AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION PROGRAM
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Industry Sector(s): Services
Product Category: Education & Training

Opportunity Overview

The purpose of the African American Family Life Education Institute is to teach African American families knowledge and skills essential to gaining greater control over their own lives. The major components of this empowering family life education program include: (1) Developing instructional curricula for family life instructors to teach family leaders. Two curricula are available: parenting education and couples education, (2) Providing professional development for Family Life Education instructors, and (3) Providing consultation to family-serving program leaders, policy makers, and scholars to improve the quality of family life among African Americans.

Markets & Applications

Organizations, both secular and faith-based, serving families of African American children comprise the primary market for AAFLE-I curricula and instructor training. In addition, policy makers in family serving organizations, government, and philanthropic organizations are the primary market for consultation in program development design and development.

Competitive Advantage/Value Propositions

The African American Marriage Enrichment Program (AAME)©
For male-female couples in married or committed relationships in which at least one member of the couple self-identifies as African American

The African American Marriage Enrichment Program is unique, in contrast to other marriage enrichment programs, because it is specifically focuses on the impact of the American social environment on African American couples and strategies to empower themselves and their families. It theoretically grounded in the literatures on marriage and family therapy, marriage enrichment, and the history of African American life. It was developed to address the ethnic and gender specific barriers to stable, satisfying intimate relationships for men and women.

The African American Parent Training Program©
Pulling together to Rear Our Children- They Grow Up Only Once (AAPT)
For adults (e.g. birth, foster, or adoptive parents, grandparents, extended kin) who are parenting African American children The goal of parenting, from conception to adulthood, should be to rear children to become healthy, happy, productive adults who can live to their fullest capacity. However, child rearing occurs in social contexts: families, communities, and cultures.
For those adults who are parenting in the United States, the challenges of a democratic polity and a capitalist economy mean parents should prepare their children for a highly competitive, highly stratified, and conflict-ridden culture. These environmental features are different from the historic, traditional cooperative, holistic, and conflict-avoidant values of the African American community. Therefore, knowledge about the demands of citizenship and economic participation must be enfolded into any effective parenting education curriculum for use with parents of African American children.

The African American Parent Training Program was developed at the request of the Moriah Fund to fill the educational void for adults rearing African American children. It is unique in its specific focus on the dual cultural contexts in which parents, grandparents, foster parents, and other guardians empower themselves and the children in their care.

Researcher Biography

Lorraine Blackman, Ph. D.
Dr. Lorraine Blackman's teaching, research and service are primarily focused on strengthening families to provide for the instrumental and expressive needs of their members across the lifespan. She earned her B.A. in Sociology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, her M.S.W. from the University of Tennessee and her Ph.D. in Social Work from Florida State University. Dr. Blackman's work centers on family life education as a primary and secondary intervention method and advanced practice with couples and families as a tertiary method. A related focus is on shaping social policies to facilitate family functioning. See www.aafle.org for further information about Dr. Blackman's work.

Development Plans/Needs:

1. Identify organizations to launch PREVENTATIVE parenting classes for adults who are or expect to rear African American children

2. Identify funding sources to partner with organizations to launch PREVENTATIVE parenting classes for adults who are or expect to rear African American children