



Brooklyn Emerge

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

This report reflects our collective journey—highlighting the milestones we've reached, the lives we've touched and the vision guiding our work toward a more just, connected and empowered Brooklyn. Here's to building stronger communities together.



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Mission

Our mission is to provide our community with social equity, reduce poverty, hunger prevention, environmental protection and economic growth for Brooklyn community. Break down any barriers or constraints in executing our mission.

In 2025, Brooklyn Emerge continued to empower low-income and marginalized communities by providing access to essential resources and opportunities for growth.

Our programs focused on building confidence, leadership and community participation—especially among youth, women and immigrant families.

By using initiatives like our hunger prevention program as a gateway to deeper engagement, we helped individuals gain the skills and voice needed to shape their communities and futures.

Vision

Our vision is minimized income disparity. We celebrate diversity. Applaud imagination. Strive for excellence.

We believe that by working together, we can create a thriving and vibrant environment that benefits everyone. Our goal is to provide low immigrants with resources and opportunities to help them succeed, as well as to promote our community as a destination for better livelihood, and more.

Our Flagship Program

In 2025, Brooklyn Emerge expanded its Halal Meal Share Program across 26+ neighborhoods to fight food insecurity in Brooklyn. We served over 120,000 hot halal meals, including kitchen soup, to individuals and families in need.

Additionally, we distributed more than 100,000 pounds of groceries, providing essential support to households across the borough.

This program continues to ensure dignified, culturally appropriate food access for our community.

A YEAR OF IMPACT

300+ Days of Service in 2025

+120,000

Hot Meals Served



**100,000
lbs**

Groceries Distributed



250+

Voters Registered



STRATEGIC COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with Council Member Mercedes Narcisse, Brooklyn Emerge serves food every Monday to support families across the community.



CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
MERCEDES NARCISSE
46TH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Through partnership with Rethink Food, Brooklyn Emerge regularly receives hot meals that Brooklyn Emerge distributes daily to community members in need.



Rethink Food

In partnership with CM Rita Joseph, Brooklyn Emerge hosts a food pantry one Tuesday each month at PS 235 – The Janice Marie Knight School in Brooklyn.



RITA JOSEPH
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
DISTRICT 40

Food insecurity is Critical for NYC's Diverse Communities.



The need remains urgent—too many individuals are being left behind simply because they are unhoused or living in conditions without access to a kitchen or basic cooking facilities. Many are willing but unable to prepare meals. The approach we take has proven effective time and again. With nearly one in four New Yorkers struggling daily to secure just one meal, our work is more essential than ever.

Our Work

Our work focuses on combating food insecurity among low-income immigrants through crisis response, development, capacity building and advocacy. By specializing in food pantries, we offer critical support that strengthens nonprofit efforts and better serves our communities. Our team provides access to essential food, warm clothing and groceries to help immigrants sustain themselves. We also build capacity by training new immigrants in underserved areas—empowering them to improve their livelihoods, reduce daily food struggles and better understand how to address food insecurity during crises or economic downturns.

Capacity Building

we believe solving food insecurity is the first step toward building stronger, more equitable communities. Many of our neighbors—especially those unhoused or without access to kitchens—struggle daily to find a single meal.

In 2025, we expanded our Halal Meal Share Program, distributing over 100,000 pounds of groceries and 120,000+ hot halal meals across Brooklyn. Alongside food access, we provided training for immigrant families, supported asylum seekers and raised awareness about hunger and housing challenges.

Our work is rooted in dignity, empowerment, and community partnership—because food must come first before individuals can truly thrive.

IF WE DON'T ADDRESS IT:

The Cost of Hunger in NYC

As the cost of living continues to rise, food insecurity in New York City has intensified. In 2025, nearly 24% of NYC residents experienced food insecurity, including skipping meals or relying on emergency food programs.

Low-income households, particularly those earning under \$25,000 annually, remain the most affected, as rising food, rent, and utility costs force families into difficult financial trade-offs.

Demand for emergency food remains extremely high, with over 8.4 million food pantry visits recorded in 2024 and sustained pressure continuing into 2025. The average cost per meal remains above \$4.30, contributing to growing household debt and ongoing food hardship.

NYC's Food Crisis

In 2025, food insecurity remains a critical issue across New York City and New York State. Statewide data shows food insufficiency holding at approximately 10.4%, one of the highest levels seen in recent years, with households with children experiencing rates exceeding 13%.

Racial and economic disparities persist. Black and Hispanic households continue to experience food insecurity at more than twice the rate of white households, underscoring long-standing inequities in access to stable nutrition.

New York City food pantries continue to serve unprecedented numbers of residents. Surveys indicate that nearly one in four NYC residents experienced food insecurity in the past year, with families with children accounting for over half of pantry users. These trends highlight the urgent need for sustained emergency food access and long-term policy solutions.

Equity in Action

Brooklyn Emerge is working to ensure immigrant and non-citizen communities can access accurate information about available food and benefit programs. Through outreach and advocacy, these efforts aim to strengthen New York City's emergency food network and promote equitable access for all residents.



