



A WIDER CIRCLE

Final Evaluation Report

A Wider Circle's Partnership to Independence Program




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December 2023


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Key Definitions




Social Support Network:
A group of people (friends, family, peers, etc.) that participants trust and can turn to when they are looking for emotional, spiritual, professional, and other types of support.



Financial Management Resources:
Resources that help a participant through the process of planning and budgeting how their money will be spent or saved. In this evaluation report, we specifically refer to budgets, savings, and savings accounts as financial management resources.



Financial Stability:
A participant's confidence in their financial situation, without the fear of sudden threats to their livelihood. Financial stability requires consistency and self-sufficiency without relying on others for sustained financial support.



Participants:
For the purposes of this evaluation report, every time that we refer to "P21 program participants," unless explicitly stated otherwise, we are referring to the 12 participants that we were able to collect data from (out of the 15 total program participants for cohort 1).

Letter of Transmission

December 19, 2023

Mr. Eddy Ameen, Chief Program Officer
and Ms. Liz Anne Ganiban, Senior Program Director
A Wider Circle
400-A Atlantic Street SE Washington, D.C. 20032

Dear Eddy and Liz Anne,

We are grateful to work with A Wider Circle in conducting this evaluation of the Partnership to Independence (P2I) program. Throughout this Fall semester, we have learned and grown as evaluators, largely thanks to your continued support and guidance.

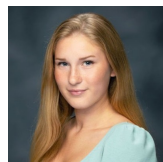
Enclosed in this report is our complete evaluation of the P2I program, as informed by our coursework and the P2I resources provided to us. First, you will find an overview of the evaluation's scope, a comprehensive literature review, and a detailed program logic model. Building on this foundation, you will then see an explanation of the research questions, design, and data collection methods that we chose to utilize for our evaluation. We then listed our data analysis procedure and findings, organized in six categories: participant mental/physical health, social support, financial management resources, and financial stability, as well as correlation coefficient analysis and participant feedback. Finally, after detailing our evaluation's limitations, we concluded with a list of recommendations.

As is touched on below, we were unable to conduct a pretest/posttest evaluation due to limitations of the data collected. Therefore, we were unable to make conclusions about the program's efficacy and operations. However, we were able to use the posttest- data that we collected in our final evaluation survey interviews to point out recommendations for future evaluation work and program gaps. We sincerely hope that this information can help improve A Wider Circle's P2I program and evaluation methods for its second cohort.

We would like to thank you, Eddy and Liz Anne, again for your help throughout this semester. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the attached report, please get in touch with our team's main point of contact, Kendal, at kendalfurman@gwu.edu.

Sincerely,

Kendal Furman



Emma Sloan



Sophie Legros



Executive Summary

This report was created by students of Dr. Erica Walls' course HSSJ 3100W: Program Evaluation. Throughout the course of the Fall, 2023 semester, we worked with A Wider Circle to evaluate its first cohort of the Partnership to Independence (P2I) program in order to inform the programming and operations of the program's second cohort. The P2I program is a long-term poverty alleviation program that provides wrap-around services to a select number of low-income individuals in order to help them and their families achieve sustained financial security. The program highlights 4 areas of focus: Employment and professional development, health and wellness, financial management, and networking and social support.

Our evaluation analyzed the results collected from Cohort 1 using a summative, outcome evaluation. It then used this information to make informed recommendations for Cohort 2, using a formative, process evaluation. Because the program's second cohort had already begun by the start of our evaluation, the purpose of this evaluation was to improve the already existing and running Cohort 2, as well as to inform future programming. To guide our evaluation, we chose to utilize a posttest-only research design as this methodology aligned with our data collection methods. Specifically, we gathered data by conducting structured survey interviews with cohort 1 participants following their completion of the P2I program. The research questions we utilized to guide our analysis are as follows: 1) What, if any, relationship exists between participants' mental/physical health and their financial stability? 2) What, if any, relationship exists between participants' social support network and their financial stability? 3) What, if any, relationship exists between participants' use of financial management resources and their financial stability?

To analyze our data, we used a correlation coefficient technique as well as a frequency distribution technique. Utilizing only posttest data, we were able to provide recommendations for the data collection process itself and to identify gaps in programming. Overall, our findings indicated that the majority of participants are currently not financially stable following the conclusion of the program. Specifically, we noticed a continued need for support regarding participants' mental health, networking within the program, budgeting and savings, as well as employment. We also found that there is a strong, positive correlation between participants' mental/physical health, social support, or use of financial management resources and their financial stability.

Going forward, we recommend that surveys and all other data collection methods used should be standardized, using the same questions for every year of the program. This consistency will allow for the inclusion of baseline data from the entirety of the program, comparing questions and outcomes between participants as well as across time. This will strengthen the evaluation process and findings as it allows for formal conclusions to be drawn. When recording data, we recommend that questions are categorized by the program component that they relate to. This will ensure that the data collected remains organized and consistent. We also recommend including a survey question that accounts for external factors outside of the program's influence that affected participant's lives and ability to achieve financial stability. We also believe that it would be useful to add an open-response survey question where participants can share their recommendations and desires for the program.

Furthermore, looking at the findings from our data analysis, we believe that participants may benefit from continued mental health support, more opportunities for relationship building amongst participants, further resources to encourage the use of financial management tools, as well as increased financial literacy and professional development education. However, we also found that participants greatly valued the program, as indicated by their comments from the survey interviews.

Introduction - Evaluation Scope

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

A Wider Circle's mission is to advance equity in the greater Washington, D.C. region by fostering the exchange of goods, skills, and connections from neighbor to neighbor, and by engaging in advocacy to address the root causes of poverty. As a result, the organization provides wrap-around services in an effort to combat poverty and homelessness. A Wider Circle provides a long-term program, titled the Partnership to Independence program, to help individuals achieve economic stability through employment and professional development, financial management, health and wellness resources, as well as access to appropriate community services. A Wider Circle's Neighborhood Partnership Program is based in its Ward 8 Hub office in the Washington Highlands community. This office, open to the DMV community, offers workshops related to workforce development, health and wellness programming, as well as family enrichment. While the P2I program's first cohort involved participants from throughout the DMV area, its second cohort has focused solely on Ward 8 residents.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A Wider Circle's Partnership to Independence program provides wrap-around services to a select number of participants—15 in Cohort 1—in order to help families achieve financial security. Upon reviewing the documents that A Wider Circle had sent us prior to our initial meeting, we found that the organization promotes participant self-sufficiency by providing resources in four focus areas: employment and professional development (ie. job coaching and other useful workshops), health and wellness (ie. stress management and nutrition workshops, as well as therapist referrals), financial management (ie. budgeting workshops, financial coaches, and start-up capital), as well as networking and social support (ie. social events and bonding activities). A Wider Circle also provides participants with holistic support such as stable housing and utilities, baby items, household goods, professional attire, school supplies, meals, and more. First, A Wider Circle would like the student evaluators to assist with the P2I program's fifth-year data collection. Then, following our analysis of all five years' worth of data for Cohort 1, A Wider Circle would like us to identify key areas of improvement for the P2I program that could advise the organization on how to enhance its future programming.

EVALUATION GOALS

First, A Wider Circle asked the student evaluators to assist with the P2I program's fifth-year data collection. Then, the organization asked us to identify key areas of improvement for the P2I program that could advise the organization on how to enhance its future programming for cohort 2. To accommodate the type of data we were able to collect and use, we focused on discerning the relationship between financial stability and the other components addressed in the P2I program (namely mental/physical health, social support, and use of financial management resources) using a correlation coefficient technique. We also analyzed the data we collected in the final evaluation survey using a frequency distribution technique to point to program gaps that could be improved.

Introduction - Literature Review

In order to inform our evaluation of A Wider Circle's Partnership to Independence (P2I) program, we reviewed existing literature on program evaluations relating to workforce development and financial empowerment provided in both the U.S. and abroad. In doing so, we were able to better understand important gaps in existing knowledge to provide essential guidance for the rest of our evaluation. We will begin by introducing our evaluation's key concepts, followed by a critical analysis of eight previous program evaluations. Finally, we will highlight important takeaways from our literature review, noting how this knowledge will guide our evaluation's research questions, design, and methods. Given that the P2I program has not been formally evaluated before, we drew solely from past program evaluations with similar concepts in creating this literature review.

EVALUATION'S KEY CONCEPTS

A Wider Circle's P2I program provides wrap-around services to help D.C. families escape poverty and achieve financial security. Given this context, our literature review's key concepts include "poverty-alleviation," "self-sufficiency," "workforce development," and "holistic financial wellness." While definitions of poverty differ depending on the country, we can define "poverty-alleviation" as an intervention that seeks to permanently lift individuals out of poverty and consequently improve their quality of life (What is Poverty Alleviation, 2021). Additionally, we define "self-sufficiency" as an individual's self-motivation to improve their situation and their capability to maintain this improved state (Youngblood, n.d.). We define "workforce development" as the process of upskilling workers for long-term individual and career success (Wooll, 2021). Lastly, we define "holistic financial wellness" as an approach that considers people's individualized needs as well as the many factors that influence their ability to achieve financial security (Why is a Holistic Approach).

U.S.-BASED EVALUATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

In analyzing the evaluation conducted by Ellis et al. (2017), we garnered insights on the importance of building trusting relationships in creating effective financial empowerment counseling. Implementing a retrospective pretest design and mixed methods data collection from financial empowerment centers in five different cities, this evaluation found that the dissemination of financial knowledge alone was not enough to empower individuals "to take positive actions on their own behalf" (pg. 123). Rather, trust-building between participants and financial empowerment counselors proved essential in alleviating poverty as it encouraged self-sufficiency as well as transparency about participants' needs and concerns. Citing that this counseling led to both psycho-social and financial development for participants, this study indicates the importance of establishing trusting relationships between workforce development program staff and participants in order to engender positive outcomes.

