



# IMPACT REPORT 2024

# CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF SERVICE!



**THE 2024 IMPACT REPORT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC THROUGH ICC'S WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, AND PRINTED COPIES DISTRIBUTED AT COMMUNITY CENTERS AND EVENTS.**

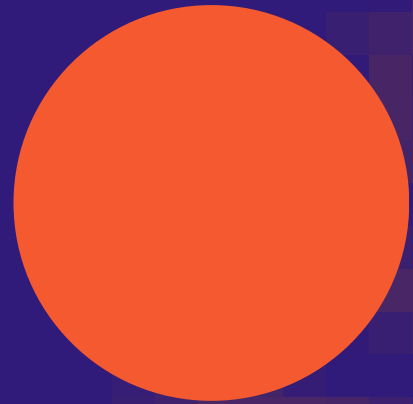
**IN SHARING THIS REPORT, WE NOT ONLY REFLECT ON OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUT ALSO CELEBRATE THE VIBRANT COMMUNITY THAT MAKES OUR WORK POSSIBLE.**

**THIS ENSURES BROAD ACCESS FOR RESIDENTS, PARTNERS, AND SUPPORTERS WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK AND IMPACT. IT IS ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR THE MANY INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO TURN TO US WITH TRUST AND HOPE, THE COUNTLESS COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO COLLABORATE WITH US TO DRIVE CHANGE, AND THE GENEROUS DONORS AND SUPPORTERS WHOSE BELIEF IN OUR MISSION FUELS EVERYTHING WE DO.**

**THEIR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT IS WHAT BRINGS OUR VISION TO LIFE AND MOVES US CLOSER TO A MORE JUST AND THRIVING IRONBOUND.**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 CEO Message
- 2 Our Story, Our Impact
- 4 Family Services
- 6 Financial Opportunity Center
- 7 Breaking The Cycle
- 9 Children and Youth Education
- 18 Advocacy & Organizing
- 21 Fundraising Targets and Progress



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with immense pride in the progress and resilience of the Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC). This year marked a pivotal chapter in our 55-year history, one defined by bold steps forward, new opportunities, and a renewed commitment to serving our community.

From securing over \$6 million in grant funding—including transformative awards like a \$2 million contract for lead remediation and a \$500,000 transitional housing grant—to launching new programs like Know Your Rights and expanding our food security efforts, ICC remained steadfast in its mission.

Our work touched every corner of our organization, with major investments in early learning, youth programming, housing support, and workforce development—all made possible through the unwavering support of our team, partners, and donors.

Our success was not only measured in dollars but in the moments of connection, celebration, and advocacy that brought our community together. The 55th Anniversary Changemakers Gala surpassed expectations, raising nearly \$155,000 in gross revenue and bringing together more than 200 supporters.

Throughout the year, ICC hosted powerful events—from our Black History Month panel and Hispanic Heritage celebration to the unveiling of our historical archives at the Newark Public Library—all of which deepened our roots and honored the legacy we continue to build.

While challenges remain, particularly in expanding individual and corporate giving, our team is committed to laying the foundation for long-term sustainability.

As we look ahead, I am confident that ICC is poised for even greater impact—grounded in community, strengthened by partnership, and driven by purpose.

*Hazel Applewhite*  
Chief Executive Officer

# OUR STORY

Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) is a multi-service, community-driven organization deeply rooted in the diverse and culturally rich Ironbound neighborhood of Newark.

Since 1969, ICC has been dedicated to empowering individuals, families, and groups to achieve their aspirations while collectively building a just, vibrant, and sustainable community.

We envision an Ironbound that is safe, healthy, and inclusive—a place where everyone has equal access to opportunities and the support they need to thrive. To us, true revitalization uplifts both people and places.

That's why we are committed to transforming the Ironbound into a neighborhood where all residents—new and longtime—can live, grow, and remain without the threat of displacement.



# OUR IMPACT



ICC's 2024 Impact Report highlights a year of growth, innovation, and unwavering commitment to the Ironbound community. This year, we launched new programs, expanded our flagship initiatives, and deepened our impact beyond Ironbound's borders.

With five locations across the neighborhood, we ensure that essential services remain accessible to those who need them most. But access alone isn't enough—we continuously adapt to meet the evolving needs of our community.

The reality is stark: 24% of Ironbound residents live in poverty, nearly three times the state average. More than half of local families earn less than \$55,000 annually, and 32% of residents lack a high school diploma.

