016. [LINK](#)

The fact sheet explores the Fruit Belt Neighborhood's physical assets, educational institutions, community organizations, churches and businesses.

- B. **Northland Neighborhood Strategy** - City of Buffalo, Buffalo Urban Renewal Agency, 2016. [LINK](#)

The comprehensive report provides an overview of the project, neighborhood characteristics, public process and strategies.

- C. **Buffalo Housing Opportunity Strategy** - czb LLC, 2017. [LINK](#)

The report examines the housing problems in Buffalo, how those problems differ between markets within the city and how those differences should influence the actions of the city and key stakeholders who intervene on behalf of healthier and more inclusive neighborhoods.

- D. **Affordable Housing Strategies for the City of Buffalo** - Partnership for the Public Good, 2017. [LINK](#)

The report draws on past work and supplements it with new research and analysis to present a broad range of affordable housing strategies for the City of Buffalo.

- E. **Equity Preservation Workshop: Final Report** - Cornell University, Department of City and Regional Planning, Dr. Jennifer Minner, 2017. [LINK](#)

The primary goal of this workshop was to provide a framework for understanding historic preservation through a lens of equity. The subsequent research is intended to aid partner organizations by providing an “on-the-ground” overview of the diverse preservation activities in Buffalo. Of particular note is the preservation profile on East Side Neighborhoods: Broadway-Fillmore, Polonia, and Near East Side.

- F. **Perceptions of Residential Displacement and Grassroots Resistance to Anchor Driven Encroachment in Buffalo, NY** - University at Buffalo, Robert Silverman, Henry Taylor, Li Yin, Camden Miller, and Pascal Buggs, 2018. [LINK](#)

The article focuses on Buffalo residents’ perceived effects of anchor institution expansion on core city neighborhoods, providing important insights into the processes driving neighborhood displacement.

- G. **Rental Housing Costs in Buffalo** - Partnership for the Public Good, Sarah Wooten, 2018. [LINK](#)

The fact sheet presents data on the changing costs of rental housing in Buffalo, NY.

- H. **There goes our family friendly neighborhood: residents’ perceptions of institutionally driven inner-city revitalization in Buffalo, NY** - University at Buffalo, Robert Silverman, Henry Taylor, Li Yin, Camden Miller, and Pascal Buggs, 2019. [LINK](#)

The article builds on prior research, examining processes of core city revitalization and gentrification.

- I. **Are We Still Going Through the Empty Ritual of Participation?** - University at Buffalo, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Robert Silverman, 2019. [LINK](#)

The article revisits the “ladder of citizen participation” focusing on inner-city residents’ perceptions of public input in neighborhood revitalization projects. Data were collected using focus groups in neighborhoods in the early stages of revitalization.

J. **How to Better Welcome Refugees and Secondary Migrants: A Case Study of Buffalo, NY** - Cornell University ILR Buffalo Co-Lab, Laila Rahbari, 2019. [LINK](#)

The policy brief includes maps of undercounted areas in Western New York and provides a [comprehensive listing of community assets](#) in Buffalo’s “Hard-to-Count” neighborhoods.

K. **Engaging the Future of Housing in the Buffalo-Niagara Region: A Preliminary Exploration of Challenges that Lie Ahead** - LISC WNY and Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), Jason Knight and Russell Weaver, 2021. [LINK](#)

The report provides [analyses and assessments of current socio-economic and housing market conditions](#) in Erie and Niagara counties.

L. **Building a Safer Buffalo: Invest in Communities, Divest from Police** - Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), Colleen Kristich, 2021. [LINK](#)

The policy report examines the police budget in the City of Buffalo, explores research on whether a larger police force reduces crime and [assesses large-scale strategies to invest in community-led safety](#).

M. **Analysis of City of Buffalo In-Rem Auction Sales Data** - Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), Chris Heffner, 2021. [LINK](#)

The residential report calls attention to some of the basic details about the in-rem tax auctions from 2011 to 2018, including [sales by zip code and owner-occupation](#).