Preventive Maintenance for Food Insecurity in NYC's Diverse Community

Brooklyn Emerge is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of minorities, individuals and communities throughout New York City. For several years, we have worked alongside City Councils and Community-Based Development Organizations (CBDOs) to provide food pantry services to New York's diverse population.

Our efforts go beyond food assistance — we strive to meet the broader needs of underserved populations, helping them better understand New York City's culture, laws, regulations and immigrant rights. However, we believe that none of these educational efforts can take root unless we first address the basic issue of food scarcity. Only by ensuring access to adequate nutrition can we truly begin to empower new immigrants with the information and resources they need to thrive within the principles of New York City.

Capacity Building

Brooklyn Emerge is committed to improving the lives of local immigrants in New York City by providing them with the necessary tools and resources especially food to overcome necessities of life.

Crisis Response

In times of crisis, our team join hands and works to further cultivate vital food scarcity in need and help prevent food insecurity to low-income immigrants who face barriers and hurdles adjusting to newer environment. We believe that it is crucial for all individuals, including immigrants, to have access to food above all that could potentially save their lives and the lives of their loved ones

Supporting Nonprofit Organizations

At B.E, we understand the critical role that nonprofit organizations play in serving the immigrant community in New York City. That is why we are committed to providing meaningful support to these organizations through our Food Pantry program.

Advocacy

At B.E, we understand the importance of advocating for the rights of local immigrants in New York City. Our goal is to ensure that all immigrants, regardless of their legal status or background, have access to the same rights and opportunities as citizens of New York City.

Workshops to Educate Newer Immigrants

At Brooklyn Emerge, we believe in empowering immigrants with knowledge and resources to help them better understand their rights and how to access them. To this end, we have hosted workshops aimed at educating the immigrant community on their rights and insurance policies.

OVERALL, THE SEDI GROWTH ACCELERATOR WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A SUPPORTIVE AND DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM THAT WILL HELP SEDI ENTREPRENEURS OVERCOME BARRIERS TO SUCCESS AND BUILD THRIVING BUSINESSES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF BROOKLYN.

We care about the details. And we go the extra mile to support immigrants that strive to inspire, innovate, educate, and change New York become a better place for newer immigrants.



10 Social and Economic Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI) networking events in 2025, with at least 200 attendees, 50% of whom were women-owned or minority-owned businesses.



Enrolled over 100 Social and Economic Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI) entrepreneurs in 2025, nor that 80+ SEDI entrepreneurs graduated from its curriculum with at least 75% launching or scaling their businesses within six months.



Enrolled more than 100 Social and Economic Disadvantaged Individuals (SEDI) entrepreneurs in 2025.



We helped them raise a total of \$10 million in capital (equity investments, debt, and grants) for SEDI-owned businesses.

EVENTS BROOKLYN EMERGE DID



Promoting Sustainable Practices

Many socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs come from communities.



Encouraging Innovation

Entrepreneurs from disadvantaged backgrounds often face unique challenges that require them to think outside the box to succeed.



Creating Green Jobs

Socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs often start businesses



Reducing Waste

Many eco-friendly businesses focus on reducing waste and promoting recycling.



Improving Public Health

Environmental degradation can have a significant impact on public health, especially in communities that are already disadvantaged.

Sustainable Development Goals Aligned

The project aimed to enroll at least 500 SEDI entrepreneurs, with at least 60% from low-income backgrounds.

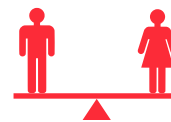
SDG 1



No Poverty

The project formed or scaled at least 60+ SEDI-owned businesses, with at least 50% being women-owned.

SDG 5



Gender
Equality

The project facilitated at least 20 SEDI entrepreneur or SEDI owned business pitches.

SDG 8



Decent Work and
Economic Growth

The project aimed to leverage the business ecosystem to stimulate commercialization

SDG 9



Industry, Innovation
and Infrastructure


The project enrolled SEDI entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds


SDG 10




Reduced Inequalities

Volunteer with us

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As a volunteer with B.E, you will have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects that support our mission. From working with local businesses to improve their operations, to helping residents access educational and career opportunities, there are many ways to get involved.
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If you're interested in community development, you can help us create conditions that allow local businesses to grow and thrive. This can include working on projects that beautify commercial corridors, advocate for public and private investments, and attract new businesses to the area.
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If you're passionate about education, you can join our efforts to ensure that primary and secondary education is accessible to every child. This can include working with our charity-driven schools that provide high quality education free of cost. No matter your interests, there is a volunteer opportunity that's right for you at B.E. Join us today and make a difference in the lives of your fellow New Yorkers.



Volunteering with Brooklyn Emerge (B.E) is a great way to give back to your community and make a positive impact on the lives of local residents and businesses. B.E is committed to creating economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting them to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building a fairer economy in neighborhoods across the five boroughs.


WE LEAD BY ACTION!!!

WE PERFORM BY UNITING!





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