









Sid Pailla

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THE ECONOMIC POWER TONIGHT

ECONOMIC MOBILITY THROUGH FINANCIAL WELLNESS & ESAs

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As Featured In [The New York Times](#) and [The Wall Street Journal](#)

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| MEET SARAH

Sarah's immediate future & retirement are vulnerable to unexpected financial shocks. 2 in 3 workers are like Sarah.



MEET SARAH

Clinical
Associate

Earns
\$22 / hour

<\$2,000 in
savings



| MASSIVE PROBLEM: FINANCIALLY VULNERABLE WORKERS

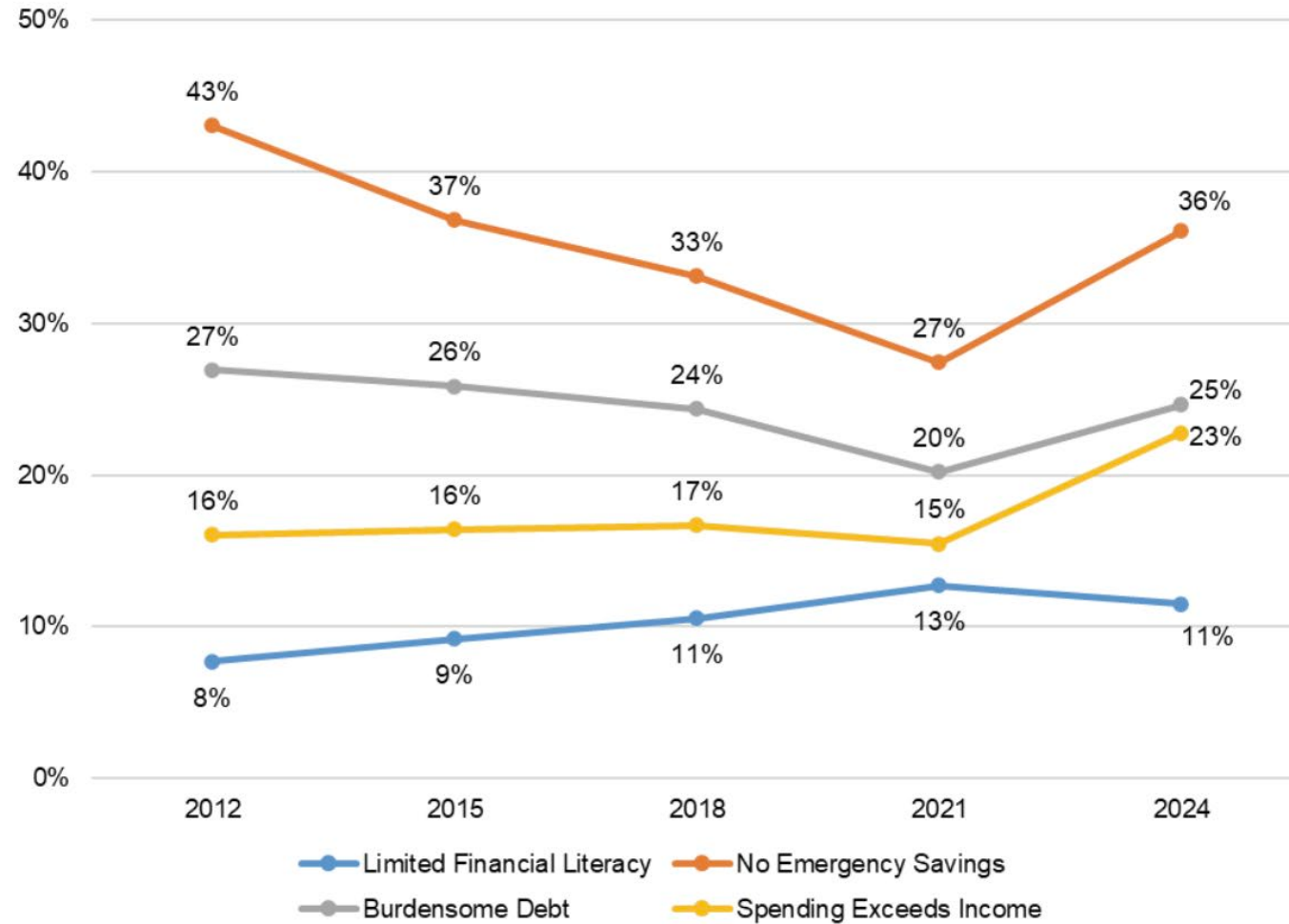
37% of Americans can't cover \$400 savings with cash or a credit card, paid off before interest¹