On a similar note, the evaluation of Duane et al. (2023) emphasized the importance of building self-esteem among program participants. This mixed methods evaluation implemented a quasi-experimental pretest/posttest group design to understand how workforce development program services could be tailored to fit the needs of domestic violence survivors. Notably, the study found that the program's continuous efforts to improve participant self-esteem actually increased program engagement and participant motivation. These efforts proved especially useful given that self-esteem issues are prevalent among domestic violence survivors, inhibiting their ability to improve their skill sets and seek out job opportunities. As a result, these findings

emphasize the value of crafting holistic approaches to achieving financial wellness that address participant needs to boost their self-sufficiency. Outside of domestic violence survivors, workforce development programs dealing with a variety of other vulnerable groups could implement similar self-esteem-building exercises to improve program results.

Furthermore, the evaluation conducted by Hsiao-Ying et al. (2023) cited the links between trauma and poverty. This study utilized a retrospective pretest design and qualitative data collection methods to highlight how trauma-informed care (that acknowledges the various axes of marginalization) enabled participants to develop a sense of safety and community that ultimately improved their vocational development. While the study denotes that there is a need for further research on the effects of trauma-informed vocational counseling programs, the evaluation does point to the benefits of holistic financial wellness interventions in addressing a wide range of factors that can impact one's financial security, including physical and mental health, race, gender, and more.

Finally, in reviewing the evaluation conducted by Edelhoeh et al. (2020), our team discovered the need for anticipatory poverty-alleviation programs that respond to changing economic cycles. This study utilized an interrupted time-series design and strictly quantitative data collection methods to understand the impact of South Carolina's TANF program on participant earnings. Discovering that the program only positively affected participant earnings during non-recessionary periods, this evaluation emphasizes the importance of responsive financial security programs that take economic downturn into account when planning interventions. Specifically, the study argues that programs should increase assistance before and during times of high unemployment to offset the devastating effects of a recession and to ensure that program participants do not fall back into poverty.

INTERNATIONAL EVALUATIONS AND KEY FINDINGS

Before we review evaluations from abroad, it's important to note the differences in how poverty is calculated between countries. In America, poverty is determined by comparing a person's income to a set poverty threshold (\$14,891 for a household of one, as of January 2023) that is intended to represent the minimum annual income required to cover basic necessities (What does Living). The following four evaluations that will be discussed include Sub-Saharan Africa, China, and Norway. Therefore, we will begin each evaluation analysis with a definition of poverty in these respective regions.

The first evaluation takes place in Ghana, where poverty is defined as earning 2.5 Ghanaian Cedi, or \$1.90, per day (Poverty & Equity). Conducted by Appiah-Kubi (2021), this study demonstrates the importance of community-relevant initiatives in addressing poverty alleviation. Appiah-Kubi centered their evaluation on several initiatives in Ashaiman, one of the largest municipalities in Ghana. In order to obtain a holistic view of how Ghanaian women have benefited from these specific initiatives, Appiah-Kubi used qualitative data collection techniques. Additionally, a quasi-experimental posttest-only group design was also utilized. Ultimately, the evaluation found that initiatives focusing on financial empowerment, vocational training, as well as saving and loan initiatives, were more effective at reducing poverty than giving out hard cash. By keeping the target population's needs in mind, this evaluation addresses the social and economic factors that impede poverty alleviation for women in Ghana.

With a similar definition of poverty as that in Ghana, the evaluation conducted by Ssempebwa et al. (2014) in Sub-Saharan Africa discusses the need for community engagement to inform program perspectives and participant needs. This study's data collection methods ranged from interviews to random sampling, implementing a retrospective pretest design to capitalize on this data. The evaluation found that poverty-alleviation programs that

directly involved input from targeted populations were more effective than programs that did not consult affected groups. The study underscores the significance of community input in programming, revealing that implementation without considering whether or not the targeted population perceives themselves as impoverished is less effective.

An evaluation of a poverty-alleviation program initiated by the Norwegian government similarly noted the importance of community-relevant programming. For context, poverty in Norway is defined as earning \$5.50 a day (Norway Poverty Rate). Analyzing the short-term effects of this program on various populations, this evaluation included women, immigrants, youth, and long-time social security recipients (Rønsen and Skarðhama, 2003). The program evaluators used survival analysis and hazard rate regression to analyze the data collected, as well as a multivariate hazard rate model to identify the different variables that can contribute to a person gaining their first job. They also decided to use a quasi-experimental approach to evaluate the program. Discovering that initiatives focusing on education and vocational training directly contributed to lower unemployment rates and a rise in personal income for participants, this evaluation demonstrates the importance of specific and considerate workforce development initiatives that target community needs in an effective manner.

Finally, Ma et al. (2021) encountered a different set of problems in evaluating a Chinese poverty alleviation program. In China, poverty is defined as earning 2,300 Yuan per year, or \$350 (China's Move). This study utilized a quasi-experimental pre/posttest which was conducted at the beginning and end of each year for four years. In order to collect data on China's Target Poverty Alleviation policies, the study also used stratified random sampling and questionnaires. 1118 households were selected from 25 villages around the Szechuan region. Random sampling was used to choose the final households that were evaluated at the end of each year. Ultimately, the study noted that households that were under the poverty level in 2013 had become financially stable and were better educated about the policies enacted, whereas those that were slightly above the poverty level in 2013 had less personal wealth and were largely unaware of the new policies. The disconnect between the central government and local governments was ultimately to blame, highlighting the need for input from *all* vulnerable or affected populations in program planning and decision-making, not just those falling below the poverty level.

TAKEAWAYS

To recap, the U.S.-based evaluations emphasized the importance of trust-building, self-esteem improvement, trauma-informed programming, and anticipatory interventions. Additionally, the international evaluations illuminated the importance of community-relevant and community-engaged poverty-alleviation interventions. Overall, these sources provide insight into how a program can engender effective, lasting, and culturally sensitive vocational and financial development among participants.

Another main takeaway from these evaluations was the idea that success can be defined through a wide variety of indicators that extend far beyond traditional conceptions of poverty-alleviation programming. Therefore, we plan to consider this holistic and individualized approach to assessing participant success throughout the planning and implementation of our evaluation. Additionally, this review has also taught us that survey questions can be intrusive or uncomfortable for participants to discuss with people they don't know. Therefore, we plan to take a delicate and empathetic approach to data collection to ensure that participants don't feel pressured, judged, or uneasy throughout the process.

Given that many of the aforementioned evaluations successfully utilize a mixed methods approach to data collection, we believe that this approach will similarly benefit our evaluation by gathering individual qualitative insights while also remaining objective. Specifically, we plan to conduct structured interviews with program participants (using a Google survey provided to us) while also drawing from existing quantitative data collected throughout the past five years of the program to inform our analysis. Furthermore, we plan to utilize a quasi-experimental posttest-only research design, given that the majority of our data will have been collected after Cohort 1's final days in the program.

Finally, the evaluations that we analyzed throughout this literature review have left us with several unanswered questions. Notably, we seek to understand how varying definitions of success can be measured to holistically depict participant satisfaction. We are also interested in understanding the implications of trauma-informed resources and services on poverty alleviation within the context of the P2I program. Additionally, we would like to look further into the links between psychosocial and vocational development. We also hope to understand how this program can further engage with its community to provide responsive and culturally sensitive care. Finally, we would like to gauge how the P2I program could anticipate and respond to changes in the economy to ensure participant stability.



Introduction - Logic Model

A Wider Circle was founded in 2001 by Mark Bergel, who successfully completed his PhD in sociology at American University (Ford, 2017). After graduating, two AU professors had urged him to teach a course on combating poverty in D.C, leading him to notice that some of his own students were living in an apartment with only a single chair and a TV. After this discovery, he began A Wider Circle and promised to “not sleep in a bed until everyone in need is able to sleep in a bed. I will sleep on the floor and the couch and let that inspire me to work harder on behalf of those in poverty” (Ford, 2017). Starting out as only a warehouse of donated furniture and a group of students who became interns, A Wider Circle has grown and expanded to offer a wide variety of services that take a holistic and inclusive approach to poverty alleviation, with no referral required.

The Partnership to Independence (P2I) program, launched in 2018, bases its approach on 17 years of organizational experience serving participants in workforce development, health and wellness care, and wrap-around support (D.C. open referral). Utilizing an outcomes-based approach and participant-centered programming, the first cohort began in 2018 and subsequently ended five years later in 2023. With the start of its second cohort, A Wider Circle is looking to conduct a program evaluation using both summative and formative analyses with mixed methods data to inform its new cohort. Thus, in order to inform this evaluation, our team has created a logic model to describe the thought processes behind this program, its intended outcomes, and the external factors that influence these outcomes. An explanation of our logic model is as follows:

CONTEXTUAL CONDITIONS

Contextual conditions refer to factors that are outside of the organization’s control. One example of contextual conditions is antecedent factors, which are factors that the program starts out with, such as assuming that all participants who take part in the P2I program are not economically stable, that the programs will be held in A Wider Circle offices and led by its staff, and that the organization is equipped to carry out its second cohort for three years. Mediating factors, on the other hand, are factors that emerge as the program unfolds, such as possible changes in staff, partnering organizations, or pro bono services, changes in the economy, as well as the rise of similar programs in the area.

INPUTS

The inputs of the P2I program reflect the diverse range of services provided to program participants. The organization takes in donations of basic needs (such as household goods, baby and toddler items and professional attire), school supplies, food, money, computer vouchers, and scholarships. It also receives help from pro bono lawyers, partnership organizations in the area who help with program workshops, volunteers, and staff who provide childcare support.

