

Economic Justice Curriculum Overview



Overall Objective: Youth will explore the complex issue of economic justice in Memphis. Youth will understand how the concepts of living wage, income and wealth affect individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities. Youth will explore how economic inequity affects individuals and communities. Finally, youth will explore ways local communities build on community assets to increase economic justice.

Guiding Questions:

- What are community, leadership and justice?
- What are community assets?
- What is your vision of economic justice?
- What are examples of leaders for economic justice in Memphis history?
- What are a living wage, income, and wealth?
- How does income and wealth affect individuals, families, neighborhoods and communities?
- What are people doing to advance economic justice in the Memphis community?
- What can youth do to advance economic justice?

Key Concepts:

- **Economic justice** exists when there is a balance between the market forces of capitalism and the needs of people and the environment. Economic justice is advanced when economic opportunities are equitably available to citizens regardless of their race, religion, gender, ethnicity, nationality or socio-economic status.
- **Community assets** are the people, places, relationships and culture that can be harnessed to bring about equality and positive change in a community.
- **Living Wage** is a term used to describe the minimum hourly wage for a full work week required for an individual to meet specified basic needs including housing, food, clothing, and childcare. (It does not include wants such as any type of luxury item including entertainment and cable TV.) The Living Wage varies from one city or community to another depending on the cost of living.
- **Income** is the amount of money an individual or family earns or accrues from wages, salary, returns on investment, etc.
- **Wealth** is the total value of what a person owns (including cash, investments, property investments, etc.) minus their debt or liabilities.

CORE STANDARDS Alignment:

The BRIDGES Connect Curriculum has been aligned with the Common Core College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCRAS). All learning activities within the Connect Curriculum support and assume shared responsibility for attaining the standards. While it is necessary for youth and educational leaders to devote significant time and effort in various educational settings to attain these standards, participation in the BRIDGES Connect Curriculum will enhance students' knowledge and skills necessary for success in this endeavor. In addition, since the Connect Curriculum is inextricably linked to social justice and action issues embedded within race, ecology, economics and education, the learning activities intentionally promote the following College and Career Dimensions and youth's ability to:

- *Comprehend and Critique Significant Human/Social Issues
- *Build Strong Content Knowledge
- *Gain Self-Awareness
- *Demonstrate Independence as well as Collaboration
- *Respond to Particular Audience, Task, Purpose & Discipline
- *Value Evidence as Basis for Analysis, Opinion, Implications, Action
- *Use Technology and other Digital Media Strategically and Capably

In addition, participation in the Bridges Connect Curriculum offers a unique and critical opportunity for urban youth to develop, make a commitment to and demonstrate community leadership through academic pursuit, advocacy, and activism.