¹2025 Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking (SHED) – by Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

| MASSIVE PROBLEM: FINANCIALLY VULNERABLE WORKERS

Figure 2. Prevalence of Financial Vulnerabilities Among Retirement Savers, 2012–2024



Source: FINRA Foundation, National Financial Capability Study (2012–2024)

| FINANCIAL STRESS → IMPACT ON HEALTH, & HEALTHCARE COSTS

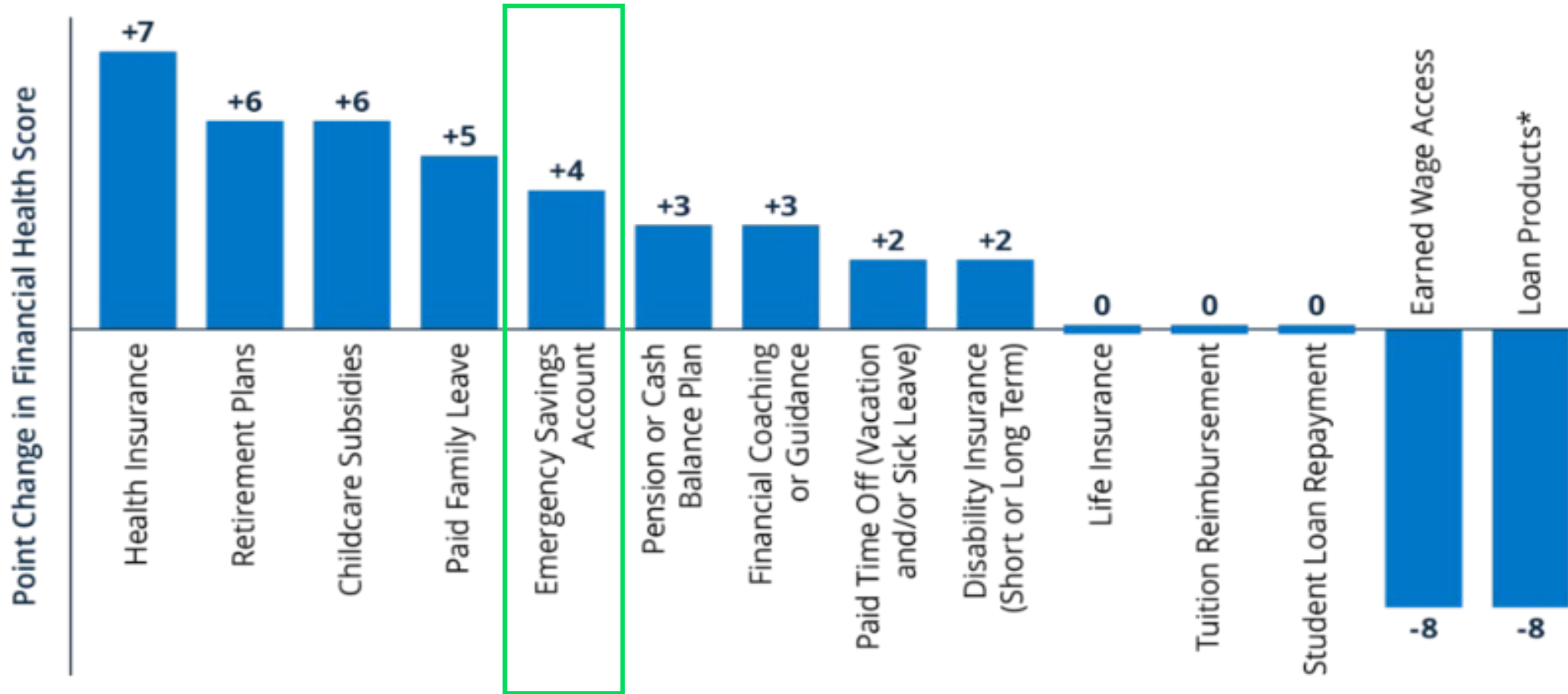
Not only did the ***people under greater financial stress tend to have more-advanced cardiovascular aging***, but the degree of aging was also similar to or even exceeded what doctors would expect to see as a result of many known medical risks to heart health, such as ***high blood pressure, diabetes or smoking***.