For 55 years, ICC has been at the forefront of change, tackling these challenges head-on. We're not just providing services—we're building a stronger, more just Ironbound where every resident has the opportunity to thrive.



# FAMILY SERVICES

In 2024, our Family Services programs remained rooted in connection, compassion, and empowerment—providing individuals and families with the tools they need to navigate life’s challenges and build brighter future. From the Family Success Centers and Financial Opportunity Center to Senior Home Friends and Breaking the Cycle, our services address a wide range of needs, supporting residents at every stage of life. We also operate two weekly food pantries and regularly host workshops, community events, and educational sessions—all designed to foster resilience, promote well-being, and strengthen the social fabric of the Ironbound. At ICC, family means community—and we’re proud to be a steady source of support where it matters most.

# FAMILY SUCCESS CENTER

ICC’s Family Success Centers (FSCs)—located in the heart of the Ironbound—continued to serve as trusted, go-to hubs where individuals and families can access critical support, resources, and guidance.

Whether someone is facing an immediate crisis or working toward long-term goals, our FSCs provide personalized, hands-on assistance with New Jersey Family Care, LIHEAP, SNAP, school enrollment, Social Security, unemployment benefits, immigration support, furniture assistance, and more.

Our mission is clear: to eliminate barriers and make essential services easily accessible—ensuring every Ironbound resident has the opportunity to build a stable, healthy, and thriving life.

## INDIVIDUALS HELPED IN 2024

**440**  
LIHEAP  
ENROLLMENT

**1,624**  
NJ FAMILY CARE

**678**  
SNAP ENROLLMENT

**341**  
IMMIGRATION  
SUPPORT

**109**  
EMPLOYMENT/  
UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**76**  
SOCIAL  
SECURITY BENEFITS

**719**  
SCHOOL ENROLLMENT  
FOR CHILDREN

**14,000**  
WEEKLY FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION

**244**  
FURNITURE  
ASSISTANCE

**1,598**  
MISCELLANEOUS  
(MEDICAL, IRS,  
MVC, ETC.)



# FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER



In 2024, ICC’s Financial Opportunity Center (FOC) remained a year-round resource for low- and moderate-income individuals striving to achieve financial independence and long-term stability.

Through a holistic approach, we provide career coaching, job readiness training, personalized financial planning, and job placement assistance—empowering clients to take charge of their economic futures.

The FOC helps remove barriers to employment, connects individuals to vital income support programs, delivers financial literacy workshops, and offers free tax preparation services.

By investing in people and their potential, we’re not just helping individuals find jobs –we’re helping them build confidence, grow careers, and create lasting financial change for themselves and their families.

**288**

**EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**\$820K**

**STATE TAX REFUNDS**

**1,297**

**SERVED IN 2024**

**471**

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

**513**

**TRADE SKILL TRAINING**

**3,206**

**TAX RETURNS PROCESSED**

# BREAKING THE CYCLE



## 411 SURVIVORS SERVED IN 2024

In 2024, ICC's Breaking the Cycle (BTC) program remained a vital resource for individuals and families transitioning from abusive relationships to safe, independent lives.

Grounded in a strengths-based and trauma-informed approach, BTC offers culturally sensitive support in English, Spanish, and Portuguese for survivors of domestic violence—both adults and children. Our comprehensive services include assistance with restraining orders, victim impact statements, case management, crisis counseling, therapy, mental health support, parent-child bonding activities, workshops, and peer support groups.

We also provide wraparound support to help survivors rebuild their lives, including help with housing, employment, legal services, and access to public benefits. BTC integrates the Active Parenting curriculum to guide parents in healing from trauma and fostering healthy relationships with their children.

At its core, BTC is about restoring hope, dignity, and a path forward.

# SENIORS & HOME FRIENDS

**302**  
**SENIORS SUPPORTED**

In 2024, our Seniors and Home Friends Program continued to provide a warm, inclusive space where older adults can stay active, engaged, and connected to their community.

Through a wide range of offerings—from social gatherings and recreational activities to at-home support, hot meals, and regular food distributions in partnership with Table-to-Table—we ensure that our seniors have the resources they need to maintain their independence and overall well-being.

Powered by a dedicated team and compassionate volunteers, the program builds lasting relationships and a strong sense of belonging—making sure every senior feels seen, supported, and empowered to enjoy life on their own terms.





