



The Build UP model is guided by four Core Philosophical Pillars that underpin the model. These are:

1. **Equity equals ownership:** Students earn two properties with zero-interest mortgages upon graduating, and build financial capital through bi-weekly educational stipends as they progress through the program. Owning a home offers a sense of pride, contributes to social stability, and results in wealth through appreciation and the earning of equity.
2. **Quality career focused education:** All learning is fully integrated and embedded throughout the youths' lives, work, and academic plan. This allows them to both close academic gaps that persisted through their middle school years and pursue new learning paths that are accessible despite these gaps. In addition, youth must also demonstrate personal and professional mastery, including workplace-appropriate behavior, punctuality, and consistent attendance.
3. **Catalytic cross-sector partnerships:** The purpose of these partnerships is to engage a large set of community stakeholders, from private-industry employers to non-profit mental health providers to municipal governments, in guiding and supporting Build UP youth as they traverse the program.
4. **Local leadership equipped for local solutions:** Build UP strives to deliver a holistic experience that inspires a compassionate local citizenry to commit to and deliver on its community's improvement and sustained vitality. For a community to recover in ways that maintain its composition, integrity, and dignity, solutions must be anchored within that community, empowering and activating its members with the knowledge and skills necessary for productive and sustained positive transformation.