ACTIVITIES

The P2I program's activities reflect the essential aspects of financial and overall well-being that must be addressed in order for participants to achieve their desired outcomes. These activities are divided into four main components: workforce development, health and wellness, financial management, as well as social support.

Workforce development activities include career boot camps, job coaching, workshops on public speaking, a strengths finder class, and networking classes. Health and wellness activities include assistance with physical health, mental health referrals, stress management, and self-care workshops (including meditation, yoga, and vision board classes), cooking and nutrition workshops, and the distribution of cooking ingredients. Financial management activities include workshops on budgeting, debt, credit, emergency savings, and retirement, as well as financial coaching. Lastly, social support activities include networking, social family events for holiday celebrations, and peer support groups to form stronger bonds within the cohort.

OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES, AND IMPACT

The direct outputs from workforce development, health and wellness, financial management, and social support services include employment attainment, increased income from sources other than public assistance, improved sense of health and wellness, established and ongoing contribution to saving, improved networks, increased sense of social support systems, as well as improved strategic decision-making, planning, and critical thinking skills.

The P2I program also anticipates short-term and longer-term outcomes. In the short-term, the organization strives to achieve increased opportunities for obtaining and retaining long-term, career-oriented, sustainable employment, improved health and well-being of individuals and families, increased financial management and savings toward financial goals, in addition to established networks to promote support, guidance, and greater human connectivity. In the longer term, the program works to sustain economic growth for its individual participants and their families. Additionally, it seeks to help an increased number of heads of households or families in achieving economic stability.

The impact that the organization is hoping to achieve through its holistic and inclusive services is to help individuals living with low incomes achieve success related to employment and professional development, financial management, stable housing, and access to appropriate community services.

ASSUMPTIONS AND OUTSIDE FACTORS

A Wider Circle assumes that participants will come to every meeting motivated and ready to learn in order to reap the full benefits of the program. However, there are a number of factors that could affect participants' attendance or their financial situation outside of the program, no matter how useful A Wider Circle's services are. Natural disasters or other weather conditions, family or medical emergencies, the loss of a home or vehicle, or the loss of employment are all factors that could not only affect program attendance but could influence participants' financial stability as well. It is also important to note that the program is contingent upon how successful its participants are at the end of the program. The organization had previously assumed that a participant cannot be successful or economically sufficient if they are still utilizing government services. However, A Wider Circle has since questioned this strict definition of success and shifted its understanding of success to reflect differences in individual needs, goals, and concerns. Therefore, our evaluation will need to consider each participant's unique definition of success to determine whether the program was successful or not, comparing the individual's state physically, mentally, socially, and financially from when they first entered the program to when they left it.

P2I Logic Model

Contextual Conditions

- All clients coming in are not economically stable
- Programs will be held in A Wider Circle Offices
- The 2nd cohort will be carried out for 3 years
- Possibility of changes in staff, economy, other organizations emerging

Inputs

- Basic needs: Household goods, baby and toddler items, professional attire
- School supplies
- Meals/snacks
- Transportation support
- Childcare staff
- Advocates (A Wider Circle staff)
- Volunteers
- Partner organization network for referrals
- Donors, scholarships and foundations for financial support
- Pro bono services
- Computer vouchers
- Cohort members

Activities

- Boot camps, job coaching, public speaking workshops, strengths finder, as well as networking training
- Assistance with physical health, mental health referrals, stress management and self-care workshops (meditation, yoga and vision board classes), cooking and nutrition workshops, and distributing food
- Workshops on budgeting, debt, credit, emergency savings, and retirement, as well as financial coaching
- Networking events, social family events for holidays, and peer support groups

Outputs

- Employment attainment
- Increased income from sources other than public assistance
- Improved sense of health and wellness
- Established and on-going contribution to savings
- Improved networks and increased sense of social support systems
- Improved abilities in strategic decision-making, planning, and critical thinking

Impact

- Helping individuals living with low incomes to achieve success related to employment and professional development, financial management, stable housing, and access to appropriate community services

Longer-term Outcomes

- Economic growth for individuals and families
- Increased number of heads of households and families who have achieved economic stability

Short-term Outcomes

- Increased opportunities for obtaining and retaining long-term, career-oriented, sustainable employment
- Improved health and well-being of individuals and families
- Increased financial management and savings toward financial goals
- Improved networks promoting support, guidance and greater human connectivity




Critical Assumptions

- People cannot be financially stable or economically self-sufficient while utilizing government services
 - Led to a shift in measuring success (success does not look the same for everyone)
- Clients will come to every program/meeting and will actively engage in all resources provided

Outside Factors

- Natural disaster/weather expenses
- Family emergencies
- Medical emergencies
- Loss of home or vehicle
- Loss of employment
- Economic downturn

Research Questions

- 
What, if any, relationship exists between participants' mental/physical health and their financial stability?
- 
What, if any, relationship exists between participants' social support network and their financial stability?
- 
What, if any, relationship exists between participants' use of financial management resources and their financial stability?

The research questions outlined above are structured to address the main components targeted in the Partnership to Independence (P2I) program: financial management resources, overall health and well-being, and network-building. In doing so, they aimed to highlight the prevalence and direction of relationships between program focus areas and participant outcomes, namely financial stability. We chose these questions with the goal of better understanding the holistic factors that influence participant financial stability to ultimately address the program's concept of success, as explored in this evaluation's conclusion.

In order to craft appropriate and effective research questions, we needed to first understand the program's context, processes, and intended outcomes (Giancola, 2021, p. 303-304). We began by conferring with our client contacts to gain their invaluable insight. We also drew from supplementary information (provided by A Wider Circle staff) regarding the program's goals to guide us. In doing so, we produced a program logic model that directly influenced our choice of research questions by illuminating which key program indicators were relevant and measurable. In crafting these research questions, we also pulled from our literature review findings to better understand what has already been studied in the field of welfare-to-work programs. Additionally, after we began to collect and analyze participant data, we returned to edit our research questions so that they remained answerable given the specific, usable data we had access to (Giancola, 2021, p. 309).

Since good evaluation questions provide answers to stakeholder concerns, our research questions are indicative of the organization's questions and needs, as expressed by our client contacts (Giancola, 2021, p. 305). Additionally, our questions take into account the agreed-upon focus of our evaluation, as discussed in the scoping document signed by our team and A Wider Circle client contacts (Giancola, 2021, p. 308). Finally, our evaluation questions are clearly and intentionally worded without a specific outcome in mind to ensure that the questions themselves did not sway or influence participant responses during data collection (Giancola, 2021, p. 309).

Research Design

We decided to utilize both formative and summative evaluation types for this project. Namely, we chose a formative, process evaluation (which is employed to make mid-course adjustments that shape a program) as well as a summative, outcome evaluation (which focuses on how well a program met its specific long-term goals) (Giancola, 2021, p. 16-17). We chose these two evaluation types given that the purpose of our evaluation was to analyze data collected after the completion of the P2I program's first cohort, using our findings to improve the program's second cohort which began in October of 2023.

Specifically, we employed a summative, outcome evaluation because our research questions focused on determining whether or not there was a relationship between key program focus areas (such as health, social support, and financial management resources) and the program's intended goal of participant financial stability. While we did analyze participants' long-term outcomes following the conclusion of the program for cohort 1, we did not however decide whether to continue the program (as is typical of outcome evaluations), given that the organization had already begun its new cohort before we conducted our evaluation (Giancola, 2021, p. 17). Therefore, we also employed a formative, process evaluation by taking our conclusions gathered from an analysis of the program's first cohort to ultimately make mid-course recommendations that could improve the P2I program's current cohort (Giancola, 2021, p. 16).

Due to inconsistencies with the data collected throughout the duration of the five-year program (which will be further explored in the limitation section of our evaluation), we analyzed only the post-intervention data gathered from the final evaluation survey interviews we conducted for cohort 1. As a result, we decided to utilize a quasi-experimental, posttest-only research design for our evaluation; meaning that we analyzed only the data collected after the program intervention, without employing pretest data for comparison. We chose this design because the data gathered from our final evaluation survey interviews was collected only once, at the end of cohort 1's program. While this research design possesses its limitations, it does allow for the analysis and comparison of outcome measures (such as health status) across cohort 1 participants (Giancola, 2021, p. 349). Therefore, we can employ this posttest-only research design to infer correlations between outcome measures and participant financial stability.



Data Collection Methods

As mentioned above, our data was collected directly from the participants of the P2I program's first cohort. Among the 15 participants in cohort 1, we were able to collect and analyze data from 12 of them, resulting in an 80% response rate. We gathered data through structured survey interviews via Zoom, where we read questions to the participants and recorded their responses on a Google Form that included both multiple-choice and open-response questions. The survey questions that we asked referred to participants' health status, social support networks, financial and employment situations, as well as their opinions on the program. Additionally, at the end of each interview, we asked if the participants had any other thoughts they would like to share. In interviewing these individuals, we gained direct insight into the firsthand experiences of program participants, ultimately informing our understanding of the program's outcomes.

The survey was provided to us by A Wider Circle and incorporates questions regarding each of the program's focus areas. Because these questions were made by the organization's staff, they are relevant to the program as well as indicative of A Wider Circle's values and priorities. Since we are not a part of the organization and are not directly involved in programming conversations, this insight ensured that we fully captured the program's intended goals through our survey interviews. Furthermore, the survey provided us with copies of each participant's answers, making it easy to keep track of response rates and to compare responses between participants. However, it should be noted that, because the organization did not allow us to record or transcribe our interviews due to concerns about anonymity, we were not able to collect qualitative data that could have illuminated key findings unaccounted for in the survey questions, a constraint that is further explored in the limitations section of this evaluation.