# & YOUTH

In 2024, Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) continued its unwavering commitment to children’s growth, learning, and well-being through our Early Learning Center and After School programs. Our Early Learning Center, which includes Preschool Head Start and Early Head Start (EHS), provides a nurturing, culturally responsive environment where children from birth to age five build a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Our After School programs offer a safe and enriching space for school-age children to receive academic support, explore creative and physical activities, and develop leadership skills. Together, these programs ensure that every child in our community—regardless of background—has the opportunity to thrive from their earliest years through adolescence.

# EARLY LEARNING



## **ELC Mission Statement:**

**The ICC Early Learning Center exists to promote healthy prenatal outcomes, enhance the development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, and prepare them for success in school and life. We accomplish this by employing professional and caring staff, empowering families, and establishing strong community partnerships—all in a safe, nurturing, and meaningful learning environment.**

# THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

**80** HEAD START

**70** NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**56** CENTER-BASED EHS

**12** HOME-BASED EHS

**218**

**STUDENTS IN TOTAL**

In 2024, our Early Learning Center (ELC) continued to promote healthy prenatal outcomes and support the development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers—preparing them not just for school, but for life.

Through a team of dedicated educators and support staff, we foster a safe, nurturing, and state-of-the-art learning environment. Our approach goes beyond curriculum, focusing on whole-child development through strong community partnerships that include:

- Youth Development Clinic (mental health support) ✓
- New Jersey Department of Health (physical and oral health support) ✓
- Newark School of the Arts (enhancing music appreciation) ✓
- State-wide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN) (special needs advocacy) ✓



# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION



At ELC school readiness is prioritized from the moment children enter the Early Head Start program. As a 0–5 center, the continuity of care and education supports seamless transitions from Early Head Start to Head Start, and ultimately to kindergarten.

In the 3s and 4s classrooms, the curriculum integrates Foundations for early literacy, Eureka Math for foundational numeracy, and Second Step for social-emotional development—all while implementing the Creative Curriculum to guide intentional, play-based learning.

All instructional practices are aligned with the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework and state early learning standards to ensure comprehensive preparation for kindergarten. An added strength of the program is that all Head Start classroom teachers hold New Jersey teacher certification, ensuring high-quality instruction and expertise.

*Parents are deeply engaged as true partners and recognized as their children’s first and most important teachers. They participate in Policy Council, Parent Committee, Menu, Hiring, and School Readiness Committees. Engagement opportunities include interest-based workshops, an annual parenting class, home visits, and parent-teacher conferences.*

# OUR OUTCOMES

## % OF HEAD START STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING

96%

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

96%

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

94%

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

91%

MATHEMATICAL DEVELOPMENT

90%

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

## % OF EARLY HEAD START STUDENTS MEETING OR EXCEEDING

90%

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

87%

APPROACHES TO LEARNING

85%

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT FINE MOTOR SKILLS

65%

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

87%

LITERACY DEVELOPMENT

Family and community empowerment remain core to our mission. We are proud to have maintained accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) for over 40 years, reflecting our unwavering commitment to early childhood excellence.



# HEALTHY CHILDREN THRIVE AND LEARN

**100%**

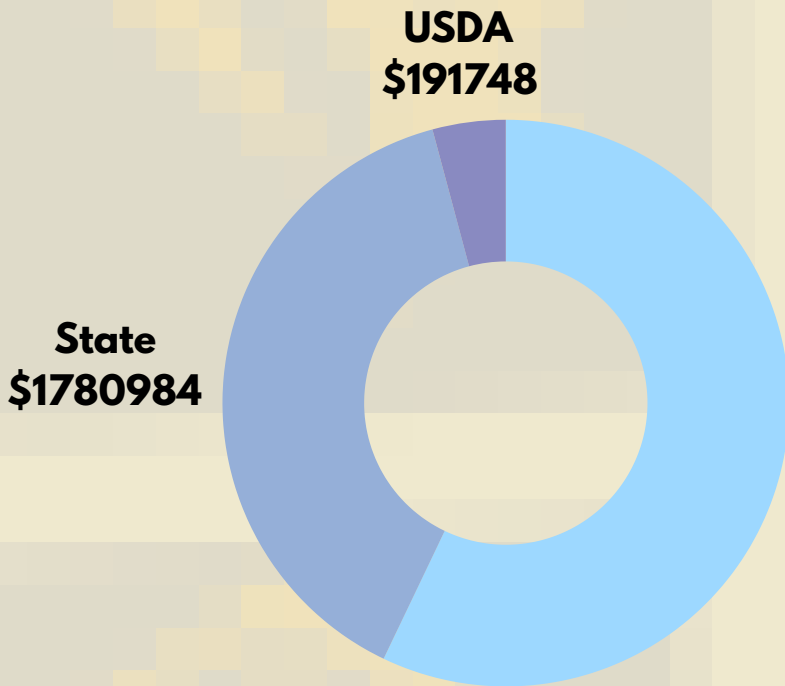
of enrolled children  
received medical  
and dental exams



