



**AFRICAN-AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
Pennsylvania ♦ New Jersey ♦ Delaware

2025



WOMEN'S BUSINESS ACCELERATOR REPORT



Prepared by:

**The African American Chamber of
Commerce of PA, NJ, and DE**



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COHORT OVERVIEW

VISION

The 2024–2025 Women’s Business Accelerator brought together eight Black women entrepreneurs, each running a business with strong vision and potential. While their industries and experiences varied, every participant entered the program with a shared drive: to grow their business, sharpen their strategies, and access the kind of knowledge and support that’s often out of reach.

Throughout the five-month journey, this cohort became a powerful example of what happens when Black women are given space, support, and resources to lead. Survey feedback confirmed that participants left the program with renewed clarity on their business models, stronger financial confidence, and a deeper belief in their ability to scale.

VALUE PROPOSITION

Black women entrepreneurs are often overlooked when it comes to funding, mentorship, and tailored business support. The Women's Business Accelerator was designed to address that by offering a culturally grounded, community-first experience that delivers both clarity and connection.

This accelerator created real impact by:

- Pairing in-session learning with personalized, outside advising.
- Emphasizing scalability, not survival.
- Fostering a safe, trusted space for entrepreneurs to reflect, realign, and take action.



CURATED WORKSHOPS

SESSION 1

Leadership and Taking the Next Step for Your Business

SESSION 2

How to Overcome Bias & Gain Greater Access to Capital

SESSION 3

Navigating Venture Capital & Investor Funding

SESSION 4

Optimize Your Cash Flow with Wells Fargo

SESSION 5

How to Leverage Memberships & Mentors to Market Your Value

SESSION 6

Cultivating a Growth Mindset: Branding

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Participants consistently shared that this program gave them the tools and confidence to move forward strategically. Their feedback reflects the deep, personal and business-level impact made possible by Wells Fargo's support.

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Business Mindset Transformation

"This experience was a masterclass on ownership and leadership. I walked away from the final session with a deeper understanding of my worth in business and a renewed sense of clarity that I'm ready to apply as I move into the next level of impact."

— Djuan Short

2

Access & Advancement

"I recently received the BOOST Your Business Grant through PIDC and am now preparing my submission for the Catalyst Grant. I first learned about these opportunities through the Chamber cohort, which has been instrumental in supporting the growth of my business. After nine years in business, this experience connected me to resources I didn't even know were available."

— Dominique Calhoun

3

Community & Confidence

"Learning that other entrepreneurs face similar issues helps me not feel isolated."

— Stephanie Ford



COHORT OUTCOME

Participants took clear steps toward funding, refining their business models, and pursuing long-term growth. This section highlights measurable actions and outcomes driven by the program.

*** The support didn't end in the session.** Each participant received a city citation recognizing their completion of the program and contributions to the business community. 100% of the cohort members praised the value of the roundtable experience and credited Zenith Wealth Partners for providing personalized guidance that brought their financial strategies into focus.

*** Beyond business, this program shifted how participants saw themselves as leaders.** Women shared they felt more confident, aware of their value, and prepared to step into their next chapter with purpose and boldness.

*** Participants left with a transformed understanding of business finances.** They gained clarity around cash flow, committed to paying themselves first, and began to view financial planning as a tool for empowerment rather than stress.



*** 40% of our cohort members experienced breakthroughs in their marketing strategy.** Thanks to Public XP, they learned to separate exposure from marketing, revisited what success truly looks like in their daily lives, and began letting go of business practices that no longer served them.

*** 100% of participants in the Women's Business Accelerator said they would recommend the program to a fellow entrepreneur."** This strong endorsement reflects not only satisfaction, but also trust in the program's ability to deliver real value.

BUSINESS WINS

During the cohort we gave contracts to black owned business and African American Chamber of Commerce members who are subject matter experts in the area's the cohort needed support in to scale their businesses.



PUBLIC
XP





CONCLUSION

The 2024–2025 Women’s Business Accelerator was more than a series of workshops—it was a transformative experience rooted in equity, empowerment, and actionable strategy. Through curated sessions, personal advising, and meaningful connections, participants left with enhanced financial clarity and a renewed sense of purpose. The program’s impact extended beyond business growth; it reshaped how these women viewed themselves as leaders and community changemakers. With 100% of participants recommending the program, it’s clear the Accelerator delivered real, measurable value. From gaining investor insight to receiving city recognition, each entrepreneur walked away with new tools and strengthened resolve. As we look ahead, this cohort serves as a powerful foundation for expanding our efforts—demonstrating what’s possible when Black women are given the space and support to grow, lead, and succeed, and guiding our next phase of programming and investment.