Kiplinger

Kiplinger: “Is Money Making You Sick?” Jun, 2026.

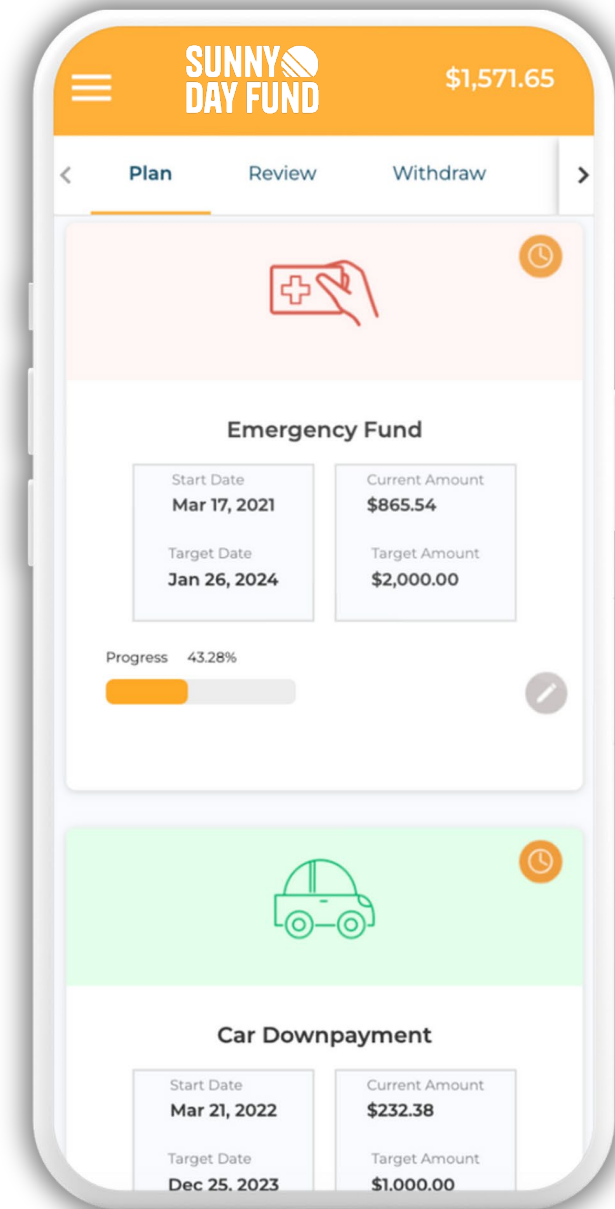
<https://www.kiplinger.com/personal-finance/is-money-making-you-sick>

