

Economic Solidarity and the Producer Class

Group economics, the circulating Black Dollar, and the discipline of building what we own

Black American Party — First Edition — July 2026



This e-book is editorial and educational commentary published by the Black American Party in July 2026. It presents the movement's economic vision and summarizes well-established, publicly documented concepts in cooperative economics and community development finance as an aid to readers pursuing self-determination and financial literacy. It is not legal, tax, investment, or financial advice, and it does not replace the judgment of a qualified attorney, accountant, or licensed financial professional. Markets, tax rules, and regulations change; always verify current requirements and consult a professional before acting. No statement here is a guarantee of any financial outcome.

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Foreword

Wealth is not luck. It is the visible result of a community that decided to produce more than it consumes, to own more than it rents, and to keep its earnings working close to home long enough to compound. That decision has been made before — in mutual-aid societies, in Black-owned banks and building-and-loan associations, in farm cooperatives and burial societies that pooled small dollars into large capacity. This book is written in that tradition and for that purpose.

Everything in these pages rests on economic ideas that are ordinary, tested, and available to anyone: local spending multipliers, cooperative ownership, community development finance, credit unions, and the slow arithmetic of compounding. There is nothing exotic here and nothing that depends on the misfortune of anyone else. The movement's guiding conviction is simple — what is good for Black Americans is good for all Americans. A community that produces, owns, and reinvests strengthens the whole nation.

Read it once from front to back to see the whole design, then keep it close and work one chapter at a time. The checklists at the end of each chapter are meant to be acted on, argued with, and adapted to your own street, congregation, block, and balance sheet.

Chapter 1 — The Producer Class

A consumer spends what they earn and ends the year with nothing but receipts. A producer builds something that earns while they sleep — a business, a skill that commands a price, a share of ownership, a piece of property. The producer class is the backbone of any community that intends to be free, because ownership is the difference between asking for a seat and building the table.

To join the producer class is not to disparage anyone who works for wages; honest work is the foundation everything else stands on. It is to insist that wages are a beginning and not a ceiling. Every dollar of income can be routed toward consumption or toward ownership, and communities rise in proportion to how much they route toward ownership — businesses started, tools acquired, skills monetized, equity held.

The shift begins in the mind before it shows up in the ledger. Ask of each dollar not "what can this buy?" but "what can this build?"

Field Checklist

- Identify one skill or asset you can turn into income you own
- Redirect a fixed share of each paycheck toward ownership, not consumption
- Name one business or trade your community needs and could supply

Chapter 2 — The Circulating Dollar

The strength of a dollar is not only how much it buys but how many times it changes hands before it leaves the community. Economists call this the local multiplier effect: when a dollar is spent at a locally owned business, a meaningful share of it is re-spent locally — on wages, suppliers, and services — and each re-spending supports another livelihood. Money that leaves on first touch supports someone else's community; money that circulates supports yours.

The honest challenge is that in many Black communities the dollar circulates for a very short time before it exits, largely because so few of the businesses where people shop are locally owned. This is not a verdict; it is an assignment. Every locally owned store, clinic, contractor, grocer, and shop is a turn added to the dollar's journey — another paycheck, another supplier order, another tax base kept close to home.

Circulation is built one enterprise and one deliberate purchase at a time. Spend where the money stays, and it comes back around to you.

Field Checklist

- Map the locally owned businesses you can support this month
- Shift a portion of routine spending toward community-owned enterprises
- Encourage one local owner to source from another local supplier

Chapter 3 — Cooperative Economics

Some things are too large for one household and too important to leave undone. Cooperative economics is the answer our forebears reached for again and again: people pooling resources to own together what none could own alone. A cooperative is a business owned and democratically governed by the people who use it — its members — with surplus returned to them rather than extracted by distant shareholders.

The forms are proven. Consumer cooperatives let members buy groceries and goods at scale. Worker cooperatives let employees own the company they staff, keeping profit and decision-making in the hands that do the work. Purchasing cooperatives let small businesses buy together and compete with giants. Housing cooperatives let residents own their buildings collectively. In each case the principle is the same: shared ownership, shared risk, shared reward, one member one vote.

Cooperation is not charity and not idealism — it is leverage. Alone we are small; pooled, we are a market.

