



# 5th Annual Empower Me Conference

April 17-19, 2026 | Cleveland, OH

# Breaking Barriers for Black and Brown Girls

In Cuyahoga County, Black and Brown girls face systemic barriers that threaten their ability to thrive. From educational disparities to health access challenges, teen pregnancy, and foster care placement, these issues demand urgent attention.

Education remains critical: **48% of Black and Brown girls report being discouraged from taking math and science classes.**

Discriminatory practices contribute to **41% feeling their health issues are dismissed**. These young women need comprehensive support to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

**48%**

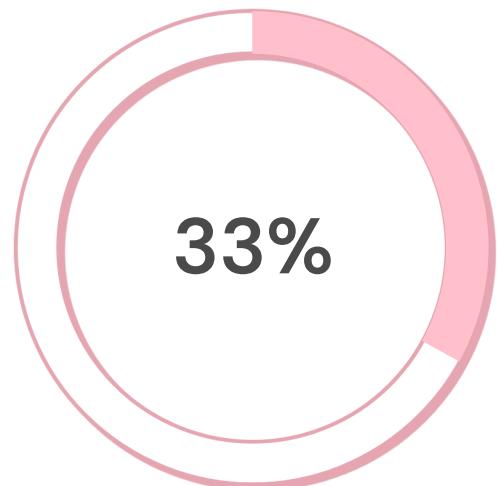
**Discouraged from STEM**

**41%**

**Health Issues Dismissed**

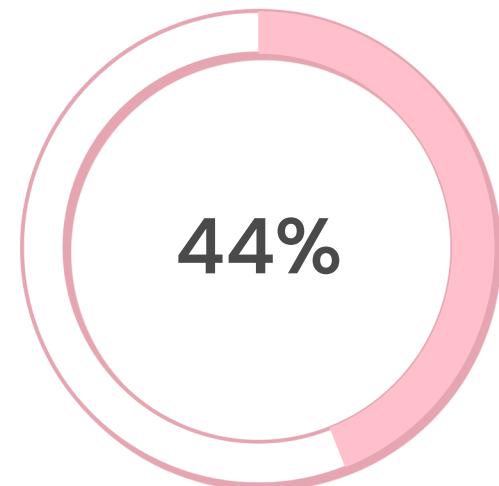
# Our Target Community

The Empower Me Conference serves girls and teens aged 7-18 from Cleveland and surrounding areas, with a focus on underserved communities that need support most.



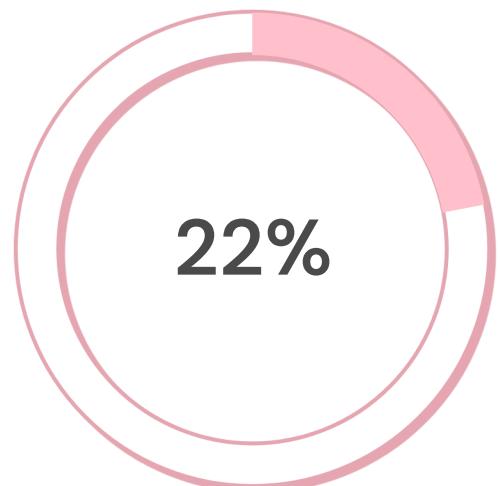
Ages 7-11

Building foundational confidence



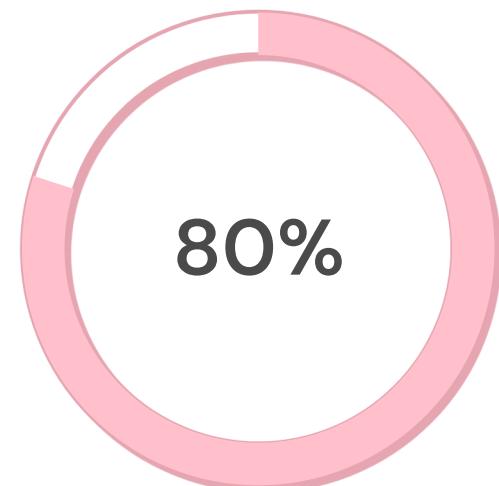
Ages 12-14

Navigating critical transitions



Ages 15-18

Preparing for the future



Cleveland Residents

Local community impact

# Systemic Barriers Facing Our Girls

## Educational Steering

**56%** steered into lower-paying professions rather than urged to pursue their passion

## Healthcare Denial

**36%** have had a provider refuse to provide any treatment at all

## Unfair Discipline

**49%** targeted for discipline they felt was unfair

## Pain Management Refused

**34%** refused medication for pain or pain management

## Incarceration Disparity

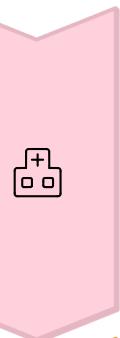
Black children represent **16%** of Ohio youth but **56%** of incarcerated youth

## Poverty Impact

Black children are **3 times** as likely as white children to experience poverty (**39%**)



# Our Solution: Healthcare Access & Experience



## Healthcare Partnerships

Partner with local providers to offer workshops and resources focused on improving healthcare access and experiences for Black girls and teens.