**100%**

fully enrolled  
throughout the year

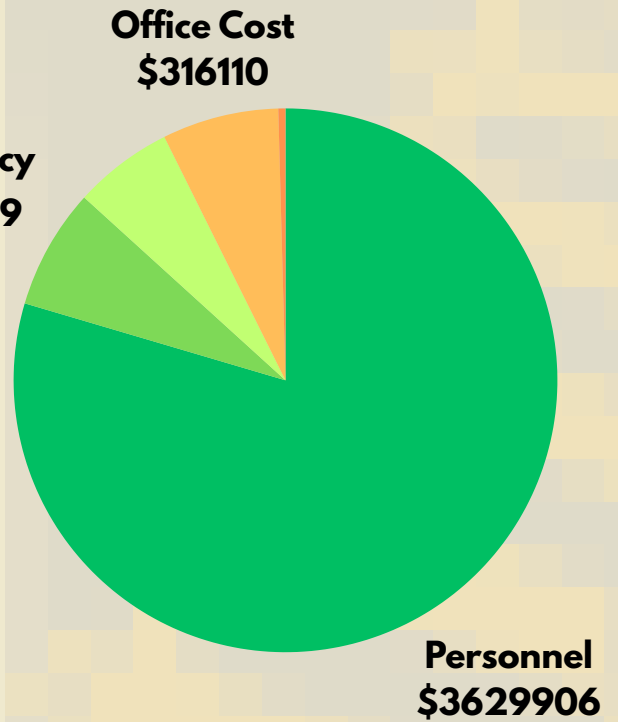
# EARLY LEARNING INVESTMENTS



**Total Revenue \$4,598,179**

**Federal  
\$2,625,447**

**Occupancy  
\$326,899**



**Total Costs: \$4,598,179**

# YOUTH PROGRAMMING

In 2024, Ironbound youth had access to a wide range of enriching programs, including 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Family-Friendly Centers, and other dynamic after-school and summer initiatives. These programs provide safe, engaging spaces where young people can learn and grow.



Through hands-on learning opportunities, youth not only gain knowledge but also thrive in diverse fields such as the arts and technology.



Activities are held at ICC's Community Center at 432 Lafayette Street as well as our partner schools Hawkins Street Elementary School and South Street School.



**2320**  
ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT PARTICIPANTS

**2413**  
ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS

**207**  
YOUTH SPORTS PARTICIPANTS

**2070**  
SUMMER PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

**250**  
AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANTS





# ADVOCACY & ORGANIZING

In 2024, our Environmental Justice (EJ) Program continued to lead bold, community-driven efforts to protect public health, promote sustainable development, and ensure that residents' voices shape the future of the Ironbound. Partnering with local, state, national, and even global allies, our EJ team tackled critical issues such as environmental degradation, housing justice, and equitable community planning. Every aspect of our work is grounded in a deep commitment to improving quality of life and uplifting the lived experiences of those most impacted by environmental injustice.

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## \$650M

**\$650 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING SECURED FOR CLEAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVES.**

## 1,000+

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS MOBILIZED AGAINST THE 4TH FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANT BY CONTACTING THE PVSC BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.**

## 250+

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE MARCH FOR CLEAN AIR.**

## 20+

**FAMILIES PER WEEK SUPPORTED BY THE DOWN BOTTOM FARMS, FARMERS MARKET.**

Over the course of 2024, we've expanded our work to include tree-planting as part of the city's overall effort to create a city-wide Tree Canopy to capitalize upon the quality of life benefits of additional trees in our neighborhoods. We also continue to build capacity of our Down Bottom Farm in our expansive efforts to address food insecurity.