In the appendix section of this evaluation, we have listed all 59 questions that we asked during our survey interviews, including participants' names and email addresses. Formal consent was exchanged between our site contacts and participants prior to the interviews and was confirmed by our team at the start of each individual interview. We also began each interview by reviewing the purpose of the evaluation, disclosing participants' right to refuse to answer any of the questions asked, as well as guaranteeing that their answers were anonymous and would not be shared without their consent. Finally, before we began asking questions, we explained that participants were free to discontinue the survey interview at any point. After gathering the participant data, we ended the survey by asking whether the information collected could be used by A Wider Circle for promotional material, specifying whether the participant's responses could be used anonymously, with their first name, or not at all.

Data Analysis

Before analyzing our data set, we first deciphered which survey questions could be used with a correlation coefficient technique, with a frequency distribution technique, or as quotations to be embedded in this evaluation report (reserved for open-ended questions relevant to the program's efficacy).

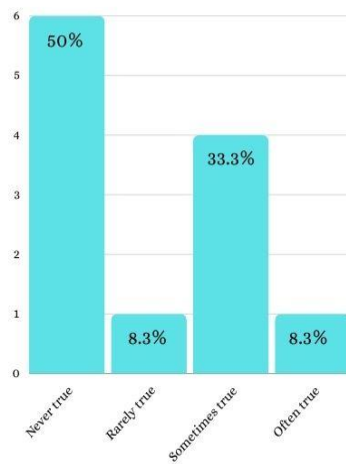
To effectively analyze the data that we collected, our evaluation team decided to employ the correlation coefficient technique, which is a statistical measure that determines the extent of linear association between two variables. Our analysis focused on three main components of the P2I program: mental and physical health, social support and networking, and financial management resources. Utilizing the correlation coefficient in Excel, we analyzed the relationship between each of these components and participants' financial stability. Additionally, in order to find these coefficients, the questions we chose had to be translated into data that could be quantified. This was done by coding participant responses. Then for each question, the average of the participant responses was taken and used to find the correlation coefficient. Through this analysis, we discerned the strength of relationships between variables. Coefficients closer to 1 or -1 signify a stronger correlation (on positive and negative ends of the spectrum). Coefficients closer to 0 signify a weaker relationship. This approach allowed us to discover whether or not these P2I program components were correlated with participants' experiences of financial stability. In the instance that there were associations between a program component and participants' financial stability, we highlighted the direction of the association to garner meaning from our data.

To answer our three research questions, we employed a posttest-only research design to analyze the quantitative data that we collected following the end of the program for cohort one in 2023. Our data analysis process began with the collection of information related to participants' program satisfaction and current financial, health, and social situations. For each of the structured survey interviews that we conducted, we recorded participants' responses using a Google Form. As data was collected, Google Forms automatically processed and quantified participant responses by the percentage of each answer given, utilizing pie charts as well as bar charts depending on the format of the answers. Therefore, in addition to inputting participant responses into Excel to utilize the correlation coefficient technique, we also employed a frequency distribution technique (a descriptive statistical method that shows the number of occurrences of each response chosen by participants) to analyze the data presented by Google Forms. These two methods of data analysis allowed us to decipher if there were relationships between program components and participants' financial stability, and if so, the direction and strength of these relationships. After analyzing this data, we organized it using a series of graphs and charts, ultimately interpreting the data to highlight derived meaning from these discovered relationships.

We chose a correlation coefficient technique because it allowed us to identify associations within a single set of collected data. Since we do not have a pretest baseline to compare the posttest data with, drawing correlations between program components and participant experiences of financial stability following the intervention was the most effective way to highlight the program's impact. Additionally, the correlation coefficient technique generates a quantitative measure of the program components that we analyzed to show the strength of the relationship being evaluated in our research questions. As touched on above, we also chose to utilize a frequency distribution technique in our analysis of the Google Form survey interview data as this method of descriptive statistics allowed us to easily and effectively summarize our data set.

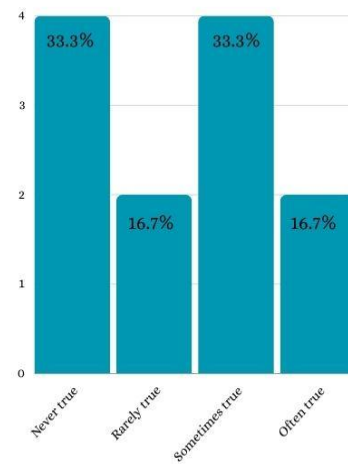
Findings - Mental and Physical Health

In the past 12 months, participants felt....

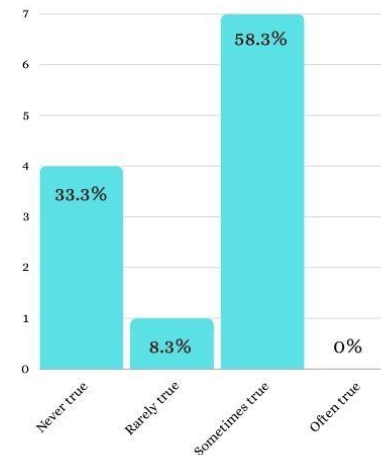


They had little pleasure or interest in doing things

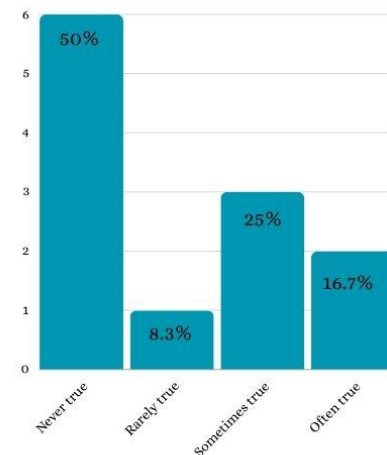
In the past 12 months, participants felt....



Down, depressed, or that things were hopeless



Nervous, anxious, or that things were on edge

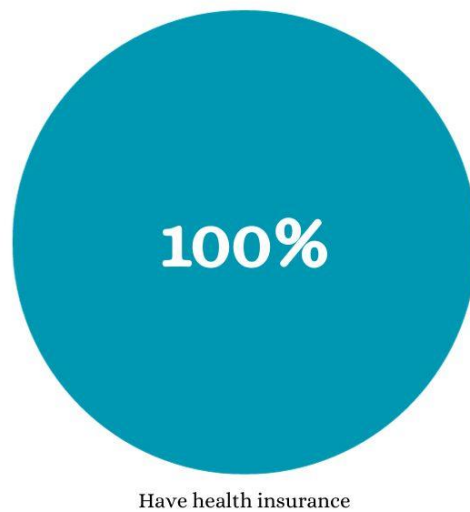


They were not able to stop their worrying

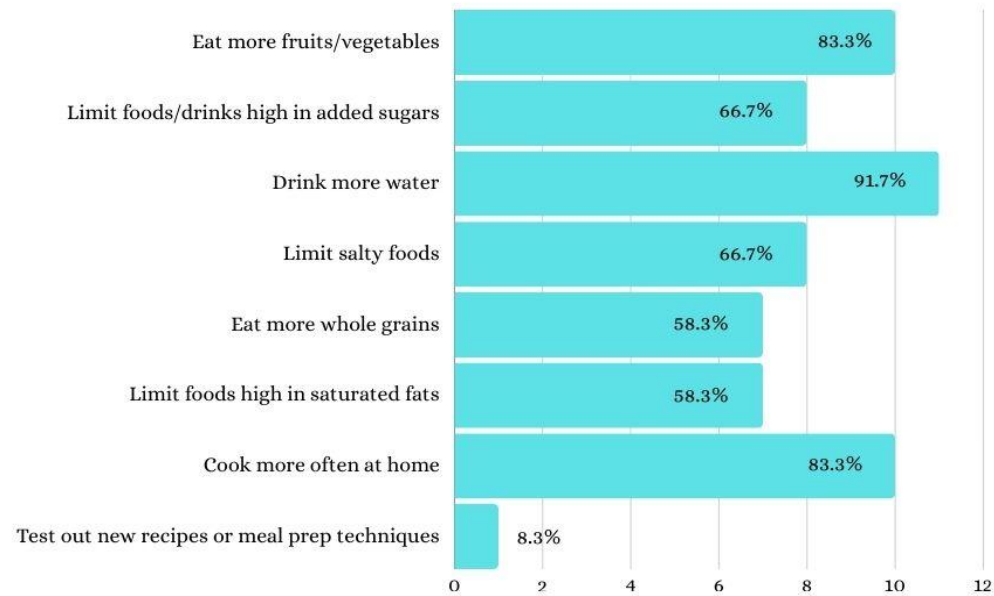
KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 41.6% of participants sometimes or often felt that they had little pleasure or interest in doing things
- Half of participants sometimes or often felt down, depressed, or that things were hopeless
- 58.3% of participants sometimes felt nervous, anxious, or that things were on edge
- 41.7% of participants sometimes or often felt that they were not able to stop their worrying

★ These findings point to a continued need for mental health support and resources given that a large portion of participants are still affected by mental health struggles such as anxiety and depression following the program's conclusion.



In the past 12 months, participants and/or their families have tried to....