## System Navigation

Provide information on navigating the healthcare system, accessing preventive care, and addressing specific health concerns that disproportionately affect Black communities.



## Policy Advocacy

Advocate for policy changes to address systemic issues contributing to disparities in healthcare outcomes.

# Education Empowerment & Career Exploration

01

## Mentorship Programs

Organize mentorship programs and workshops that empower Black girls and teens to navigate and overcome educational challenges.

02

## Resource Support

Provide resources and support to address systemic barriers such as discriminatory policies, lack of access to academic resources, and educational gaslighting.

03

## Policy Advocacy

Advocate for inclusive and culturally responsive educational policies that support academic success.



# Combating Steering & Building Confidence



## Career Exploration

Offer career exploration workshops and mentoring opportunities that expose Black girls and teens to a wide range of career options, including STEM fields.



## Psychological Support

Provide support and resources to address imposter syndrome and other psychological barriers resulting from discouragement and steering.



## Anti-Discrimination Advocacy

Advocate for anti-discrimination policies and practices in educational institutions and workplaces to prevent steering and discouragement.

# Discipline Reform & Access to Opportunity

## Fair Grading & Discipline

1

Advocate for fair and equitable grading policies and disciplinary practices that do not disproportionately impact Black girls and teens.

Provide workshops and resources on navigating disciplinary processes and advocating for fair treatment in educational settings.

2

## Networking & Mentorship

Create networking events and opportunities for Black girls and teens to connect with mentors, professionals, and community leaders who can provide guidance and support.

Provide resources and information on available job leads, credentials, and educational opportunities tailored to their needs and interests.





## Meet Our Visionary: Bianca Crawford

### CEO & Founder

Bianca Crawford is not only a visionary leader but also a testament to the transformative power of resilience and determination. From facing discouragement in her educational pursuits to navigating systemic inequalities in healthcare access, Bianca understands firsthand the obstacles that young girls from marginalized communities encounter.

Despite these challenges, Bianca has emerged as a successful entrepreneur and leader, breaking through barriers and paving the way for others to follow. Driven by her own experiences, she is passionate about empowering young girls to overcome obstacles and reach their full potential.

By sharing her story and leveraging her experiences, Bianca inspires the next generation of leaders to defy expectations, pursue their passions, and make a positive impact in their communities.

# Empowerment Through Comprehensive Support

Through the Empower Me Conference, we provide holistic support across six critical areas that shape young women's lives and futures.



## Take the Limits Off My Hair

Encouraging girls to embrace their natural beauty and reject societal standards that limit self-expression.



## My Health

Prioritizing physical and mental well-being through education and access to quality healthcare.



## My Education

Exploring strategies for academic success and overcoming educational barriers.



## My Self-Esteem

Building confidence and resilience to navigate life's challenges with strength.



## My Mind

Developing a positive mindset and overcoming self-doubt through mental wellness support.



## My Limits

Challenging perceived limitations and pursuing dreams with courage and determination.

# 2024 Conference Impact

475

## Total Attendees

225 girls, 75 women, 175 total over 3 days

85

## Free Manicures

Provided by Nailitouris School of Cosmetology

2

## Scholarships Awarded

\$500 each to graduating seniors





# 2024 Highlights: Featured Speakers & Programs

## Distinguished Speakers

Mayor Annette Blackwell, Dr. Airica Steed, Councilwoman Stephanie Hawse, and Councilwoman Meredith Turner shared their wisdom and experiences.

## Special Programs

City of Cleveland Juvenile Diversion Program and comprehensive workshops on self-esteem, health, safety, branding, and college readiness.

1

2

3

4

## Keynote Address

LaToya Logan of Project Lift delivered an inspiring keynote that resonated with all attendees.

## Community Impact

One bed provided to a child in need through our Beds and Bedding Giveaway initiative, addressing critical needs in our community.

# "I Am Not My Hair" Exhibit



A powerful exploration of the diverse and multifaceted nature of hair and its significance in shaping individual identity, self-expression, and cultural heritage.

## Interactive Elements

- **Hair Portrait Gallery:** Photographs showcasing diverse hairstyles with personal stories
- **Mirror Reflection Station:** Space for visitors to reflect on their hair journey
- **Styling Workshops:** Hands-on sessions with hair care experts
- **Community Wall:** Collaborative space for sharing experiences and artwork

# "Inspiration Oasis" Exhibit



## Self-Discovery Stations

Guided exercises, journaling prompts, and mindfulness practices helping visitors gain clarity into their values, passions, and purpose.



