

Get Money Knowledge: Block Builders Foundation

As of the most recent reporting period, significant progress has been made in implementing the strategies outlined in our approved work plan. We have successfully completed Three 12-week financial literacy courses for youth, and are on track to meet our overall program objectives. The planning phase involved establishing a facilitator team and conducting training on the GMK financial literacy curriculum. A thorough needs assessment was also completed to inform our next steps, yielding positive results in terms of program efficiency.

A key milestone in our work plan was developing job training resources and placements. We have been working to establish partnerships with local organizations, including Cookie Cart, Emerge, YETI, and Step Up, to provide job training and placement opportunities for youth. Additionally, we have completed 100% of the in-class educational materials within the established timeline.

The financial literacy course was designed to equip youth with essential skills for both financial education and the workforce. The first six weeks focused on topics such as money motivations, career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, and debt. In-class activities included worksheets, note-taking, and interactive group games where participants made real-life financial decisions based on their money motivation profiles. At the end of the course, the highest-scoring group earned a \$50 bonus stipend, and a graduation ceremony was held, with participants receiving a certificate of completion and a \$500 stipend to support their financial goals.

The second half of the 12-week program focuses on job preparation, including career exploration, job search techniques, and financial management in the context of employment. Students will learn workplace etiquette, communication skills, time management, problem-solving, and team collaboration. They will also receive training on resume writing, cover letters, and mock interviews. Upon completion, participants will have the opportunity to secure jobs through our partnerships and gain real-world experience. A graduation ceremony will mark the conclusion of the program, empowering students with both knowledge and practical skills for future success.

We are currently reviewing the program and incorporating participant feedback to improve curriculum and engagement. In the future, we plan to offer more advanced financial literacy and college readiness courses for young adults.

Several challenges have arisen during program implementation, particularly related to scheduling conflicts, transportation issues, and varying education levels across age groups. To address scheduling conflicts, we have coordinated with schools and community centers to avoid overlaps and offered flexible scheduling, including after-school sessions and virtual options. Transportation issues have been addressed by partnering with local organizations for transportation services and exploring the possibility of transportation stipends. To manage varying education levels, we have used differentiated instruction, peer mentoring, and regular assessments to ensure accessibility and engagement.

Despite these efforts, further assistance in the form of transportation solutions, professional development for staff, and guidance on scheduling best practices would significantly enhance program delivery.