N. **Housing Discrimination Complaint Data in the Buffalo Region** - Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), Sarah Wooton and Steven Hasgsma, 2022. [LINK](#)

The fact sheet yields important information on [discrimination complaints to Housing Opportunities Made Equal \(HOME\)](#), with a specific focus on the City of Buffalo.

VI. ENVIRONMENT AND LAND USE

A. **Why Buffalo Needs Inclusionary Zoning: Affordability, Job Access, Inclusion, and Quality Housing:** - Partnership for the Public Good, 2017. [LINK](#)

The policy brief highlights the importance of passing inclusionary zoning legislation in supplement to the City of Buffalo's Green Code (2016).

B. Community Gardening: Case Studies and Recommendations for the Buffalo Community - Cornell University ILR Buffalo Co-Lab, Ashton O'Conner, 2020. [LINK](#)

The compendium of case studies provides an overview of how community gardens are managed in twelve different cities across the country, especially relating to financial sustainability and protection of land. After a review of these case studies, the report provides a list of recommendations for the City of Buffalo as well as resident advocates on how they can support and expand community gardening.

C. Community Gardens as Urban Greening: Cutting Crime and Improving Wellbeing - University at Buffalo - School of Social Work, Nicole Capozziello, 2021. [LINK](#)

The policy brief provides vacant land statistics in Buffalo, highlights Philadelphia as a vacant property transformation case study, and makes the case for community gardens as the ideal form of urban greening for Buffalo.

D. The Role of Water in Buffalo's Lead Exposure Crisis - Partnership for the Public Good (PPG), Daniel Cadzow, 2022. [LINK](#)

The policy brief confirms that Buffalo's lead in water levels are more troubling than many residents realize, stemming from our manufacturing history and combined sewage overflow system.

VII. WORKFORCE AND LABOR

A. Buffalo Niagara Labor Market Assessment - Invest Buffalo Niagara, UB Regional Institute, 2017. [LINK](#)

The report provides an overview of Buffalo-Niagara's economy, labor force and target industries.

B. Low-Wage Work in Buffalo-Niagara - Partnership for the Public Good, John Sullivan Baker and Sam Magavern, 2018. [LINK](#)

The policy brief presents data on Buffalo-Niagara workers with a median wage of less than \$15 per hour, including occupations that fall into the low-wage category.

- C. **Workers on the Brink: Low-Wage Employment in Buffalo and Erie County** — Partnership for the Public Good, Nicole Hallett, 2018. [LINK](#)

The report highlights findings from a 2017 survey that looked at the challenges low-wage workers are facing.

- D. **Distinguishing the Social Sector: A Buffalo-Niagara Labor Market Study** - Cornell University, Kristin Ksiazek, Rusty Weaver, and Sam Magavern, 2019. [LINK](#)

The study focuses on the two largest parts of Buffalo-Niagara’s social sector: nonprofit and government employers.

- E. **2020 Economic Recovery Strategy: WNY** - Regional Economic Development Councils, 2020. [LINK](#)

The report highlights how WNY will focus its economic recovery and resiliency efforts, post-COVID, on technology investments, communities of color and technical support for business to help achieve a skilled and inclusive workforce.

VIII. FINANCIAL STABILITY

- A. **The Consequences of Being “Unbanked” in Buffalo** - Partnership for the Public Good, Jessica Gilbert, 2018. [LINK](#)

The policy brief summarizes national and local research about people who lack bank accounts and describes some of the impacts of being “unbanked”.

- B. **CDFI Ecosystems and Alternative Forms of Lending** - Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI), Milena Saakyan, 2020. [LINK](#)

The report explores what CDFIs look like across markets in Detroit, Buffalo, Syracuse, and Rochester as well as noting the lack of public awareness for these institutions.

- C. **CDFI and Predatory Lending Report** - Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI), Milena Saakyan, 2020. [LINK](#)

The report offers data on CDFIs and predatory lenders in Buffalo, NY. Maps demonstrating racist practices of one local bank are also included.

IX. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Cornell University ILR Buffalo Co-Lab’s Erasing Red Lines Series

A three-part series that examines the roots and spatial patterns of economic distress in the City of Buffalo, NY, and engages with strategies for reinvestment in the City’s chronically distressed neighborhoods. The series is adapted from a collection of peer-reviewed articles and books listed in the “Further Reading” section at the end of each report.