| ESSENTIAL BENEFITS THAT WORK



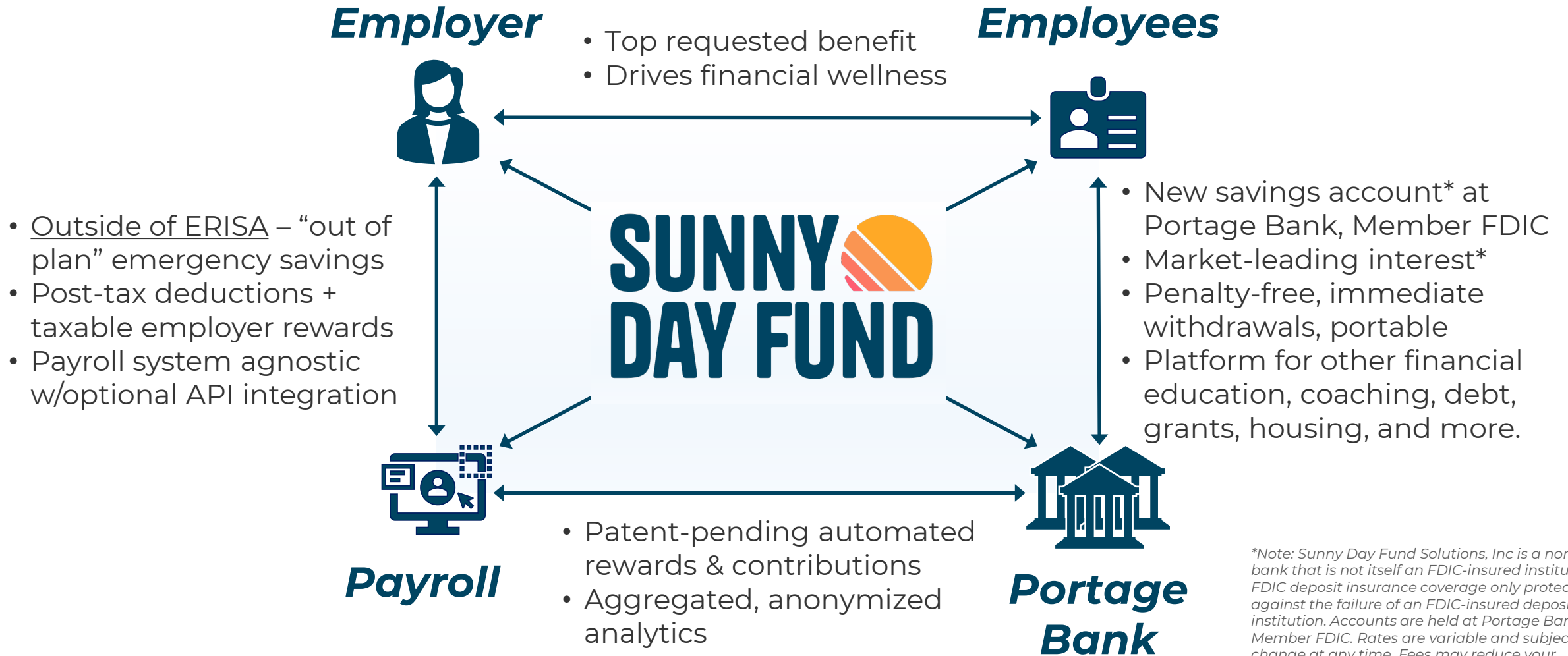
Financial Health Network Research, Oct 2025

We make **saving easy, accessible, and rewarding** – for both employees and employers.



| HOW WORKPLACE EMERGENCY SAVINGS WORK

We automate & incentivize savings *behavior*.



*Note: Sunny Day Fund Solutions, Inc is a non-bank that is not itself an FDIC-insured institution. FDIC deposit insurance coverage only protects against the failure of an FDIC-insured depository institution. Accounts are held at Portage Bank, Member FDIC. Rates are variable and subject to change at any time. Fees may reduce your earnings. Withdrawal restrictions apply.

| CASE STUDY

Mid-sized Behavioral Health Nonprofit Leader.

76% voluntary enrollment
\$68 / month average contribution
Leveraged SCA obligations

CUSTOM-DESIGNED SAVINGS REWARD MODEL

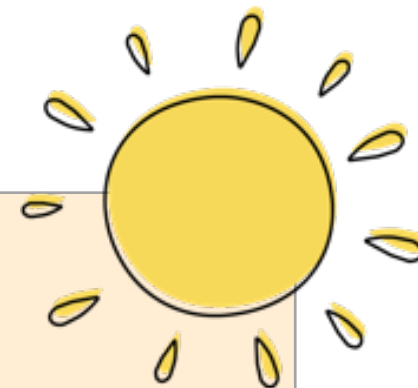
Sign Up Bonus:	\$100
Annual Max Cap:	\$1,000 (Hourly) \$2,000 (Salaried)
Reward Model:	Balance-based
Reward Rate:	20%



“

Our goal is to ensure that employees feel financially secure, not only in the long term but also in their day-to-day lives. Sunny Day Fund **provided the right model and flexibility to meet the diverse needs of our workforce**”