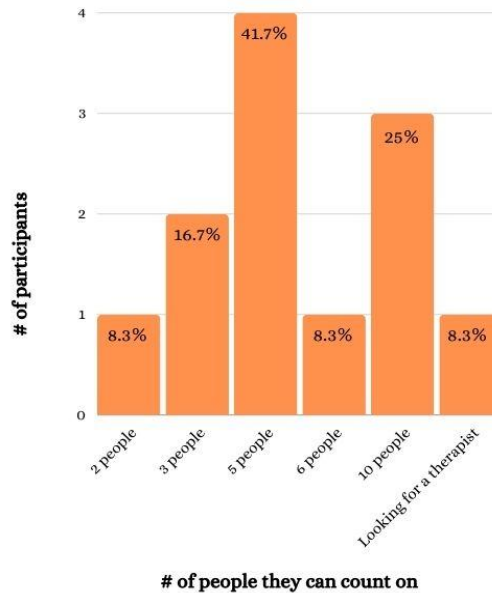
KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- All participants interviewed have access to healthcare, although it is important to note that there may be discrepancies in the coverage and care provided depending on the participant's insurance plan and company
- 100% of participants made at least two lifestyle/dietary changes to improve their and/or their family's nutritional health within the past year
- The most common lifestyle/dietary changes made by participants were 1) drinking more water 2) eating more fruits/vegetables and 3) cooking more often at home

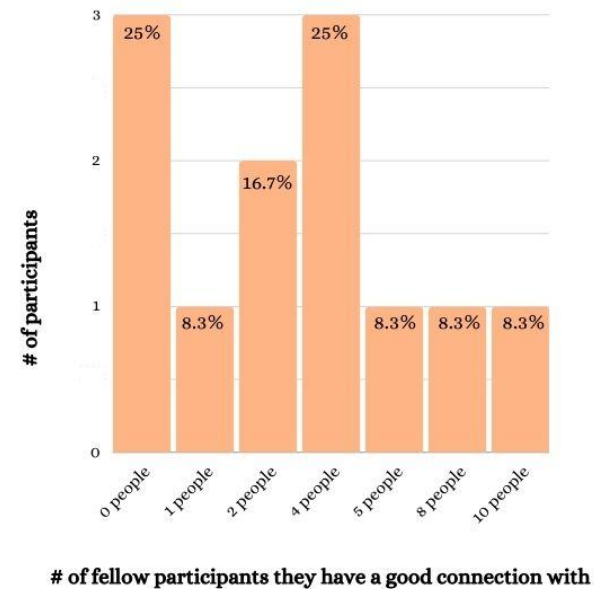
★ Only one participant indicated that they tested out new recipes or meal prep techniques within the past year, signifying a possible area for program improvement focused on providing/teaching new, healthy recipes to participants.

Findings - Social Support

How many people can participants count on for emotional or spiritual support?



How many fellow participants of the P2I program do you have a good connection with?

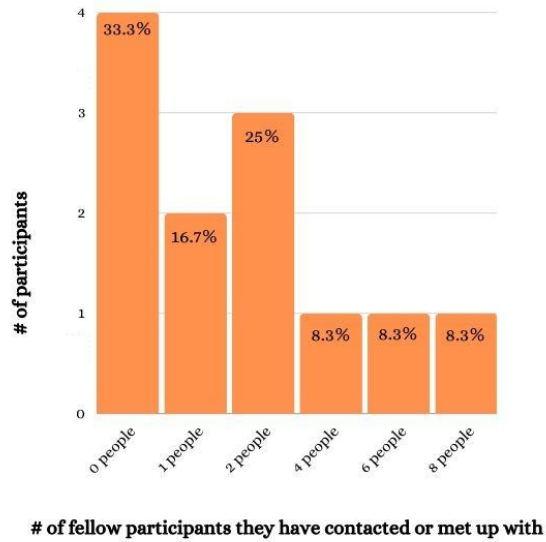


KEY TAKEAWAYS:

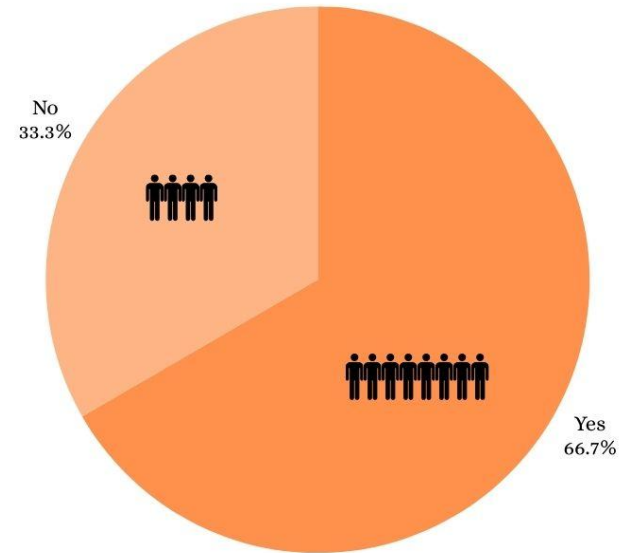
- The average participant of the P2I program can count on 5 (rounded from 5.3) people for emotional or spiritual support, assuming that the response “looking for a therapist” equates to zero people
- A quarter of participants made zero good connections with fellow program participants, while another 25% made 4 good connections with fellow program participants
- The average number of fellow participants that an individual in the program has a good connection with is 3 (rounded from 3.3), however, there was a wide range of responses to this question (ranging from 0 to 10 connections)

★ These findings point to a need for more activities and opportunities that encourage social interaction, networking, and relationship building between program participants.

How many fellow P2I participants have you contacted or met up with outside of program activities?



Do participants have someone they view as a professional role model?



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

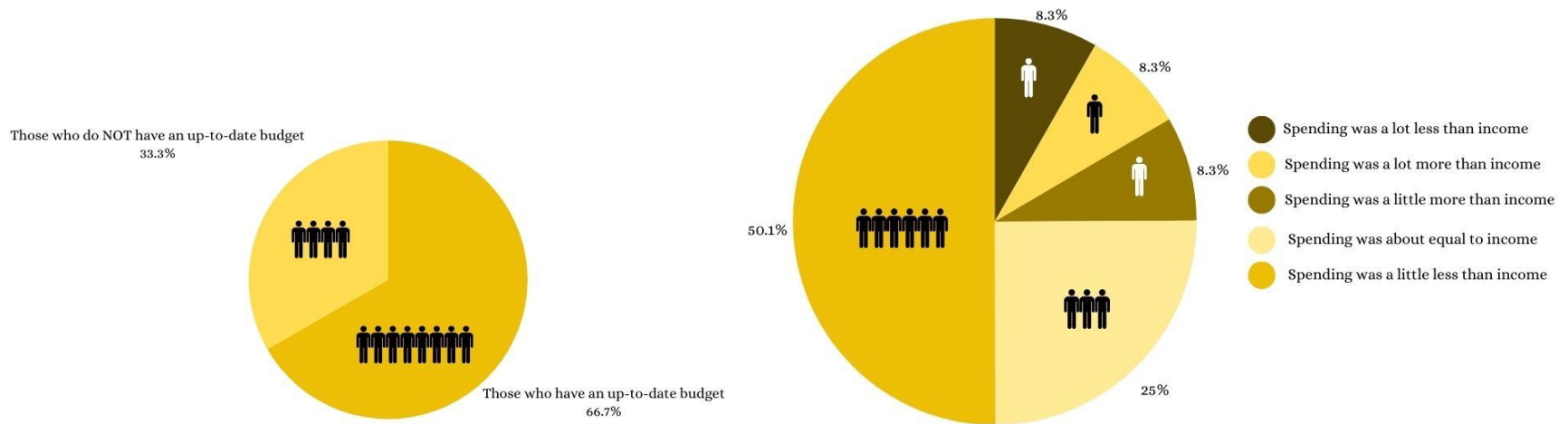
- 1 in 3 participants had zero contact with fellow participants outside of structured P2I program activities
- Only 3 participants of the program had contacted or met up with more than 2 other fellow participants outside of structured P2I program activities
- 2 in 3 participants have a professional role model whom they look up to

★ The majority of program participants have made at least one professional relationship, however, as touched on above, a focus on boosting interpersonal relationships between program participants may be beneficial.



: This symbol represents the number of participants (out of the 12 total that we interviewed) who responded with each answer.

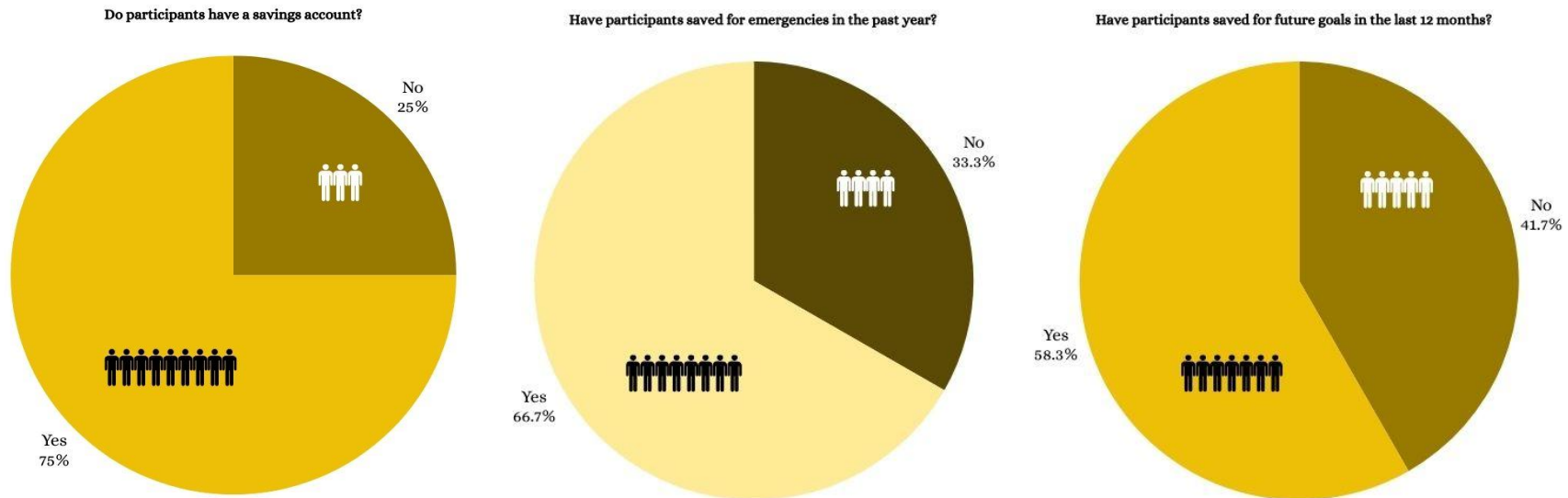
Findings - Financial Management Resources



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 66.7% of participants have an up-to-date budget, signaling consistent use of financial management resources
- 58.3% of participants have some amount of money left over after accounting for their spendings
- 1 in 6 participants are spending more than they are making

★ The program could implement more educational resources and activities to try to ensure that every participant of the P2I program is frequently utilizing a budget to track their expenditures and savings.