Three-part Series - Rusty Weaver, 2019.

- **Erasing Red Lines: Part I - Geographies of Discrimination - [LINK](#)**
- **Erasing Red Lines: Part II - Systems Thinking for Social and Community Change - [LINK](#)**
- **Erasing Red Lines: Part III - Building Community Wealth - [LINK](#)**
- **Erasing Red Lines: Epilogue - Where do we go from here? - [LINK](#)**

“The way to avoid the problem of having the struggles of individual people or places represent something inherent and immutable is to explicitly point out the systems at work —past and present— that cause them. If you’re talking about a problem, use language that reflects that systematic disparities and community-wide problems in fact have systemic causes, that harm has been done, and that these are not self-caused problems, and explicitly describe those systems whenever possible.” Miriam Axel-Lute

B. Buffalo Common Council Districts Fact Sheet Series

A set of nine fact sheets about each of the nine Common Council districts in the City of Buffalo. For each district, Partnership for the Public Good (PPG) explores resident demographics, community landmarks, household income, housing costs, and educational attainment data.

1. **Buffalo Common Council Fact Sheet** - A. Ramakrishna, A. Dye, S. Norton & E. Hawthorne, 2020. [LINK](#)
2. **District Fact Sheets** - Sara Wooten and Alana Barrington Dye, 2020
 - **Delaware District** - [LINK](#)
 - **Ellicott District** - [LINK](#)
 - **Fillmore District** - [LINK](#)
 - **Lovejoy District** - [LINK](#)

- **Masten District** - [LINK](#)
- **Niagara District** - [LINK](#)
- **North District** - [LINK](#)
- **South District** - [LINK](#)
- **University District** - [LINK](#)

C. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County - Community Report Card Series

A four-part series that highlights systemic issues impacting our community and ways in which the United Way is bringing people, organizations, and resources together to improve outcomes.

- Education: A Profile of Third-Grade Proficiency in Erie County, 2016. [LINK](#)
- Health & Wellness: A Profile of Premature Birth in Erie County, 2017. [LINK](#)
- Health & Wellness: A Profile of Childhood Obesity in Erie County, 2015. [LINK](#)
- Financial Stability: A Profile of Financial Hardship in Erie County, 2016. [LINK](#)
- Financial Stability: A Profile of Workforce Development, 2019. [LINK](#)

D. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County (UWBEC) - ALICE Reports

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed. Most simply, ALICE households have income above the Federal Poverty Level, but are still living paycheck to paycheck. UWBEC analyzes the number of ALICE households alongside the number of households experiencing poverty as a way to more fully understand the amount of need in Erie County.

- ALICE: Working Hard but Struggling to Survive in Erie County, 2018. [LINK](#)
- ALICE COVID Survey Report, 2020. [LINK](#)
- New York ALICE Research Center, 2022. [LINK](#)

E. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County - Nonprofit Collaboration

The report underscores the importance of continuing to explore the potential for collaboration with more than 5,000 active nonprofits providing services in Erie County.

- Nonprofits Rising to the Challenge: Providing Critical Services in a Changing Environment through Collaboration and Innovation, 2018. [LINK](#)

X. DESCRIPTIVE STATISTICS

A. **Buffalo Area Economic Summary** - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022. [LINK](#)

The economic summary presents a sampling of economic data on unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending and benefits.

B. **Buffalo Metro Economic Indicators** - Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Research & Statistics Group, 2022. [LINK](#)

The data snapshot tracks historic trends for key economic indicators across industry and geography.

C. **DATA USA: Erie County, NY** - Deloitte and Datawheel, 2022. [LINK](#)

The interactive report provides an easy to use platform to understand and visualize the critical issues facing Erie County in areas like jobs, skills and education across industry and geography.

D. **DATA USA: Buffalo, NY** - Deloitte and Datawheel, 2022. [LINK](#)

The interactive report provides an easy to use platform to understand and visualize the critical issues facing Buffalo in areas like jobs, skills and education across industry and geography.