- Executive Director





-19.5%

Lower turnover rate
among Savers vs. Eligible,
since Q4 2024

Adam Schuster
Executive Director
Illinois Center For Employee Ownership





ILLINOIS CENTER FOR EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP

Adam Schuster

Executive Director

AdamS@IL-CEO.org

Building Economic Power Through Employee Ownership



EO 101

- Broad Based Employee Ownership
 - Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP)
 - Worker Co-Operative
 - Employee Ownership Trust
 - Direct Ownership Models

All forms of employee ownership can help preserve business legacy, keep jobs local, support succession planning, and provide employees with a stake in the company's success. The best structure depends on the company's size, goals, culture, and financial situation.

Benefits of Shared Ownership: Workers

- ✓ Increased Job Satisfaction
- ✓ Skill Building
- ✓ Real Wealth Building

Benefits of Shared Ownership: Communities

- ✓ Job Retention
- ✓ Strengthen Local Economies
- ✓ Productivity
- ✓ Resilience



Benefits of Shared Ownership: Business Owners

- ✓ Proven Succession Strategy
- ✓ Preserve Legacy and Culture
- ✓ Market Value & Tax Advantages
- ✓ Pay it Forward, reward workers





ILLINOIS CENTER FOR EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP

Thank You

Adam Schuster
Executive Director
AdamS@IL-CEO.org

G. Sequane Lawrence
President & CEO
Revolution Institute





Employee Ownership

The Cultural Context

Sequane Lawrence
Revolution Institute



A graphic featuring a black sign with a white border, tilted slightly to the right. The sign is set against a background of orange and black flames. The text on the sign is in a bold, sans-serif font. The words "ECONOMIC" and "POWER" are in white, while "HOT TAKE" is in orange. A horizontal white line separates the top two words from the bottom two.

**ECONOMIC
POWER**

HOT TAKE





Adam Paltrineri

**Career Services Manager, More Than
Words**





MGM.COM

SOME PEOPLE SEE A BOOKSTORE

SOME PEOPLE SEE A RESALE BUSINESS

THEY SEE SOMETHING ELSE



A PLACE TO LEARN



A PLACE TO LEAD



A PLACE TO GROW



MORE THAN WORDS
EMPOWERS SYSTEM-INVOLVED
YOUTH TO TAKE CHARGE OF
THEIR LIVES BY TAKING
CHARGE OF A BUSINESS
IT'S ABOUT POWER

7

MORE THAN WORDS
EMPOWERS SYSTEM-INVOLVED
YOUTH TO TAKE CHARGE OF
THEIR LIVES BY TAKING
CHARGE OF A BUSINESS



MADE IN
THE USA

R95-0
COMMERCIAL



DECISION-MAKING



OWNERSHIP OF YOUR FUTURE

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE DON'T JUST
WORK IN A BUSINESS...**

A photograph of four people sitting on the back of a white truck. From left to right: a man in a grey long-sleeved shirt and black shorts, a woman in a black polo shirt and blue jeans, a man in a pink t-shirt and blue jeans, and a woman in a black t-shirt with a city skyline graphic and black pants. The truck's back panel features a large mural with a black circle at the top containing the text 'CHARGE OF A BUSINESS' in red. Below this, there are colorful paint splashes. On the right side of the truck, more text is visible: 'YOUTH TO TAKE CHARGE', 'THEIR LIVES BY TAKING', and 'CHARGE OF A BUSINESS'. The license plate on the truck is 'Y32-'.

BUT INSTEAD THEY
HELP RUN IT.

THEY WERE TOLD TO LOWER THEIR EXPECTATIONS

A close-up photograph of several people's hands clasped together in a circle, creating a sense of unity and support. The hands are of various skin tones and are positioned in a way that suggests a group hug or a team huddle. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the hands. The text "THEY DID NOT" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, with a thin white horizontal line underneath it.

THEY DID NOT

51 YOUNG PEOPLE

\$16.85/HR → \$21.61/HR

AND THEY'RE JUST GETTING STARTED

MORE
THAN WORDS



COMING TO A THEATER NEAR YOU!





Exit Ticket

Please let us know how we did!