## Interactive Workshops

Sessions led by motivational speakers, life coaches, and personal development experts offering practical tips for personal growth and success.



## Affirmation Station

Interactive display featuring positive affirmations and mantras, inviting visitors to select and personalize messages that resonate with them.



## Action Plan Station

Hands-on activity where visitors develop actionable plans and strategies for pursuing their goals and aspirations.

# Beds and Bedding Giveaway Program

**19% of children under 18 and 22% of children under 5 in Ohio live in households below the federal poverty level.**

Every child deserves a safe and comfortable place to rest their head at night.



## Our Goal

Distribute **200 beds and bedding sets** to families in need across Ohio



## Our Impact

Improve sleep quality and overall well-being for children living in poverty



## Our Commitment

With your support, we can make this vision a reality for children across Ohio



# 2024 Speakers & Workshop Presenters

Our 2024 conference featured an incredible lineup of speakers and workshop presenters. Below are their photos, followed by a list of names:



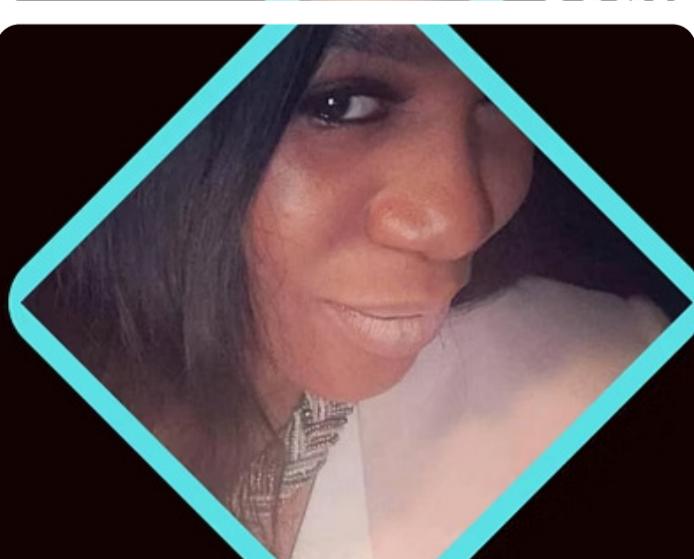
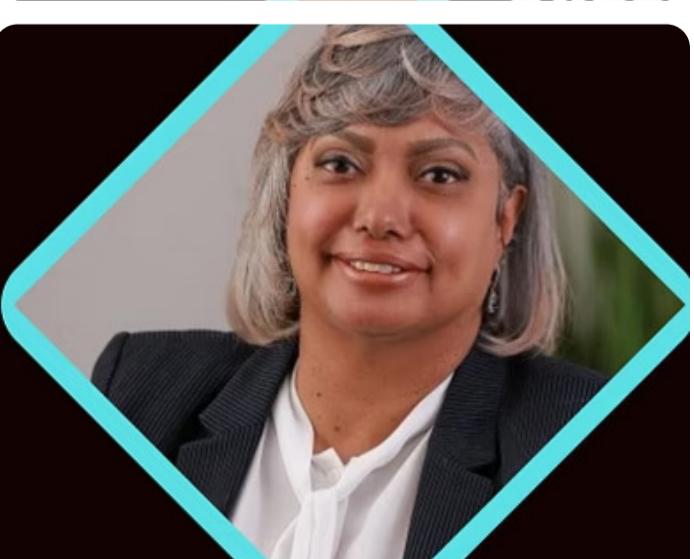
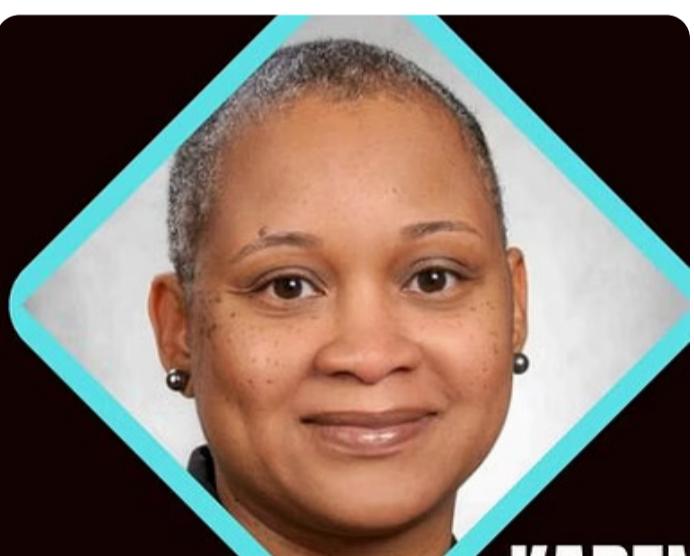
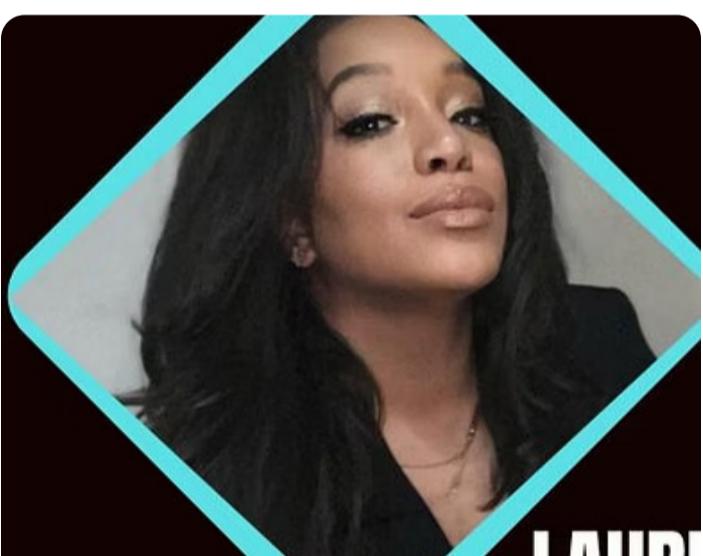
## Our Featured Presenters

