

Program Name: Youth Economic and Entrepreneur Success Program - Y.E.E.S

The Y.E.E.S. program is built on the premise that all Americans benefit by the economic well-being of all races. However, there is a significant wealth gap in America when comparing Blacks/African Americans to other races. With the successful implementation of this program, the goal is not only to bring economic education to the youth in Blacks/African American households but others regardless of race and to create a desire in the youth to become entrepreneurs; to become asset builders by saving and investing but also bridge racial wealth inequality and help close the racial wealth gap. See Disparities in Wealth by Race and Ethnicity in the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances from <https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/notes/feds-notes/disparities-in-wealth-by-race-and-ethnicity-in-the-2019-survey-of-consumer-finances-20200928.htm> for more information.

Program Participants: to provide economic and entrepreneurship education to youths primarily living in poverty, disadvantaged or low-income families; however, the program will be open to all youth regardless of gender, age, economic status, family status, or background.

Initially the program will target youths in grades 5-8 living in poverty or experiencing racial inequities in wealth but will be open to all youth. The goal is to reach 20-40 youth yearly, equating to at least 5-10 per quarter with goal to expand to youths in grades 9-12.

Program Objective: To change the paradigm, projections and problems of economic and financial disparity, inequalities and lack of education in order to lead to the economic well-being of the families and other communities as a whole.

Program Plan: The program will consist of camps, classes, courses and workshops throughout the year. Program will be implemented using curriculum and specialty tracks developed by recognized leaders in youth entrepreneurship education and financial literacy.

In addition to facilitated hands-on learning whether virtual and in-person, each participant will receive materials, books and other resources to educate, equip and empower them to have a strong financial foundation at an early age; increase their financial literacy to understand of financial principles and concepts; and provide opportunities for the capacity to create, build and sustain wealth. Participants will have opportunities to participate in youth business fairs; be provided a source to open an account to learn how to manage money and receive ongoing support and training; hear from guest speakers and professionals in the area of finance and business; and be presented with opportunities to explore small business ventures.

Program Impact: To engage youth in activities that will educate, equip and empower them

- 1) to have a strong financial foundation at an early age;
- 2) increase their financial literacy to understand financial principles and concepts; and
- 3) provide opportunities for them to invest in their future.
- 4) budget, buying power, investment in properties, understanding stocks and bonds.