

2023 ESL IN THE COMMUNITY REPORT

COMMUNITY IMPACT



2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT

\$24 MILLION

COMMITTED TO GREATER ROCHESTER
ORGANIZATIONS IN 2023

EXPANDING INDIVIDUAL OPPORTUNITY
(EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND INCOME)

\$9.9 MILLION

BUILDING STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS
(AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND CONNECTED NEIGHBORHOODS)

\$6.7 MILLION

STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONS AND SYSTEMS
(CAPACITY BUILDING)

\$2.3 MILLION

COMMUNITY BASIC NEEDS
(ARTS AND CULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, HEALTH)

\$4.9 MILLION

TOTAL NUMBER OF
GRANTS IN 2023

468

COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

In 2023, ESL reinvested more than \$24 million in grants throughout our community. These grants support nonprofits whose missions align with the strategic framework of ESL Community Impact that include Expanding Individual Opportunity (education and employment/income), Building Strong Neighborhoods (affordable housing and connected neighborhoods), Strengthening Organizations and Systems (collaboration, data, and human capital), and sharing Lifting Up Stories (underlying narratives about Greater Rochester that inspire the population).

“ESL has been an excellent partner. ESL is sensitive to the barriers faced by certain sectors of our community and is intentional in identifying and partnering with organizations that have a track record of providing direct and impactful support to diverse populations.”

JOEL FRATER

President, Rochester Jamaican Organization

SELECTION OF GRANTS PROVIDED IN 2023

FOCUS AREA	ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT AMOUNT
Strengthening Organizations and Systems	Department of Pediatrics (Fiduciary: University of Rochester)	School Based Access to Behavioral Health and Medical Care for All Rochester City School District Students	\$1,200,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Wayne County Action Program Inc.	STEADY Work for Wayne County Youth Expansion Program	\$950,000
Building Strong Neighborhoods	Rochester Housing Development Fund Corporation	HOME Rochester and Make Monroe Home 2023	\$400,000
Strengthening Organizations and Systems	Children’s Institute	Enhanced Parent Engagement and Longitudinal Evaluation to Promote the Wellbeing of Young Children	\$375,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Encompass Resources for Learning	The Youth Workforce Consortium	\$375,000
Building Strong Neighborhoods	Sheen Housing/Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation Inc	Making a Big Impact on Family Stability	\$275,000

(Continued on next page)

COMMUNITY IMPACT

SELECTION OF GRANTS PROVIDED IN 2023 (CONTINUED)

FOCUS AREA	ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT AMOUNT
Strengthening Organizations and Systems	The Center for Youth Services	RCSD Family Engagement	\$242,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES	Redesigning Adult CTE Programs for Quality & Sustainability	\$200,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Center for Community Alternatives	Reentry Advocacy Collaboration	\$120,715
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Urban League of Rochester NY, Inc.	Black Scholars Program	\$111,700
Building Strong Neighborhoods	The Center for Teen Empowerment	Organizing Youth Stakeholders for Neighborhood Well-being	\$100,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Finger Lakes Community College	FLCC Student Emergency Services Grant	\$100,000
Strengthening Organizations and Systems	Young Men’s Christian Association of Geneva	Geneva YMCA “Building What Matters” Capital Improvement Project	\$75,000
Building Strong Neighborhoods	Father Tracy Advocacy Center	Walk-In Community-Based Information and Referral Center	\$50,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Clyde-Savannah Central School District	Growing and Thriving Outside of School Program	\$25,000
Expanding Individual Opportunity	Wood Library Association	The Reading Garden at Wood Library	\$10,000
Building Strong Neighborhoods	19th Ward Community Association of Rochester	19th Ward Annual Square Fair	\$2,500

“ESL Charitable Foundation is a grant funder that values trust-based philanthropy and prioritizes building genuine relationships with grantees, which has allowed for effective collaboration and communication in addressing community needs. Their flexibility and responsiveness have resulted in a meaningful and lasting impact on their programs, making it an inspiring experience to partner with an organization striving to make a difference in the community.”

SHAWNA GAREAU-KURTZ

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES Center for Workforce Development Director

Additional giving commitments in 2023 included:

Lifting Up Stories

Through Lifting Up Stories, we hope to inspire and create optimism through the positive, impactful work being done throughout Greater Rochester. We all too often see and hear news that focuses on the negative rather than the achievements and successes being made every day. At ESL, we want to help create a positive shift in the narrative around education, employment, housing, neighborhoods, collaboration, data, human capital, and more, by seeing examples of real success.

Reconnect Rochester

This nonprofit advocates for a safe and equitable transportation network. In partnership with residents and community groups, Reconnect Rochester creates and implements a design that benefits both pedestrians and motorists. The Complete Streets Makeover improves access and quality of community mobility to help make strong neighborhoods a reality.

97.1 Poder

The only dual-language (English/Spanish) radio station to launch and serve the City of Rochester and the expanding Latino population in 2015, is another example of community success. Poder is owned and operated by the Ibero American Action League. The radio station serves as an educational resource for the Spanish-speaking and bilingual community and brings people and organizations together through music and programming. As the Latino community continues to grow, evolve, and expand, Poder 97.1 adapts to these changes to help support the growth of the local Latino community.



“Hinge is making people aware not only that there is a community here, but that we have a voice, and we are strong.”

NANCY HERNANDEZ MACIUSKA
Marketview Heights Resident

Hinge Neighbors

Established in 2018, the leaders of Hinge Neighbors are dedicated to making sure the needs of residents are heard and included in future development. The nonprofit is guiding community discussions among residents about the Inner Loop North Project with the goal of eventually connecting the Grove Place and Marketview Heights neighborhoods that have been disconnected by the inner loop for decades. Hinge Neighbors works with residents and others, whether it’s a business, a government agency, or another organization, to develop and implement initiatives and projects that bring people together to achieve the intended results for everyone.

Equity Grants

In 2023, the second round of equity grants concluded with 125 grants approved totaling \$4,030,532. ESL received 218 requests within our service area. To date, the total number of equity grants provided to Black and Latino-led local organizations is 200 grants at \$6,826,200.