We are delighted to have such a diverse and inspiring group of individuals sharing their knowledge and expertise.



## Innovation & Engagement

Dive into sessions designed to spark new ideas and foster collaboration, led by industry leaders.



Aubrey Crawford, Jackie Hull, Councilwoman Meredith Turner, Leairra Lacey, Dr. Airica Steed (Keynote), Da'na Langford, Lauren Welch, Karen Sealy, Yyvonka Hall, Angella Flowers, Romona Lowery-Ferrell, and Netta Williams.

# Premier Sponsorship Levels

## Limitless Visionary Partner \$25,000

- Exclusive Workshop or Panel
- Title Sponsorship of Key Event
- Prominent logo placement on all event materials
- Exclusive mention in press releases and media coverage
- Opportunity to address attendees during opening or closing ceremony
- Year-long Sponsorship in programs and services
- Branded Networking Lounge with naming opportunity in our New Home for Me

## Empowerment Catalyst \$15,000

- Sponsor a Mentoring Session
- Sponsored Social Media Campaign
- Logo placement on event materials
- Recognition in press releases and media coverage
- Verbal acknowledgment during the event
- Branded Signage Throughout Venue
- Brick dedication in our New Home for Me

## Breakthrough Connector \$10,000

- Year Long Logo Placement on Website and All Marketing
- Branded Networking Lounge
- Branded Signage Throughout Venue
- Branded Community Corner
- Recognition During Networking Events

# Additional Sponsorship Opportunities

## Inspiration Advocate

**\$5,500**

- Branded Community Corner
- Branded Swag Bags
- Recognition in Press Releases
- Logo placement on event materials
- Verbal acknowledgment during the event

## Trailblazer Partner

**\$2,500**

- Logo placement on event materials
- Verbal acknowledgment during the event
- Social media shout-out
- Booth space at the conference venue
- Promotional materials in event gift bags

## Limitless Partner

**\$1,500**

- Booth Space at the Conference Venue
- Dedicated Day of Social Media Highlight
- Ad Space
- Name on Marketing Materials
- Promotional materials in event gift bags

# Our 2024 Committed Sponsors

Empowerment Catalyst



Breakthrough Connector



K E N D R A   S C O T T

*Shine Bright, Do Good*

# Our 2024 Committed Sponsors (continued)

## Inspiration Advocate



## Trailblazer Partner



# The Power of Your Partnership

Your support is critical in shaping the future of young women. For our 2026 conference, we anticipate inspiring:

# 400+ Girls

Each sponsorship directly translates into opportunities for learning, growth, and empowerment for these attendees, equipping them with the tools they need to succeed.

## Educational Resources

Providing access to dynamic workshops, essential materials, and innovative tools for career exploration and skill development.

## Mentorship Programs

Connecting girls with inspiring leaders and role models who can guide their personal and professional journeys.

## Safe & Nurturing Space

Creating an inclusive environment where every girl feels valued, heard, and confident to express her authentic self.



## Will You Partner With Me?

Your support is instrumental in empowering girls and teens to break barriers, overcome obstacles, and reach their full potential. Together, we can create a lasting impact on the lives of young individuals and inspire positive change in our communities.

We invite you to join us in making a difference and shaping a brighter future for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration and support.

### Contact Us

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