In 2025, we'll continue to build on the momentum from 2024, with ongoing efforts to prevent the 4th fossil fuel power plant, continue advocacy for stronger air quality protections, and push for clean energy policies that center the needs of frontline communities. We are committed to amplifying the voices of impacted communities and ensuring frontline leadership in all of these campaigns.



# HOUSING JUSTICE

## HELPED OVER 200 FAMILIES

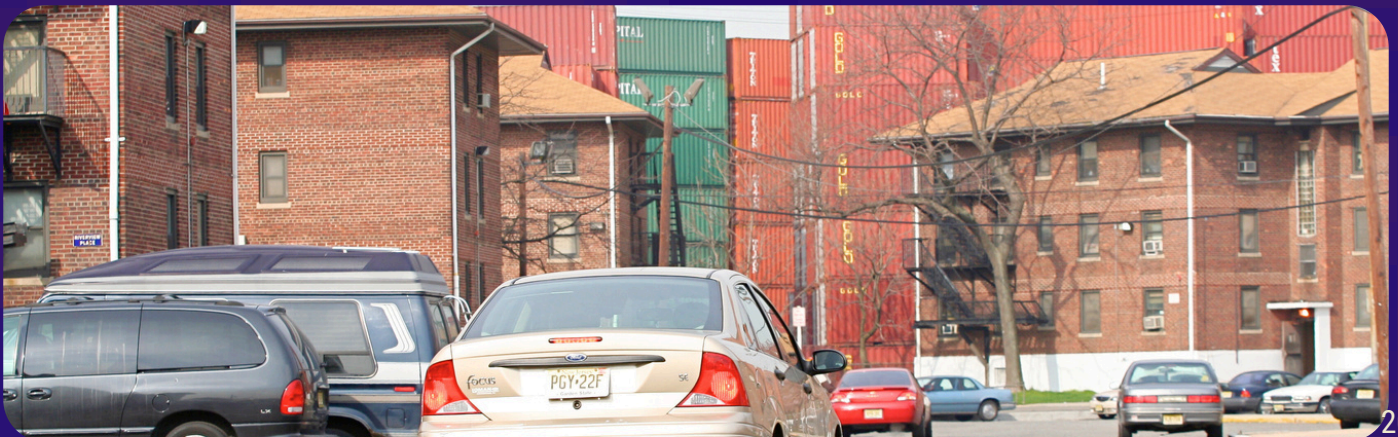


Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) has played a pivotal role in advancing housing justice and equitable revitalization in Newark.

in 2024, we continued to fight for housing justice in overburdened neighborhoods like ours, ensuring that vulnerable tenants have the resources they need to stay in their homes and build resilient communities.

Through the Housing Justice Hotline we provided vital resources and eviction prevention to 200+ tenants—60% of whom are from Newark.

We also organized workshops and policy advocacy for stronger housing protections to prevent displacement from both environmental and housing instability across all 5 wards of Newark.



# FUNDRAISING TARGETS AND PROGRESS

## NOTEWORTHY GRANTS INCLUDE:

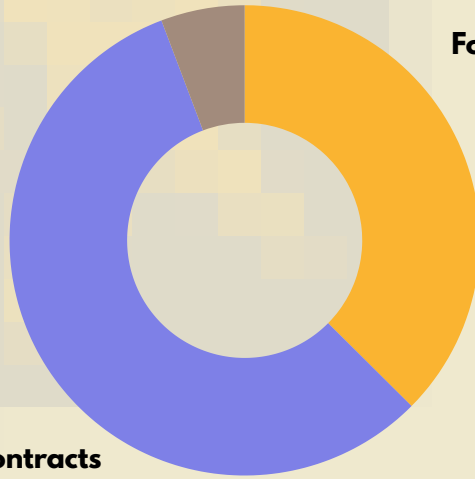
In 2024, Ironbound Community Corporation (ICC) secured several impactful grants that significantly advanced its mission to serve the community. A **\$50,000** grant from the Devils Youth Foundation funded a community refrigerator, bolstering ICC's food security initiatives. ICC also secured a **\$2 million** contract with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to support lead remediation in local homes and apartments. The contract includes the hiring of two community outreach staff trained through Isles in Trenton and a construction manager to oversee remediation work carried out by third-party contractors. Additional awards of **\$78,000 and \$72,000** through DCA enabled ICC to assist residents in accessing vital utility support programs such as LIHEAP and USF.

