

**Human Services** 

# Unhoused to Entrepreneurship



# **Connecting Communities**

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#### INTRODUCTION

### **Project Purpose & Description**

This project provided a one-day beginner entrepreneurship workshop in District 6, helping adults at risk of homelessness gain skills and support to start small businesses. Topics included business basics, marketing, and networking, with mentorship and peer feedback to build confidence and self-sufficiency.

### Social Problem & Target Population

District 6 in Long Beach struggles with high unemployment and financial hardship, contributing to housing insecurity. This project supported adults at risk of homelessness, especially those seeking stability through self-employment or small business opportunities.

### Scope of Social Problem

Community Stakeholder Interviews/Secondary Data:

- Rising rents, overcrowding, and long Section 8 waitlists are common issues. One resident said, "Multiple family members end up living together to afford rent."
- Safety was a major concern, especially in 90813. Police data confirms that 90813 accounted for 25.5% of violent crime cases in its division (Long Beach Police Department, 2022).
- Stakeholders emphasized a need for long-term mental health services and better outreach. This aligns with data showing 17.6% of adults in 90813 report poor mental health, above the city average of 14% (CDC, 2019).

### Alignment to Specialization

This project supports the adulthood and aging specialization by addressing financial challenges in District 6, helping adults gain skills for stability and reducing the risk of homelessness

### PROJECT OVERVIEW, OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES



Empower young adults by equipping them with entrepreneurial basic skills and knowledge, fostering self-sufficiency and resilience, and decrease the risk of homelessness through sustainable economic opportunities

Long-Term Outcome Objective

By March 2026, the homelessness rate among young adults in District 6 of Long Beach will be reduced by 20%

Intermediate Outcome Objective By March 2025, 10% of young adults experiencing homelessness in District 6 of Long Beach will be

#### **Initial Outcome Objective 1:**

By March 2025, young adults in Long Beach Rescue Mission will increase their understanding of entrepreneurship basic skills that they can utilize and implement in the future by 20%, as indicated by pre- and post surveys and skill assessment evaluations.

## **Initial Outcome Objective 2:**

motivated in starting their own business.

By March 2025, young adults in Long Beach Rescue Mission will increase their motivation of starting their own business by 20%, as indicated by skill assessments and employer feedback surveys.

### Initial Outcome Objective 3:

By March 2025, young adults in Long Beach Rescue Mission will be able to identify their strengths and interests that relate to starting their own business by 20%, as indicated by pre- and post assessments and participant surveys.

#### **Process Objective 1:**

By March 2025, an entrepreneursh basic skills workshop curriculum will be designed to decrease the risk of homelessness among young adults in Long Beach Rescue Mission as documented by the creation of a detailed program syllabus and training materials.

### **Process Objective 2:**

By March 2025, 5 to 10 young adults experiencing homelessness in Long Beach Rescue Mission will be recruited to attend the entrepreneurship training, as documented by the program's recruitment database

### **Process Objective 3:**

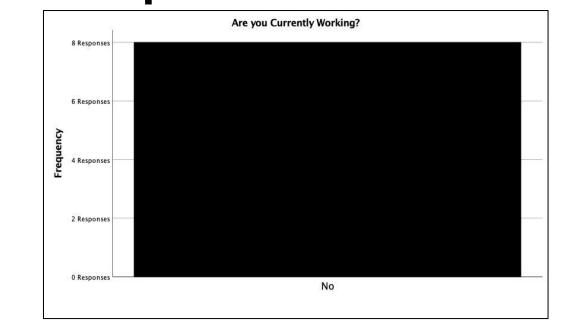
By March 2025, the entrepreneurship basic training will be delivered to 5 to 10 young adults in Long Beach Rescue Mission, as indicated by participant attendance records and completion of program modules.

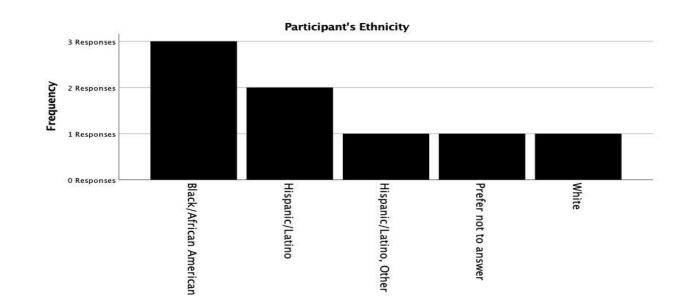
### **METHODS**

The purpose of this exploratory study was to understand the benefits of entrepreneurship training for participants experiencing homelessness. Participants completed pre and post surveys to evaluate their overall skills, knowledge, and motivation with starting their own business. This study was conducted in a pre-experimental design. The methods was a quantitative data approach, using questions to target knowledge, motivation, and skills of entrepreneurship. Data was analyzed for nine program participants who completed the workshop and surveys. The sampling strategy involved a sign-up process of those interested in participating. For evaluation of data, the analysis plan is demonstrated as descriptive data for skills, with inferential data for knowledge. Furthermore, the descriptive data selected was frequency data in collecting the results of the participants knowing the skills of entrepreneurship, with a paired-samples t-test ran to collect data on participants' knowledge of entrepreneurship. All data collected was with the use of the SPSS software.

