

The **Technical Assistance Academy (TAA)**, launched in Spring 2025 under **The Redirect Collective at Palmetto Project**, equips **Credible Messengers**, *community leaders of violence interruption and transformative mentorship*, with the skills, networks, and support to drive transformational community change.

Over four months, seven stipend-supported participants engaged in seven structured sessions blending technical instruction, cultural fluency, and healing-centered leadership development.

KEY OUTCOMES



PROGRAM CAPACITY

Messengers gained practical tools in analysis, management, and operational planning



CULTURAL AUTHORITY

Ancestral and lived knowledge affirmed as valid sources of leadership



SUSTAINABILITY INSIGHT

Cohort developed strategies for financial stability, systemic critique, and long-term community impact

WHO ARE CREDIBLE MESSENGERS?

LEADERS SHAPED BY LIVED EXPERIENCE:

- Formerly incarcerated entrepreneurs, violence interrupters, youth advocates, and parents who have endured personal tragedy
- Trusted community leaders operating in youth mentorship, reentry support, violence prevention, and healing justice
- They embody what traditional credentials cannot replicate: *credibility forged through resilience, service, and survival*

WHAT MADE THE ACADEMY WORK

CREDIBLE PEDAGOGY

Co-created, community responsive, and trauma-aware design

ETHICAL COMPENSATION

Stipends affirmed that community labor is professional labor

COHESIVE FACILITATION

Three-person facilitation team bridging research, coaching, and nonprofit leadership

TRUST-BUILDING

Flexible, relational structure rooted in accountability and presence



KEY NUMBERS

7

COHORT SIZE

Credible Messengers
(4 men, 3 women)

20+

HOURS

Direct Facilitation +
Self-Guided Assignments

4

MONTHS

March 2025
through July 2025

ESTIMATED REACH PER YEAR



**YOUTH
MENTORED**



**COMMUNITY MEMBERS
ENGAGED**



**PEOPLE REACHED BY
ORGANIZATIONAL INFLUENCE**



**COLLECTIVE LIVES
IMPACTED**

NEXT STEPS:



Cohort expansion and recruitment



Longitudinal evaluation



Wraparound supports and institutional
partnerships for education, justice, &
health services

Impact doesn't start
with paperwork—
it starts with
presence.

BRITTANY SINGLETON, TAA COHORT MEMBER

The Academy is more than a training program—
it is a catalyst for transformation.

The themes and outcomes captured here show Credible Messengers translating lived experience into strategy, building trust where systems cannot, and generating early signals of lasting change. Investing in these leaders ensures that overlooked outcomes mature into measurable, systemic impact.

THE WHY

SCALABLE MODEL

Proven framework for replication
across regions

MEASURABLE IMPACT

Thousands of residents reached annually;
trust and safety strengthened where
institutions have failed

EQUITY IN ACTION

Shifts resources to frontline leaders often
excluded from systems of support

URGENCY

Without timely reinvestment, grassroots
leadership capacity risks burnout and erosion



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