Further enhancing its outreach and support efforts, ICC received **\$100,000** from the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJLWD) to help residents and small businesses navigate labor-related issues, including unemployment, workers' rights, and earned sick leave. ICC also strengthened its support for survivors of domestic violence with a **\$500,000**, three-year Transitional Housing grant from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). This grant, awarded in partnership with United Community Corporation (UCC), will provide relocation and housing support for individuals and families in ICC's Breaking the Cycle (BTC) program, offering critical stability during their recovery and transition.

**OVER \$6,030,577 IN  
GRANTS AND CONTRACTS  
FOR CLIENT-BASED  
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

# 2024 FISCAL REPORT

**Fundraising, Contributions**  
**\$672,954**



**Foundation, Corporate Grants**  
**\$4,374,498**

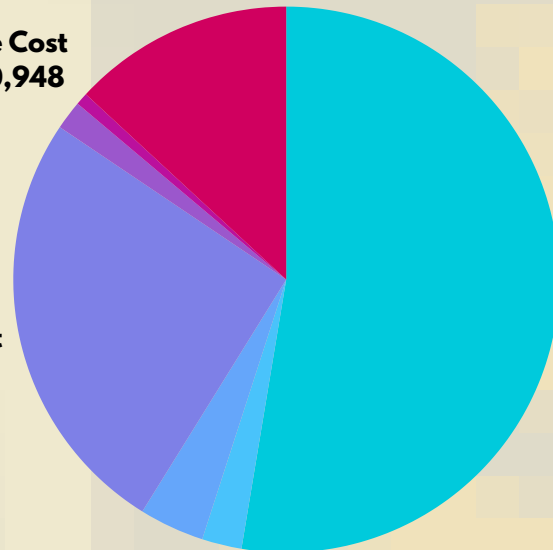
**Government Grants & Contracts**  
**\$6,637,049**

2024 Revenue

**Consultant & Contract Services**  
**\$1,533,333**

**Office Cost**  
**\$200,948**

**Program Cost**  
**\$2,989,782**



**Personnel**  
**\$6,148,790**

**Other Facility/Occupancy**  
**\$450,793**

2024 Expenditures

# DEVELOPMENT SUCCESSES

## DEVELOPMENT BY PROGRAM

**\$1,350,000**

AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

**\$1 MILLION**

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

**\$782,500**

BREAKING THE CYCLE (OVER 3 YEARS)

**\$375,000**

GENERAL OPERATIONS (OVER 2 YEARS)

**\$160,750**

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY CENTER

**\$50,000**

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

**\$50,000**

FOOD SECURITY (OVER 2 YEARS)

**\$12,327**

ARCHIVES PROJECT

## NEW PROGRAMMING DEVELOPMENT

**\$100,000**

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS, VIA NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**\$78,000**

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

**\$2 MILLION**

LEAD REMEDIATION OPERATIONS  
AND CONTRACTORS

**\$72,000**

UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND (USF)

Efcharistó  
Dank 감사합니다 Toda  
Asante Obrigado Спасибо  
Khop Xièxiè Danke Grazie 谢谢 Dziękuję  
Shukran Merci Thank You धन्यवाद  
je Arigatou Gracias شكراً ederim  
Gamsahamnida Obrigada Spasibo  
Teşekkür ありがとう Salammat  
Dhanyavaad Khun

**We extend our deepest gratitude to all of our generous supporters—individual donors, foundations, and corporate partners—who make our work at Ironbound Community Corporation possible. Your continued investment empowers us to advocate for justice, provide vital services, and build a stronger, healthier, and more equitable Ironbound. With your support, we're not just meeting the moment—we're shaping the future of our community together.**



**Ironbound**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**CORPORATION**  
55 YEARS OF SERVICE





**Ironbound**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**CORPORATION**  
55 YEARS OF SERVICE

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**  
**DONATE TODAY.**

Ironbound Community Corporation's (ICC's) mission is to engage and empower individuals, families, and groups in realizing their aspirations and, together, work to create a just, vibrant and sustainable community.

973-465-0555

**317 ELM STREET**  
**NEWARK, NJ**  
**07105**

info@ironboundcc.org

**FOLLOW US!**



[@ironbound-community-corporation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ironbound-community-corporation)



[@Ironboundcc](https://www.facebook.com/ironboundcc)



[@IronboundCommunityCorp](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



[@ironboundcommunitycorp](https://www.instagram.com/ironboundcommunitycorp)

**IRONBOUNDCC.ORG**