Field Checklist

- Identify one need in your area a cooperative could meet
- Gather a founding group willing to pool funds and govern together
- Study one successful cooperative and adapt its bylaws to your purpose

Chapter 4 — Owning the Institutions of Credit

Credit is oxygen for the producer class. A community that must borrow on outside terms — or cannot borrow at all — will always build slower than one that owns its own institutions of credit. That is why credit unions and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) matter so much. A credit union is a member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperative that returns value to its members through better rates and patient lending. A CDFI is a mission-driven lender certified to serve communities that mainstream finance has underserved, channeling capital into small businesses, homes, and local development.

These are not theoretical. Black-owned banks, community credit unions, and CDFIs already exist and already lend, and every deposit placed with them becomes lending power directed back into the community. Where a household keeps its savings is itself an economic act — dollars parked in a community-owned institution finance a neighbor's business; dollars parked elsewhere finance someone else's.

Own the pipe the money flows through, and you help decide where it flows.

Field Checklist

- Move a portion of savings into a community credit union or Black-owned bank
- Learn which CDFIs serve your region and what they finance
- Refer one entrepreneur to a mission-driven, community-rooted lender

Chapter 5 — Financial Literacy as Foundation

No structure stands on a weak foundation, and financial literacy is the foundation under everything else in this book. It is not sophistication or jargon; it is command of the basics that quietly govern a life — budgeting, understanding credit, avoiding predatory debt, saving with intention, and grasping how compounding turns patience into wealth. A community fluent in these fundamentals cannot be easily separated from its money.

Compounding rewards the early and the consistent: a modest sum invested steadily over decades can outgrow a larger sum invested late, because returns earn returns. The same arithmetic runs in reverse through high-interest debt, where balances compound against the borrower. Financial literacy is simply learning to stand on the right side of that math and teaching the next generation to do the same before habits harden.

Teach it at the kitchen table and in the congregation. Knowledge that circulates, like a dollar that circulates, multiplies.

Field Checklist

- Build and follow a written monthly budget
- Understand your credit report and pay down high-interest debt first
- Teach one young person how saving and compounding work

Chapter 6 — Community Investment Funds

Individual saving builds a household; pooled investment builds a community. A community investment fund gathers many small contributions into a pool of capital large enough to do serious work —

seeding local businesses, financing property, or backing cooperatives that keep returns in the community. The instruments range from simple investment clubs and mutual-aid pools to more formal vehicles governed by law and professional counsel.

The logic is the same as a single dollar circulating, raised to scale. When neighbors invest together in enterprises they collectively own, the profits do not vanish into distant portfolios; they return to the members and to the community that produced them. This is how modest, patient contributions can become the down payment on a shared future — a storefront bought, a building rehabilitated, a young business given the capital it could not borrow.

Because pooling money engages real legal and tax rules, this is precisely where a qualified attorney and accountant belong. Structure it properly, and a small stream becomes a river.

Field Checklist

- Start or join an investment club with clear, written rules
- Consult an attorney and accountant before pooling funds formally
- Direct a share of pooled capital toward community-owned enterprises

Chapter 7 — Generational Wealth and Self-Determination

Wealth that lasts one lifetime was never wealth — it was a good year. Generational wealth is what remains standing after the builder is gone: a business handed down, property held in the family, assets and knowledge transferred deliberately rather than lost to probate, poor planning, or forced sale. The aim is not merely to earn but to establish, so that each generation begins further along than the last.

This is the deepest meaning of self-determination. A community that owns its businesses, its credit, its land, and its capital does not have to wait for permission to build, and it can weather hard seasons without being dismantled. Continuity is a discipline: wills and estate plans, clear title, business succession, and above all the transmission of financial habits and an ownership mindset to children who will carry it forward. Assets can be inherited; so can literacy, and the second protects the first.

Build to outlast yourself. The point of the producer class is not one prosperous generation but an unbroken line of them.

Field Checklist

- Create or update a will and estate plan with professional guidance
- Establish clear title and a succession plan for any business or property
- Pass on ownership habits and financial knowledge to the next generation

Conclusion: What We Build, We Keep

The vision in this book is not complicated, and that is its strength. Produce more than you consume. Keep the dollar circulating close to home. Own together what is too large to own alone. Bank and borrow through institutions the community controls. Master the fundamentals and teach them. Pool capital patiently. Build assets meant to outlast the builder. None of it depends on anyone else's loss, and all of it is within reach of a community that decides to organize its own economic life.



ABOUT THE FOUNDER

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Devin Lockett is the founder and entrepreneur behind this title and the wider BiomedRx family of companies—spanning healthcare technology, wellness, media, and community initiatives. He builds brands focused on quality, service, and independent ownership. Connect and follow his work across the network.