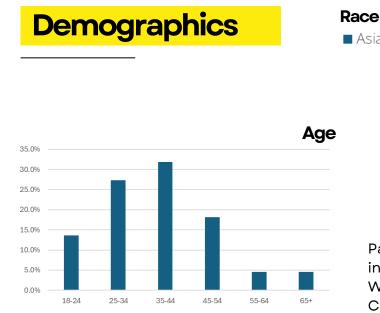


Spring 2024

# Financial Wellness Program

## **Midpoint Report**



## Asian ■ Indigenous ■ Latine ■ Black ■ White 9% 23% 32% 32%

Participating employers & organizations include: Lutheran Settlement House, The Wardrobe, HIAS PA, and The National Conference of Puerto Rican Women.

Of the 22 participants enrolled, 19 (86%) completed 3 hours of coaching, or completed half of the program. 90% of participants identify as cis-women and 10% are non-binary.

## A Note On **Metrics**

Two Metrics are used to measure Financial Wellness. Self-reported positive and negative behaviors (i.e., staying within budget, checking credit score, paying off debt, are all coded as positive behaviors) were also tallied and tracked before each meeting with a coach.

### **Financial Capability Scale (FCS)**<sup>1</sup> N 1

FCS was developed by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013 to measure the impact of financial coaching on client outcomes. Scores range from 0-8, 8 reflecting excellent capability. This metric is recorded before every meeting with a coach.

### **12** APR Financial Stress Scale (FSS)<sup>2</sup>

FSS was developed by researchers at the Financial Therapy Association in 2020 to define and relate the impact of finances, on individual stress. Scores range from 0-105, 105 reflecting extreme financial stress. This score is recorded pre-program, midpoint, and post-program.

<sup>1.</sup> Collins, J.M. & O'Rourke, C. (2013) Financial Capability Scale (FCS), University of Wisconsin Madison, Center for Financial Security. doi: 10.5281/zenodo.57102

<sup>2.</sup> Heo, W., Cho, S., & Lee, P. (2020). APR Financial Stress Scale: Development and Validation of a Multidimensional Measurement. Journal of Financial Therapy, 11 (1) 2. https://doi.org/10.4148/ 1944-9771.1216



**Financial Goals** 

## **Baseline Metrics**

A large majority of participants identified Apply for Benefits Savings and Debt management as Home Financing prioirities for their coaching sessions. Increase Credit Score Median FCS 5 Create Budget Min FCS 2 Manage Debt Median FSS 19 Manage Savings Plan Max FSS 41 60.0% 0.0% 20.0% 40.0% 80.0% 100.0%

The baseline snapshot shows the median participant is moderately financially capable and experiences some financial stress, i.e. financial barriers impede their personal and professional life once or twice a week. The lower end of this spectrum is struggling with financial ability and experiences moderate-high levels of financial stress, barriers impede their lives 3-4 times a week.

## Midpoint Metrics

Mean FCS	6 120%
Min FCS	3 1 33%
Median FSS	<b>16.5 ↓13</b> %
Max FSS	32 ↓22%

The percent of participants with a Savings and Budget Plan **increased** from 17 to 83 percent.

	Total	Median
Debt Paid	\$36,283.00	\$658.00
Savings	\$23,900.00	\$475.00

Midpoint metrics reflect an overall decrease in stress and an increase in financial capability, **most significantly for individuals experiencing higher baselines of financial stress**. These metrics are reinforced by tracked behaviors, clients are achieving the goals they set pre-program such as creating a spending plan and budget, and are saving money and lowering debt.

**Financial Impact**