



LISC

RICCELF

Rhode Island Child Care & Early Learning
Facilities Fund *Featured Projects*

Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center



BEFORE



AFTER

Jammat Housing and Community Development Corporation's Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center, located on Elmwood Avenue in Providence, provides high quality early learning programming to 150 young children, ages 6 weeks to 5 years, from low-income households. The one-story, 14,014 square foot facility purchased in 2003 by Jammat to house Beautiful Beginnings, was once a Verizon warehouse and retail store, renovated substantially with the technical assistance of LISC's Rhode Island Child Care Facilities Fund (RICCFF) to ensure it met the highly specialized infrastructure needs of quality child care programming.

The renovated space opened to the public in September of 2004, making it possible for Beautiful Beginnings to relocate from its leased location in a retail strip mall serving 78 children in a very challenging environment, expand its services as a vital community resource, and significantly enhance program quality.



"If we didn't have the partnership with LISC I think we would have made quite a few mistakes that we'd still be paying for in the end." – Khadija Lewis-Khan, Executive Director Beautiful Beginnings Child Care Center



Building renovations to create classrooms that support quality programming include the addition of plumbing, partitions, and fixtures for sinks and toilets.



In addition to an initial \$10,000 planning grant and \$65,000 recoverable grant (zero-interest loan) to support this project, LISC also provided a \$600,000 loan to refinance the mortgage on the facility which was short-term financing provided by the building owner/broker and carried a high interest rate. Refinancing this debt was critical to the child care program as it ensured the continued operation of the center after the debt was due. The more favorable terms of the LISC refinancing loan also helped free up extra cash which would be used for the direct benefit of the children and families served by the program. LISC again refinanced the outstanding loan in 2012, providing even

more favorable terms. Jammatt has utilized LISC funding to further renovate the building and expand the program in order to open an Early Head Start classroom serving 16 very low income children ages 0-3, a State Pre-K classroom for 18 students, and a Pre-K classroom for 10 students. The renovation extended outside as well and improved the health and safety of the outdoor play space by adding shade trees, surfacing, and additional play elements. LISC's financial investments to date total \$870,695.

The Beautiful Beginnings program is consistently full to capacity with an extensive waiting list and we continue to partner with Jammatt providing extensive technical assistance on an exciting new project as they look to expand their program with a second location, further increasing access to high quality early care for ALL families in the state of Rhode Island.



The addition of trees to the outdoor space improves the safety of the environment by providing shade in the warmer months with the added benefit of increasing exposure to natural elements.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for newly renovated classroom spaces with Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza.