

**S.O.S. Financial Educational Services. Inc.**  
Torrance, California

## **FINANCIAL EDUCATION & CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**



## **Finance & Economic Development Program #1**

To ensure our programs are truly beneficial, our workshops and classes are tailored to the communities and organization we serve. For example:

**Volunteers of America – Hawthorne, CA:** They provide child development and parenting support services through their Head Start & Early Head Start Programs. The programs are designed for low income families with children under 3 years of age.

**YWCA – Covina, CA:** Among other services, their WINGS (Women in Need Growing Strong) program operates one of the largest domestic violence shelters in Los Angeles County. Their goal is to help domestic violence victims and their dependent children move out of crisis and toward safety and autonomy.

**Spiritt – El Monte, CA:** They provide proactive programs of education, prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery, and to strengthen the individual's self-concept through personal development, taking into consideration the multicultural communities served.

Our workshops are designed to help these individuals enhance their skills so they can become and remain financially independent. These are some of the topics we include in our presentations:

- Assessment (evaluates their current situation to provide them with the necessary tools to meet their financial goals).
- Creating a budget.
- Developing a spending plan.
- Strategies to lower expenses
- Resources to increase their income (career development services, government funded programs, etc).

Students also learn basic financial concepts such as banking, saving, using credit and planning for retirement. Upon completion of our programs, students will have a solid grasp of basic financial principles and fundamentals so they can make educated choices when it comes to their finances. Moreover, the tools and resources we provide will help them develop a plan to accomplish their financial and career goals to prepare for the future.

## Finance & Economic Development Program #2

We are reaching out to community colleges and other educational institutions to provide Free Educational Workshops for students in our community.

Young adults face unique financial circumstances and challenges. Many of them will be living independently and managing the money they earn on their own for the first time. Therefore, we've created educational programs focused on their specific needs. Our goal is to teach them how to manage their finances effectively to ensure a bright future.

Our workshops provide students practical guidelines and resources to avoid financial trouble. We find that the earlier they start to create good habits around money, the easier it will be to stick to them.

Some of the topics include:

- Budgeting
- Checking & Savings Accounts
- Understanding Credit (student loans)
- Administering Earnings (organizing and paying bills)
- Resources (career development services, government programs, etc).

Students will learn how to live within their means by understanding and differentiating their wants and needs. Furthermore, they will learn to recognize common money traps and how to avoid them so they can take control of their finances instead of letting money control them.

These programs will be introduced through the Career Development and/or Placement Department at each educational institution and tailored to our specific audience (college students, adults coming back to school to expand their career, technical schools, etc).

These are examples of some of the institutions we are reaching out to:

**Community College Career Services** – They provide the opportunity for extensive exploration and evaluation on interests, skills, and other characteristics related to vocational and pre-professional planning and job success

**Business & Career Development Centers** – Their mission is to provide a fully-integrated one stop workforce system to maximize employment and economic opportunity in partnership with business and the community.

## Community Outreach Programs

We reach out to the community by attending different events (fairs, festivals, expos, etc) where we provide free educational materials and resources to the attendees.

We promote public understanding awareness of today's most pressing consumer issues such as:

- Identity Theft
- Consumer Rights
- Understanding Credit
- Preventing Debt
- Becoming and Remaining Debt Free
- Becoming and Remaining Financially Independent (career development)
- Planning for the future (retirement, emergencies, savings)
- Budgeting
- Basic concepts (checking accounts, savings accounts, online banking, etc).
- Credit Scores & Credit Reports

The materials and information we provide covers the basics of handling money and finances. Moreover, we provide resources for consumers to expand their knowledge through reputable organizations such:

- FDIC's Money Smart Financial Education Program  
<https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/>
- Visa's Financial Literacy Materials  
<http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com/>
- Consumer Protection - Government Website  
<http://www.consumer.gov/>
- Consumer Protection - Government Website  
<http://www.usa.gov/>
- National Endowment for Financial Education  
<http://www.financialworkshopkits.org/>

Our main goal is to empower people to plan for the future and make better choices so they can accomplish their dreams and enjoy a better quality of life.

## **Assessing the Outcomes of Our Educational Programs**

In an effort to produce better results, our workshops are specifically designed for the groups we do the presentations for. Developing personalized programs is not an easy task, but it's certainly worth the effort.

The individuals we serve have different needs, resources, and goals. Therefore, we make sure to take into consideration their current financial situation, age group, income bracket, and education level to develop programs that will truly benefit them.

We focus our social responsibility efforts on the people that need our services the most and we know that managing limited resources requires a lot of discipline and strategic planning. Thus, most of the individuals we serve come from low-income families with limited resources and inadequate understanding of financial matters.

Moreover, we are constantly making changes to our programs based on the feedback we get from our students and the leaders at the organizations we work with.

### **WHY ASSESS OUR RESULTS? Primarily, to improve student learning...**

Outcomes are better when the approach to make improvements seeks clear and guided purposes. Through our evaluations, we make sure to develop Financial Education Programs that encourage positive changes and improve financial behaviors in general.

Assessments also provide us information about the knowledge that our students already have as well as their learning styles and specific needs. Furthermore, we get valuable feedback about our curriculum and teaching methods.

As of May of 2015, we've reached out to more than 500 individuals and we hope that we can continue to provide these much-needed services to the communities we serve.

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