### RESULTS

### **Participant Characteristics**

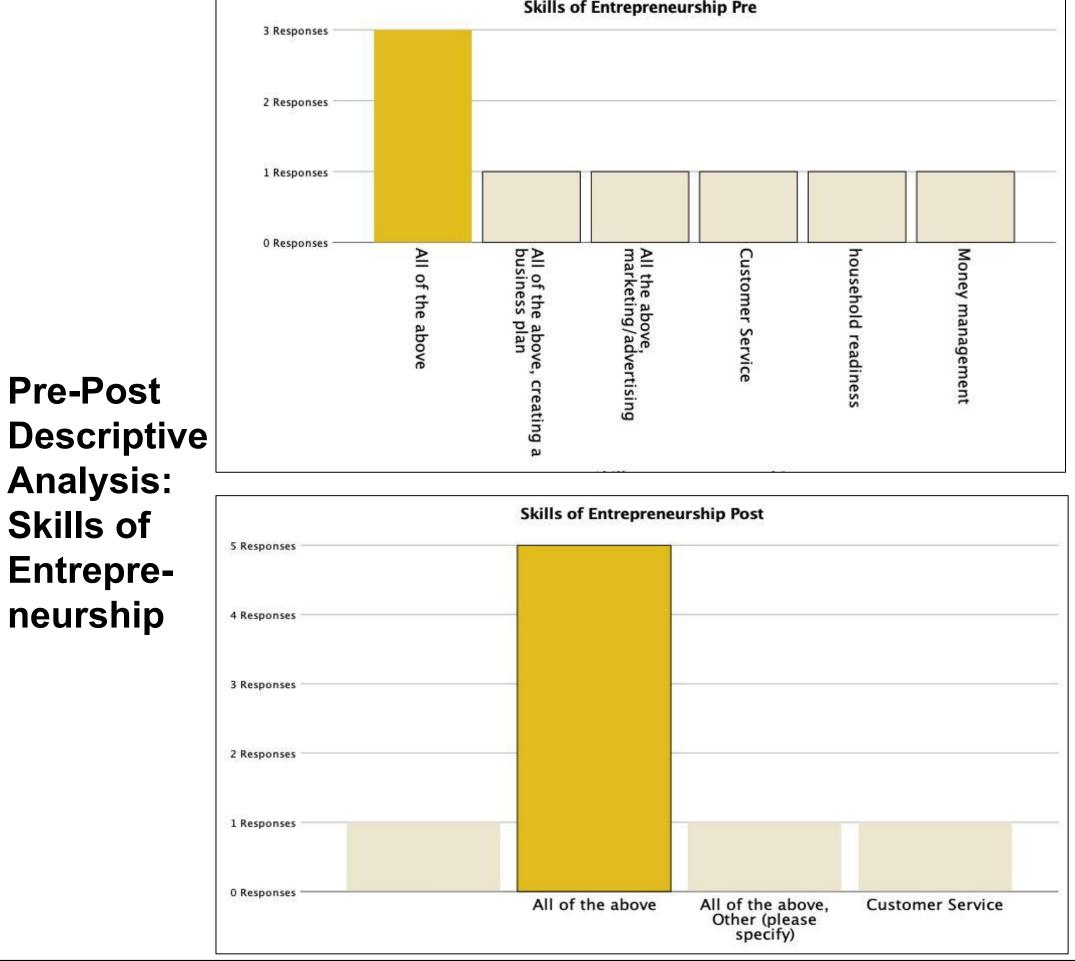




### Descriptive & Inferential Results; Knowledge & Skills of Entrepreneurship

### Pre-Post Inferential Data Analysis: Knowledge of Entrepreneurship

A paired-samples t-test was calculated to compare the total mean score of the pre-test to the total mean score of the post-test (highest score possible = 3) of participants' knowledge of starting their own business. The total mean score of the pretest was 1.57 (sd = 0.787), and the total mean score of the post-test was 1.71 (sd = 0.951). Results of pretest to post-test indicates the following (t(6) = -1.000, p < .356), demonstrating no significance in knowledge after implementing the intervention.



### RESOURCES

Crime statistics. Crime Statistics. (n.d.).

https://www.longbeach.gov/police/crime-info/crime-statistics/

### CONCLUSION

### **Analysis of Findings**

The entrepreneurship workshop modestly increased interest, with 29% reporting greater interest, 57% unchanged, and 14% not responding. This was further reflected in pre- and post-tests, where 25% shifted from "Maybe" to "Yes" on starting a business, while 62.5% remained consistent, including three who consistently answered "Yes." One participant did not respond to this question. After the training, 37.5% identified new needs like clarity on business idea and confidence, while 50% maintained needs such as financial support and training. Some shifted focus to support from others and quality of life. Half valued core entrepreneurial skills, and motivation remained high: 62.5% wanted to be their own boss, while 37.5% prioritized financial support and training. Missing responses account for gaps in the data.

### **Limitations & Improvements**

The small sample size and missing responses are some limits of evaluation. Clearer surveys and a larger, more diverse group would improve reliability. Checking prior knowledge could help tailor the program to different skill levels.

### Recommendations & Implications

Practice

The program showed moderate outcomes, emphasizing the need for tailored support for different age groups and demographics. Adding mentorship and hands-on learning would better address diverse needs.

#### Policy

 Serving middle-aged and older adults highlighted policy gaps in age-specific support. Targeted funding or grants can foster inclusive entrepreneurship and reduce barriers.

#### Research

 The small sample size limit the ability to generalize the findings to a broader population. Future research should include larger, more diverse participant groups to better understand how different demographics respond to entrepreneurship programs and improve program design.

### **COMMUNITY PARTNER(S)**

#### **Long Beach Rescue Mission Center**

Long Beach Rescue Mission is a place of healing and hope serving the greater Long Beach community by improving the quality of life of the hurting and homeless through loving and equipping them to be reconciled: • To God • To Self • To Family • To Society

#### Name of Collaborator

#### **Contributions**

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 Assisted with connecting and recruiting participant to the workshop

Provided event space

 Contributed by providing guidance and feedback during development phrase



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