E. **OPENDATA Buffalo** - City of Buffalo, 2022. [LINK](#)

The portal increases public access to city and state datasets for data-driven decision-making and analysis. It includes datasets, dashboards and maps on neighborhood-based information.

- *Neighborhood Metrics* [LINK](#)

PART II: NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT PLANS

I. REGIONAL

- A. **One Region Forward: A New Way to Plan for Buffalo-Niagara** - State University of New York at Buffalo, UB Regional Institute, 2014. [LINK](#)

The comprehensive plan provides a roadmap to help the region coordinate how it invests federal, state and local dollars. The three-year planning and engagement process was overseen by a cross-sectional partnership of public, private and nonprofit organizations.

- B. **WNY Regional Economic Development Council: 2022 Progress Report** - State University of New York at Buffalo, UB Regional Institute, 2022. [LINK](#)

The annual report provides updated information on the regional workforce inventory, participation and previously funded NYS Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Projects (see Appendix).

II. CITY OF BUFFALO

- C. **City of Buffalo: “Draft” Four-Year Strategic Plan (2023-2027)** - City of Buffalo , Office of Strategic Planning, 2022. [LINK](#)

The four-year plan explores and evaluates the City’s most important strengths, challenges and strategic priorities.

III. EAST SIDE OF BUFFALO

- D. **WITHIN East Side Neighborhood Investment Plan & Launch Report** - LISC WNY, 2022. [LINK](#)

LISC WNY is intentionally committed to programs and services that close health and socio-economic gaps, particularly in Black and Brown communities. The WITHIN WNY Program simplifies the community development process, and ensures development driven by resident leaders.

The WITHIN East Side report includes:

- A clear statement of the community’s guiding principles, goals and objectives;
- A focused list of prioritized investments and action for 2022–23 to kick start the effort;
- A series of initial performance metrics; and
- A list of additional opportunities for community implementation as resources allow.

Additional Tools and Resources:

- Neighborhood Investment Planning Guidebook - [LINK](#)
- East Side Interactive Map - [LINK](#)
- Comprehensive Livability Investment Plan Survey - [LINK](#)
- The Soil Fund: Groundswell Grants for Black Buffalo - [LINK](#)
 - \$500,000 for 30 nonprofits/small businesses. Black-owned and Black-led nonprofits and small businesses working on the East Side to improve access to food, housing, transportation, and cultural and historic assets will be prioritized - each receiving \$15K or more.

E. East Side Avenues: Project Update (2021-2022 Annual Report) — State University of New York at Buffalo, UB Regional Institute, 2022. [LINK](#)

Through Empire State Development (ESD), New York State dedicated \$65 MILLION to the REVITALIZATION OF BUFFALO’S EAST SIDE and is making capital investments* along four commercial corridors. East Side Avenues provides capacity building and organizational support to complement these capital investments. The Project Implementation Team (PIT), led by the University at Buffalo Regional Institute (UBRI) and supported by a team of consultants, ensures that appropriate resources are in place for community leaders; assists with strategic planning, program design, organizational capacity building and problem solving; leads the team on technical assistance for community-based organizations; and reports on progress while lifting up the voices of the community.

***See Appendix for a listing of community projects in the \$65M investment portfolio.**

APPENDIX

I. Buffalo Together Community Response Fund: Phase I

Through the Buffalo Together Community Response Fund, 86 black-led organizations, with a meaningful and long-term presence on the East Side, received \$655,000 in total funding for Phase I. Award breakdown by grant size included 73% at \$5K, 14% at \$10K and 13% at \$20K. Click [here](#), for a full list of grantees, including areas of focus and key contact information.

