








Our Mission: To help people of “all colors” enhance their own economic and education goals.

The organization has a bold and ambitious goal to impact 3,000 individuals in select communities by 2030, serving 350 annually. As a servant leader, the Executive Director holds strongly that we, as a society should not rely on other structures to begin the conversation around those who struggle economically but to change the narrative from an advocacy and innovative perspective.

What We Achieved This Year

-  **75%** | Employment Placement Rate
-  **\$20.45** | Average Hourly Wage
-  **\$1.2M** | Secured Funding
-  **100+** | Strong Partnerships
-  **75%** | Have Permanent Housing
-  **\$680K** | Secured Towards Workforce Development
-  **40** | Youth placed in a paid work-based learning opportunity

About Our Organization



Minority & Female Owned



Talented & Diverse Team



Based On Chicago's Southside



80% Women of Color



100% Female Operated



100% African American Staff



88% African American Board of Directors



71% Female African American Board of Directors

Our Success Story **Illinois Youth Investment Program Participant:**

Aaliyah E., 19 years old, High School Graduate

It was a confusing time,” Aaliyah recounted when asked to reflect on how she felt about her employment prospects during the COVID-19 crisis. “When you’re young and don’t have a lot of work experience, it’s kind of hard to know where to start.”

Feeling overwhelmed and unsure about her next move, Aaliyah saw a flyer about Of Color, Inc’s (OCI) Illinois Youth Investment Program (IYIP). After speaking with OCI’s program staff, Aaliyah decided to take a leap of faith and enrolled in the Program shortly thereafter.

Aaliyah appreciated the valuable employment and life skills she attained during job readiness training. “It was amazing. I learned so many things like how to look for and prepare for a job, employer expectations and unspoken rules of the workplace – like staying away from gossipers and trouble starters!”

After successfully completing a paid work experience with OCI business partner, Walgreens Corporation, Aaliyah felt confident – both about the newly developed workplace skills she attained AND her future.

As a result of Aaliyah’s leap of faith and the employment preparation and valuable work experience she received through OCI’s IYIP program, she received a full-time offer of employment from Dart Container Corporation! “I really appreciate everything Of Color, Inc has done for me in helping me to achieve this goal and helping me get to the next phase of my life.”

