



The Near Westside of Syracuse once directly connected to the downtown of Syracuse. A series of transportation projects—the expansion of West Street, the interruption of the street grid, and the loss of manufacturing jobs—contributed to the isolation of the community and erosion of resources. These processes led to the deterioration of the neighborhood and loss of a significant number of housing units, employment that pays a living wage, and other amenities. Through its Near Westside Initiative, the Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion is working with local partners to turn this neighborhood around.

COMMUNITY FAST FACTS

- 49% of children in Syracuse live in poverty.
- The obesity rate for Onondaga County (of which Syracuse is the county seat) is 27.9%.
- The smoking rate for Onondaga County (of which Syracuse is the county seat) is 16%.
- The diabetes rate for Onondaga County (of which Syracuse is the county seat) is 9%.
- The high-school graduation rate for Syracuse public schools ranges from 41–57%.

PROJECT GOALS

- Increase residents' knowledge of, access to, and purchase of healthier foods;
- Improve the built environment and activate public spaces to make them safer; and
- Strengthen community cohesion and peacemaking efforts.

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED TO DATE

HEALTHY FOODS:

- Launched the NuVal nutritional scoring program at Nojaim Bros. Supermarket, paired with the Healthy Shopper Reward program and nutritional education both at the store and at St. Joseph's Primary Care Center–West.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

- Renovated an underused, dilapidated tennis court into a box soccer court; and
- Held organized sports programming for children during the summer at Skiddy Park, led by summer youth employees of Nojaim Bros. Supermarket.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Launched "50 Events in 50 Weeks" campaign to connect neighbors and activate public outdoor and indoor spaces;
- Conducted street light inventory; and
- Held 7 meetings with 65 community members in residents' homes

WHAT WE'RE INVESTING IN

- Renovating the Skiddy Park field house, including the establishment of a neighborhood police outpost.
- Conducting leadership development training for residents to own and lead neighborhoods improvement efforts.