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- A quarter of participants do not currently have a savings account
- 1 in 3 participants were unable to save for emergencies within the past year
- 41.7% of participants were unable to save for future goals within the past year

★ Gaps in participants' utilization of financial management resources remained following the program's conclusion. Outside factors affecting participants' financial situations may have affected their use of these resources, however, a continued focus on participants' financial literacy and knowledge of the importance of these resources may be useful.

Findings - Financial Stability

In the past year, 50% of participants said that there was at least one month in which they could not pay all of their bills on time or in full...



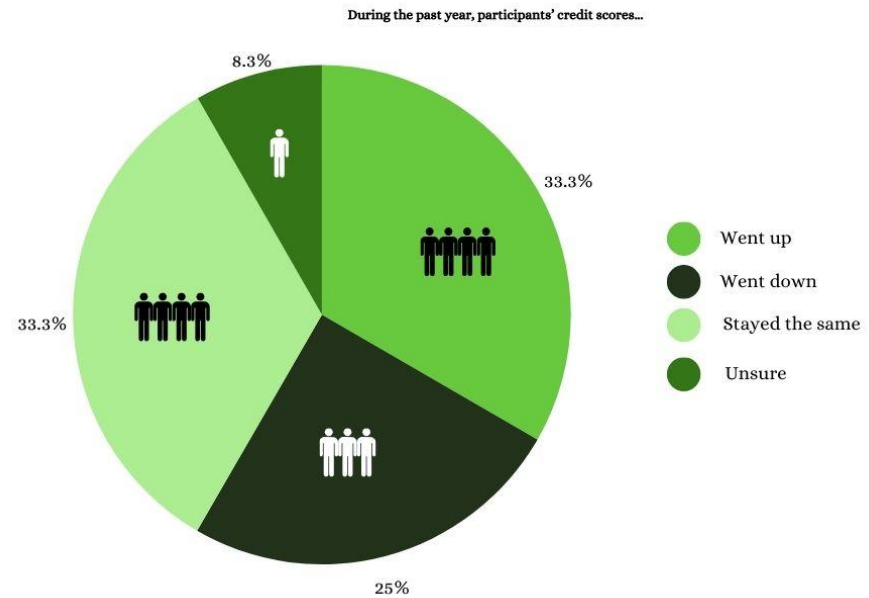
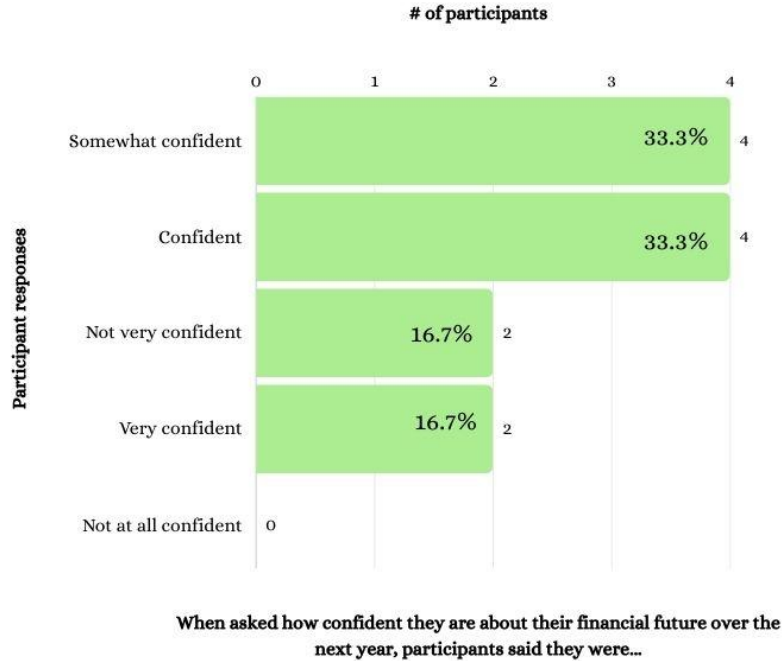
25% of participants are not currently working...



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- With a quarter of participants currently being unemployed, barriers to financial stability remain for some following the end of the program
- Half of participants were not financially stable within the past year, as they were not able to pay all of their bills on time or in full at least once

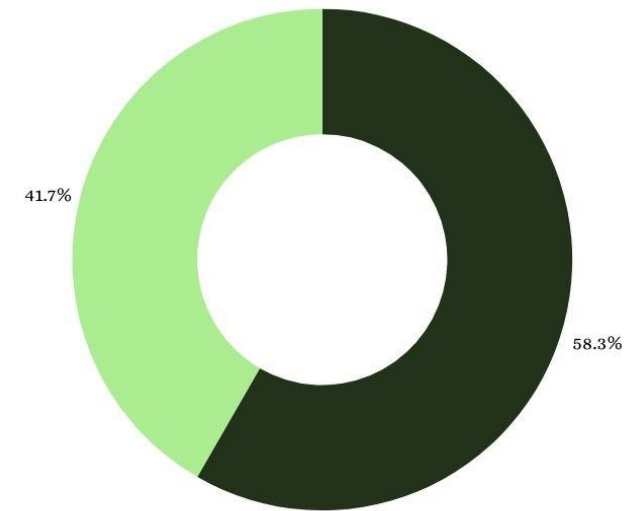
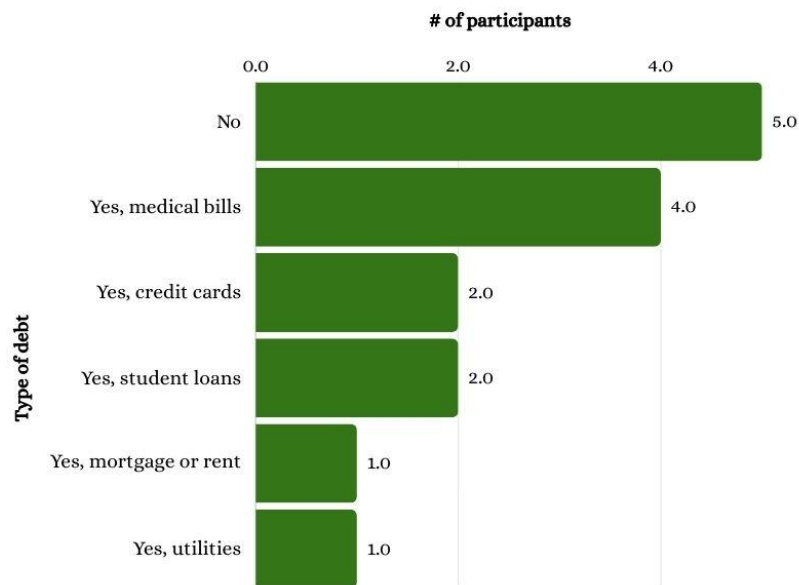
★ Given the high unemployment rate among participants following the conclusion of the program, participants may benefit from more professional development resources and access to employment opportunities.



KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 83.3% of participants were somewhat confident, confident, or very confident in their financial future over the next year
- A quarter of participants had an unfavorable change to their credit score (it decreased)

★ These findings signal that the majority of participants are not feeling optimistic about their financial futures, however, 25% of participants may benefit from more knowledge and resources about how to prevent their credit scores from decreasing.



Do participants currently have any bills that are past due, in default, or collections?

58.3% of participants currently have at least one bill that is past due, in default, or collections

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- 58.3% of participants currently have at least one bill that is past due, in default, or collections
- One participant filed for bankruptcy within the past year
- The most common type of bill that is past due, in default, or collections for participants is medical bills



These findings signify that over half of participants are currently experiencing financial instability in the form of being unable to pay their bills on time or in full. This signifies a continued need for support to aid participants in maintaining financial stability, although these findings may be impacted by factors outside of the program's control.

Findings - Correlation Coefficients



Correlation coefficient
between financial stability
and mental/physical health



Correlation coefficient between
financial stability and financial
management resources



Correlation coefficient
between financial stability
and social support

We found that there were relatively strong correlations between financial stability and mental/physical health, as well as financial management resources. However, the strongest correlation that we found was between financial stability and social support. All three of these coefficients are positive, signifying that, when one variable increases, the other increases as well. Therefore, generally speaking for the participants in the P2I program, when components like mental health or usage of financial management resources increased, participant financial stability was bolstered as a result. This shows that program resources aiming to improve participants' financial management, health, and social support are related positively to participants' financial stability too.

Findings - Participant Comments About A Wider Circle

“Not that I wouldn't have thought about getting things done, but A Wider Circle pushes people to **do and want more for themselves.**”

“If [people] are struggling, AWC provides them with services, treating everyone with **dignity and respect.**”

“Giving back one's **dignity.**”

“The program is designed to end poverty through **intimate relationships** and **one-on-one support**. But, the differentiating factor is **dignity** and that's what makes it special.”