II. East Side Avenues Community Projects

| | | | TOTAL |
|---|---|---------------|----------------|
| Buffalo Neighborhood Stabilization Fund | A multi-pronged housing initiative will increase homeownership, prevent foreclosure, and target zombie properties on the East Side. | \$10M | \$10M |
| MLK Park District | Ensure this historically significant community anchor remains an accessible, safe, and active asset for the community and region. | \$6.6M | \$25.0M |
| Broadway Market | Re-establish the Market as a viable and vibrant public shopping hub and attractive regional destination. | \$4M | |
| Community Solar Array at Northland | Develop a solar array at the City's newest manufacturing hub to benefit neighborhood residents, draw tenants and facilitate hands-on training in the renewable energy sector. | \$2M | |
| Michigan Street African American Heritage Corridor | Create a cooperative operating/business model and plan for capital improvements for a unified tourist destination around Michigan Street's unique assets. | \$7M | |
| Central Terminal | Plan for the future of the site and create a robust organization to guide capital improvements with the goals to eventually reuse the entire complex and better connect it to the Broadway Fillmore neighborhood. | \$5.4M | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------|------------------------------|
| East Side Main Streets Initiative | Expand the Buffalo Main Streets Initiative to fund building renovations and public space enhancements in up to four East Side investment areas. | | |
| Community-Based Real Estate Development Training Program | Harness the East Side's human capital and ensure that revitalization is driven by the community through real estate development education. | | \$12.6M |
| Building Preservation Fund | Establish a dedicated funding source to support acquisition and stabilization of at-risk historic buildings in the target investment areas. | | |
| Direct Project Assistance | In an effort to facilitate business growth and job creation, provide direct capital funds to key community projects that align with the region's key strategies for economic development. | \$7.4M | |
| Infrastructure to Support and Enhance Investments | Invest in targeted streetscape and infrastructure improvements that enhance and support the programs and projects in the East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund. | \$10M | \$10M \$65M |

Source: East Side Corridor Economic Development Fund - SPRING 2019 Report

III. East Side Investments

| Total East Side Investments Since 2011 | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Category | East Side Investment |
| Better Buffalo Fund | \$13,880,930 |
| Northland | \$90,000,000 |
| Burgard | \$3,200,000 |
| All Other State Investments <i>(Data available upon request)</i> | \$129,816,295 |
| Total | \$236,897,225 |

Source: University at Buffalo, UB Regional Institute

IV. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

ARPA includes significant funds for States, local and tribal governments. Direct funding from the U.S. Department of Treasury will funnel through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund for all States and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for all other government bodies.

New York State

Total Funds = \$23.5 Billion: State Government = \$12.7 billion / Metro Cities = \$6.1 billion / Counties = \$3.9 billion / Other Non-Counties = \$825 million

Buffalo-Niagara Region (all totals in millions)

Total Funds = \$775 Million: City of Buffalo - \$350.05, Erie County - \$178.18, City of Niagara Falls - \$59.48, Niagara County - \$40.59, Tonawanda (town) - \$42.41, Cheektowaga - \$26.14, Amherst - \$15.53, Hamburg - \$10.44, West Seneca - \$4.96, Lancaster - \$4.75, Clarence - \$3.61, North Tonawanda - \$3.32, Orchard Park - \$3.25, Grand Island - \$2.35, Lockport (city) - \$2.23, Lockport (town) - \$2.18, Wheatfield - \$1.98, Lackawanna - \$1.94, Evans - \$1.77, Lewiston - \$1.73, Tonawanda (city) - \$1.62, Aurora - \$1.51, Elma - \$1.29, Alden - \$1.09, Newfane - \$1.00, Newstead - \$0.95, Concord - \$0.93, Boston - \$0.89, Niagara - \$0.88, Eden - \$0.83, Royalton - \$0.82, Pendleton - \$0.75, Porter - \$0.72, Collins - \$0.69, Wilson - \$0.63, Cambria - \$0.63, Marilla - \$0.59, Hartland - \$0.44, North Collins - \$0.38, Colden - \$0.37, Holland - \$0.37, Wales - \$0.33, Sardinia - \$0.31, Somerset - \$0.28 and Brant - \$0.23)

- What's in the Plan? - General Overview - [LINK](#)
- **Impact on WNY: A Report on Gov't Funding Streams and Strategic Responses** - [LINK](#)
- City of Buffalo Spending Plan - [LINK](#)
- **City of Buffalo: 2022 Recovery Plan Performance Report** - [LINK](#)
- Erie County: 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report - [LINK](#)
- **Erie County: 2022 Recovery Plan Performance Report** - [LINK](#)
- Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker - [LINK](#)