

# First Look: Black Economic Equity Movement

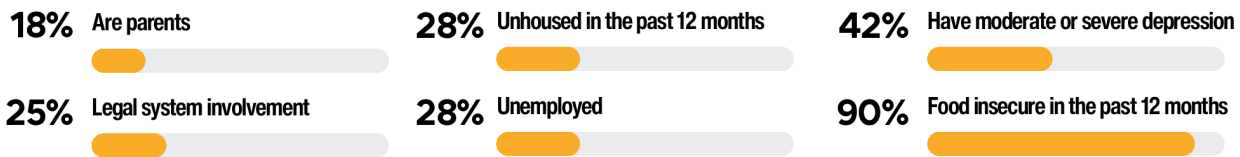
## A Guaranteed Income Project

Black youth face significant economic challenges due to systemic racism and structural barriers that have created and sustained the racial wealth gap. This gap limits access to education, employment opportunities, and financial resources, resulting in higher rates of poverty, underemployment, and financial instability for Black young adults.

**BEEM** is a two-year crossover design Guaranteed Income (GI) project funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and led in partnership with [MyPath](#), [University of California, San Francisco](#), [Oregon Health & Science University](#), and [University of California, Berkeley](#). The project provides unconditional cash payments and optional Financial Mentoring to Black young adults as they transition into adulthood. Participants are randomly assigned to receive \$500/month for one year over a two-year period and may opt in to receive Financial Mentoring at any time. The project is examining the impact of GI on financial health, mental health, and physical health disparities, both alone and when paired with Financial Mentoring.

### PARTICIPANTS

BEEM has recruited **300** Black young adults **ages 18-24** from low-income neighborhoods across San Francisco & Oakland



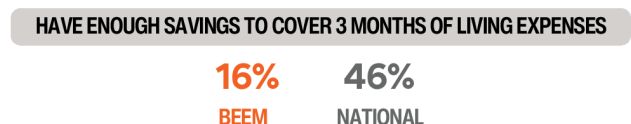
### FINANCIAL CAPABILITIES AT BASELINE

Source: BEEM Baseline Survey, N=300

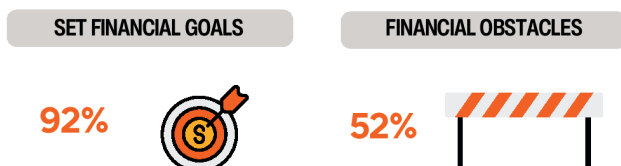
**Financial Needs & Services:** BEEM participants use mobile banking & digital payment services more than their peers. <sup>1</sup>



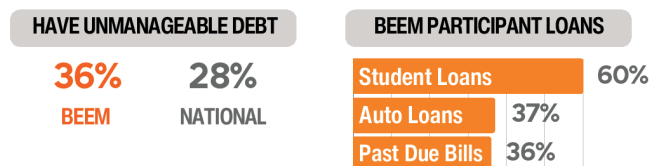
**Savings:** While 62% of BEEM Participants have savings accounts, they are saving less than peers. <sup>2</sup>



**Goal Setting & Planning:** The majority of BEEM participants have financial goals, but over half do not know how to tackle the challenges they face.



**Debt Management:** BEEM participants have a higher rate of unmanageable debt compared to their peers. <sup>2</sup> 30% of BEEM participants report having loans.



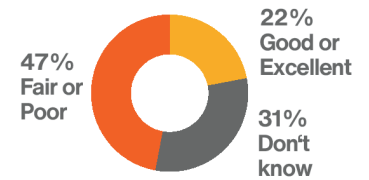
**Credit:** Nearly half of BEEM participants have credit cards, but only 1 in 5 report having good credit.<sup>3</sup> Nearly half (47%) of BEEM participants rate their credit score as Fair or Poor and 22% rate their credit score as Good, Very Good, or Excellent. A third (31%) report not knowing their credit scores.

#### HAVE A CREDIT CARD

**46%**  
BEEM

**65%**  
NATIONAL

#### HOW IS YOUR CREDIT?



## FINANCIAL MENTORING

Recognizing that closing the racial wealth gap requires not only immediate resources but also the knowledge to achieve long-term financial security, BEEM offers optional Financial Mentoring to all participants. At any point throughout the program, participants may opt in to receive up to six one-on-one sessions with a certified, BIPOC financial mentor who has lived experience and has been sourced and trained by MyPath. To date, 234 participants have expressed interest in receiving mentoring and, of these, 70 are actively engaged or have completed mentoring.

## ON THE HORIZON

A year into the program, MyPath's initial data analysis shows that:

- BEEM participants are starting with more challenges than their peers
- There is a high interest in Financial Mentoring
- BEEM is making an impact on participants' financial capability & confidence

As the project concludes, MyPath is eager to see how GI and Financial Mentoring have influenced participants' financial capability and confidence, mental health, and physical health. MyPath is also closely evaluating the outcomes for those who have completed Financial Mentoring to ensure our approach truly meets the needs of young people and fosters meaningful engagement. Further analysis will explore the effects of receiving Financial Mentoring before or after cash payments and the impact of each approach.

Next steps include completing the project, distilling key lessons, building a participant cohort for narrative change and policy work, and exploring ways to more intentionally incorporate wealth-building into GI projects, ensuring that young people receive a lasting and meaningful investment in their futures.

## FROM PILOTS TO POLICY

As a leader and pioneer in the GI space, MyPath's goal is to create a learning community among those involved in GI projects for young people, and to engage funders and policy leaders to advance these ideas and secure public funds for continued delivery and new kinds of research.

To learn more about our GI and Financial Mentoring work, contact:

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## SOURCES

1. *Federal Reserve Payments Insight Brief, The Federal Reserve, 2023*
2. *Financial Health Pulse, US Trends Report, 2023*
3. *Federal Reserve Board, Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households, 2023*