“A Wider Circle has definitely been a **lifesaver** in my life more times than I can count. There are **not enough words** to describe what AWC and the P2I program mean to me, what they have been for me, and what they have done for me.”

“Someone may not know how to go through something, or how to make a friend. P2I showed me how to do those things - how to be **family** and **community-oriented.**”

Evaluation Limitations

POTENTIAL THREATS TO VALIDITY, MEASURABILITY, GENERALIZABILITY, AND WAYS TO STRENGTHEN THE STUDY

Potential Threat	Description	Ways to Strengthen Study
Measurement Validity		
Accidental misrepresentation	<p>Data collected from previous surveys don't display answers in a uniform manner. Some survey questions are cut off, some display only answers, and some are displayed on different platforms; PDF, excel, google forms, etc..</p> <p>Survey questions vary from each year. Some years have less questions, some have different questions all together. Answers could not be analyzed in an accurate time interval analysis and could not be used to compare to previous answer data.</p>	Create a uniform and consistent means of data collection. This includes displaying data results in the same clear and concise platform every year, and providing the same survey for data collection with the same questions each year to ensure that the data can be compared to the year prior.
Social Desirability/Evaluation Apprehension	Since the respondent was not sent the survey to do on their own, the interviewers had the responsibility of tracking their answers. Respondents could have felt intimidated/uncomfortable with sharing intimate details of their economic, health, and social situation depending on who they had as an interviewer and thus the answers they gave could have been biased/skewed.	Either have the interviewer or the person collecting the data be someone trusted by the individual who is answering the questions or have the participants answer the questions by themselves. This will eliminate the possibility of data being inaccurate or the participant feeling intimidated by the interviewer.
Sleeper effects	Data had been collected directly after their participation in the P2I first cohort. Some of the effects from this program could be more longer term effects that could not be captured directly after their participation in the program. For example, promotions in jobs, skills for buying a home, paying off debts, financial management, etc..	Provide a follow-up survey with the same questions as the pre and post-tests that occur every year or so after the program ended. This will account for any sleeper effects that are produced from the program since the program provides skills that can be used in the future.
Changes in definitions	Redefining the meaning of success as well as the goal of being self-sufficient changing to economically stable.	Provide one clear and concise definition of "success," "self-sufficiency," "economic stability," or any other words used during the analysis process. This will clear up any confusion as to what should be looked out for when analyzing the data and will eliminate any variation to the definition.

Potential Threat	Description	Ways to Strengthen Study
Lack of Dosage Differentiation	The survey does not specify how many programs and workshops each individual had participated in. Some participants might have gone to more economic based programs than others which would skew their results from the program itself and in turn, skew their outcomes based on the program.	Provide a question within the survey that asks the participant how many of each class within the different category of focus each participant attended. This data will provide the organization with an accurate depiction of how successful each participant was depending on how many classes/workshops they attended.
Mono-operation bias	Using questions like the attainment of a job as a measurement of how successful the program's outcomes were, does not properly equate to financial success.	Provide questions in the survey that are not primarily based on status. Ask more questions based on the participants' perception of their own financial status and not merely if they are employed or not or if they have debt or not.
Mono-method Bias	The survey relies on self-reported data and the program analysis only draws from that self-reported data.	There is a potential to ask for individual pay stubs or proof of income, although we recognize that it will not be received well by the participants and could hinder trust between the organization and its participants.
Measurement Reliability		
Multiple Judgment Calls	Some of the questions in the survey require subjective answers such as "excellent, good, fair, poor," "very much like me, not like me, very much not like me," and "never, rarely, sometimes, often." Respondents can have different definitions of the words that are used and in turn, skew the results of the answers they will list.	Provide a numerical value or range to the questions that ask about "never, rarely, sometimes, often." This numerical range will provide a uniform definition. Also by providing definitions of the other judgment answers will provide more uniform definitions and answers.
Capacity dependent collection/coding	The survey for data collection consists of 59 questions - some questions contain multiple parts. Each interview lasts anywhere from 45 minutes to 2 hours. Some staff might not have the time to collect data for 15 participants, meaning a collective 12-30 hours, depending on how long each interview process takes.	If it's possible, put aside a team of individuals who can have the time for the amount of questions that need to be asked and answers. More importantly, to increase respondents and people who are willing to administer the interview/surveys, cut down the amount of questions asked in the survey to around 20-30 questions.

Potential Threat	Description	Ways to Strengthen Study
Internal and External Validity		
History or Intervening events	While the program was in operation, the COVID-19 pandemic was taking place causing a downturn in the economy, a spike in unemployment and a lack of access to resources. This event could have impacted members of the P2I program in ways that were uncontrollable by the program itself and skewed the post test data of the program.	Make sure to disclose the surrounding events that have been taking place when presenting data. In addition, it might be helpful to run an additional analysis or ask additional questions that relate to the effects that COVID-19 could have had on the results of the program.
Selection or selection bias	The survey was not a mandatory part of the program and the results relied solely on “volunteerism.” The people who had volunteered to answer the survey questions could have been more active members in the program and in turn been more successful in the program. On the other hand, those who could have been more successful in the program might not have had the time to answer their survey questions and therefore, their answers were not counted.	If possible, make the completion of the survey a mandatory part of the program. If making the survey mandatory is not possible, maybe giving the participants an incentive for completing the survey in a timely manner will increase turnout.
External Validity or Generalizability		
Geographic Effects	The program results may only be applicable to the residents of Ward 8 in Washington, DC. This is because the program was only open to those residents and in turn, the data collected is only from the participants of Ward 8. The new program that has launched accepts participants from all over DC and may not be generalizable to them.	The evaluation cannot be drawn to make any conclusions for welfare to work programs in programs outside the scope of DC.
Multiple Treatment Interference effect	The P2I program consists of a number of different programs that cover different areas of health and wellness, networking, and economics. Within those areas of focus, there are multiple different classes and workshops offered. Because of this, replications of the treatments offered by P2I could fail to include all of the components offered.	Provide a list of the specific programs, activities and workshops that the P2I program offers and make that list transparent and accessible to other programs looking to replicate the program.
Interactions of Causal Relationship with Settings	The effects of the P2I program may not still hold true in a non-urban area. The program was held in an urban, city area and the results might not be the same in a less populated, less urbanized area such as a suburb.	The evaluation cannot be drawn to make any conclusions for welfare to work programs in nonurban areas.

Recommendations

The Partnership to Independence program has done crucial work in providing wrap-around services to Washington D.C. residents struggling to lift themselves out of poverty. P2I focuses on providing financial management resources, improving employment opportunities, tackling mental and physical health through connecting participants to health services, and building social support networks among its participants. It is clear through participant testimonials that participants were grateful for the program. Based on the survey interviews we conducted and the data analysis process we utilized, we can offer recommendations in two areas: data collection methods and program resources.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

As mentioned in the limitations, we were not able to conduct a pretest/posttest evaluation given that the questions in the 2018 survey were not identical to the 2023 survey. Thus, in order to evaluate participant progress throughout the entire P2I program, we recommend using consistent survey questions throughout the 5 year period for Cohort 2. Regarding the questions in the surveys, as the P2I program targets several different components, we recommend having clear demarcations regarding which survey questions are related to which component. This will help when conducting data analysis as it organizes the data clearly.

Additionally, there were some participants who had outside factors such as family hospitalizations, death of a loved one, and other extenuating circumstances that were not accounted for in the surveys but that dramatically affected their outcomes of financial stability. Therefore, we recommend adding an additional survey question which allows participants to share any external factors that impacted their financial situations, mental and physical health, social support, and employment opportunities. Finally, we also recommend adding an open-response survey question where participants can share any recommendations they have for the program. In this section, participants could list resources or training that is not currently being offered but that they believe would be useful.

PROGRAMMING GAPS

Using the correlation coefficient technique, we were able to determine that financial stability is positively correlated with participants' mental/physical health, social support, and use of financial management resources. Our data analysis findings indicated that the majority of participants are currently not financially stable following the conclusion of the program. Specifically, we noticed a continued need for support regarding participants' mental health, networking within the program, budgeting and savings, as well as employment. With this and our correlation coefficient findings in mind, we believe that participants may benefit from continued mental health support, more opportunities for relationship building amongst participants, further resources to encourage their use of financial management tools, as well as increased financial literacy and professional development education.

Conclusion

Our evaluation utilized a summative, outcome evaluation and a formative, process evaluation to make informed recommendations for future program data collection. We utilized post-test data to conduct our analysis, as well as correlation coefficient and frequency distribution techniques. While the correlation coefficient technique is useful for identifying variables that are related, it is important to note that correlation coefficients do not signal causation. Furthermore, while the frequency distribution technique can point to patterns among the data, it also does not signal causal relationships. Therefore, we were not able to provide any formal conclusions regarding the program's effectiveness. However, we were able to provide process and data intake recommendations for the ongoing cohort as well as point to some gaps in programming that could be addressed in the future, which are mentioned above in the recommendations section. While these areas of improvement are important to consider and may help to improve the program for its second cohort, it is also evident from participant feedback that the program had a positive impact on their lives.



The number one lesson Kendal learned from this process is the importance of remaining impartial and ethical when conducting survey interviews with participants. Given that many of the survey questions were asking about sensitive topics that participants may not feel comfortable asking, it was essential that we, as interviewers, asked questions in a way that was not leading, ensured that participants did not feel forced to answer any questions that they didn't want to, and that we remained empathetic and non-judgemental, regardless of the participant's answer.



The number one lesson Emma learned from this process is the importance of consistent and organized data collection. The majority of issues discovered during this process all stemmed from the lack of consistent data collection and unorganized data. The pre and post-test questions differed greatly and the display of data had been inconsistent across each year, making it difficult for us to draw formal conclusions about the program. Thus, I found that it's important to have consistent data collection methods in order to conduct a successful program evaluation.



The number one lesson Sophie learned from this process is the value of asking follow-up questions to the participants to ensure proper understanding and to garner as many details as possible that may be useful to inform evaluation recommendations. I found that participants tended to answer with one or two word answers, which tended to be less informative. However, when I asked follow-up questions, they often expanded upon their responses, providing helpful and informative insight that would have otherwise been overlooked.

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Appendix - Survey Questions

For context, questions with asterisks required a response, while those without were encouraged but not necessary.

*1. Do you have an up-to-date budget that helps you make financial decisions?

*2. Over the past year, which best describes how your income compares to your spending?

My spending was a lot more than my income, My spending was a little more than my income, My spending and my income were about equal, My spending was a little less than my income, My spending was a lot less than my income

*3. Thinking about the past twelve months, were there any months during which you could not pay all your bills on time or in full?

4. If yes, did you worry about any of the outcomes?

Losing your housing or being evicted, Losing your car, truck or other vehicle, Having a utility, such as heat or electricity, cut off, Defaulting on a credit card or student loan bill, none, or other

*5. How confident are you about your financial future over the next year?

Not at all confident, Not very confident, Somewhat confident, Confident, Very Confident

*6. Are you concerned that any of the following will occur over the next year?

Losing your housing or being evicted, Losing your car, truck or other vehicle, Having a utility, such as heat or electricity, cut off, Defaulting on a credit card or student loan bill, none, or other

*7. Do you currently have a savings account?

8. If you do not currently have a savings account, why not?

*9. Have you saved for emergencies in the past 12 months?

*10. Have you saved for future goals in the last 12 months, whether it be a car, home, college, business, travel, planned healthcare expense, or anything else?

*11. During the past 12 months, has your credit score changed?

*12. During the past 12 months has your credit score or credit history kept you from any of the following?

Obtaining a rental agreement or mortgage, Being hired for a job, Buying a car, truck or other vehicle, Obtaining a credit card, Obtaining a cell phone plan, Other...

*13. Please only count bills that are past due, in default, or collections. Other debts that you are current and regularly make payments on should not be included. Please check the types of outstanding or past-due bills you currently have and list the approximate amount you owe for each.

No outstanding or past due bills, Credit cards, Car, truck or vehicle loans, Student loans, Other people, Medical bills, Mortgage/rent, Utilities, or other

13 a. Please list the debt and amount due for each of the items listed above

14. If you owe any outstanding or past due amounts, are you in the process of paying back any of them?

*15. During the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?

Sold something to a pawn shop, Taken a payday loan in anticipation of an upcoming paycheck, Used a check cashing store to get cash in exchange for a check, Obtained a loan that required you to transfer title of your vehicle, Used a prepaid card you purchased with cash (not gift cards, public benefits cards), Obtained a tax refund on the same day you filed your income tax return, I have not used any of the above.

*16. Thinking specifically about costs, was there any time in the past 12 months when you needed any of the following but didn't get it because you could not afford it? Check all that apply

A visit to a medical doctor or specialist, Prescription medicines, Dental Care, Eye or Vision Care, including glasses, Mental health care or counseling, Vaccinations and/or testing against viruses, Other...

17. Beyond costs, which of the following barriers, if any, prevented you or a member of your household from getting necessary healthcare in the last 12 months? Check all that apply

Did not know where to go, Did not have time, Did not have transportation to get there, The place was not open/did not have convenient hours, Inadequate services/care, I did not think I needed care at the time, Some other reason

18. Does anything else beyond the costs and reasons above prevent you from taking better care of your health?

*19. How would you rate your overall physical health?

*20. How would you rate your overall mental health?

*21. Do you currently have healthcare/insurance including Medicare or Medicaid?

*22. If yes, what type of insurance do you have?

Medicare, Medicaid, Private insurance through an employer, Private insurance you purchased, Other...

*23. In general, how would you rate your overall eating habits?

Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent

*24. How often do you go to a full-service grocery store to shop for groceries?

*25. Where do you usually get your groceries?

*26. Over the past 12 months, how often were the following 5 statements true for you, and if applicable, other family members?

I thought my food would run out before I got money to buy more, I couldn't afford to eat balanced meals, I ate less than I should because there was not enough money to buy food, I went to bed hungry (including adults went to bed hungry so children could eat.), I used a food pantry or food bank because I could not afford to purchase food

*27. During the past 12 months, which of the following, if any, have you tried to do for yourself or members of your household? Check all that apply

Eat more fruits and vegetables, Cut back on food and/or drinks high in added sugar, Drink more water, Cut back on foods high in salt, Eat more foods with whole grains, Cut back on foods high in saturated fats, Cook more meals at home, Other...

*28. How many times per day do you eat fast food or food from carry-out, delis, or restaurants,

*29. How many times per week do you eat fast food or food from carry-out, delis, or restaurants,

*30. On average, how many days per week are you doing exercise or physical activity?

31 a. If you listed at least 1 day per week, where do you typically exercise? Check all that apply.

Home, Gym/community center, Park/neighborhood, Other

31 b. If you do not exercise, what prevents you from exercising? Please check all that apply.

Do not enjoy it, Do not have time, Too tired or too sore, Do not have motivation, Do not know how, Do not have access to a safe place to exercise, Cannot afford it, Medical condition prevents me, Other...

*32. Is there any activity you typically do when you are trying to reduce the level of stress you might be feeling?

33. If yes, what activity do you do to reduce stress?

*34. Please indicate the degree to which you feel the following five statements describe your situation over the past 12 months.

I had little interest or please in doing things, I felt down or depressed or that things were hopeless, I felt nervous, anxious or that things were on edge, I was not able to stop or control my worrying, I was unable to sleep because of how I was feeling

*35. How many people do you think you can count on for emotional or spiritual support?

*36. Do you feel satisfied with this number?

*37. Do you feel comfortable meeting new people?

*38. How many participants of the P2I program do you have a good connection or bond with?

*39. In the past year, how many participants of the P2I program have you ever called or met up with outside of structured P2I program activities?

*40. How often do you participate in community groups, sports or hobby groups, or social gatherings, such as a church, library, volunteer organization groups, or something else?

*41. Please rate your agreement with the following three statements about social support.

There is at least one person I can count on when I am in need or something goes wrong, There is at least one person I can share joys and sorrows, There is at least one person I can talk to about my problems

*42. Please indicate the degree to which you agree to the following 4 statements.

I have control over things in my life, I feel confident in managing my time, I can complete projects from start to finish and can keep track of what needs to be done., I am confident in completing forms by myself

*43. Please indicate the degree to which of the 3 statements describe you.

There are things I do well, I am confident in my abilities, I am not stressed out by small changes to my daily routine

*44. Using the provided scale, please describe the response that best describes your feelings about each of the following 7 statements. As a result of my participation in the P2I:

I am more prepared to apply for and search for more job opportunities, I have become more focused on my research or job applications for my career of choice, I feel more confident of getting and keeping a job and performing my duties on the job, I have acquired skills that will make me more attractive to employers, I am more confident in my long-term career plan and in my ability to achieve my career plan and goals, I am more aware of ways I can continue to develop professionally and grow in my career and, I am more likely to earn more money in the future

- *45. Do you have someone you view as a professional role model, someone you look up to professionally?
- *46. In the past 12 months have you participated in job/career events or accessed job/career resources either through A Wider Circle or elsewhere (job coaching, career fairs, job days, forums for professional development and networking)?
- *47. Are you currently working?
 - 47 a. If yes, how many jobs are you currently working?
- 48. If working, for each job, including part-time, evening, weekend, gig jobs, and otherwise, please provide the following information: Employer, Position and Title, Permanent, temporary, seasonal? Length of time in this job, Average number of hours per week, Average pay, Is average pay weekly, monthly, yearly, or other?
- 49. If yes, do you currently receive any type of employment-based benefits from your job? This can include paid time off, sick leave, health insurance, retirement benefits, and so on
 - 49 a. If you receive benefits, please describe any type of benefits you receive
- 50. If working, is your current position related to your long-term career goals?
- 51. Does your job(s) have any opportunities for growth or advancement? If yes, please describe.
- *52. Are you currently in school or any type of training program?
- *53. Do you receive any of the following government benefits? Please check all that apply
- *54. Please indicate to which degree any of the following 3 statements describes your relationship with A Wider Circle staff and volunteers
- *55. Was A Wider Circle staff responsive and timely?
- *56. How satisfied are you with P2I and the services provided?
- *57. Would you recommend this program to a friend, colleague, or family member? Why or why not?
- *58. How might you describe what the program has meant to you to a friend or family member?
- *59. Would it be OK if we used your comments in the previous questions to help others learn about P2I?

Appendix - Correlation Coefficient Data Breakdown

Questions	Financial Stability Average Response	Mental/Physical Health Average Response	Questions
Q2	2.58	2.58	Q19
Q5	3.5	2	Q24
Q10	2.83	2.75	Q23
Q11	1.58	3.83	Q34a
Q14	1.75	2.25	Q34b
	Correlation Coefficient: 0.62		
	Financial Stability Average Response	Social Support	
Q2	2.58	2.92	Q37
Q5	3.5	2.75	Q40
Q10	2.83	4	Q41a
Q11	1.58	4	Q41b
Q14	1.75	3.92	Q41c
	Correlation Coefficient: 0.71		
	Financial Stability Average Response	Financial Management Resources	
Q2	2.58	1.67	Q1
Q5	3.5	1.5	Q3
Q10	2.83	1.75	Q7
Q11	1.58	1.67	Q9
Q14	1.75	1.75	Q47
	Correlation Coefficient: 0.63		