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## Village of Wisdom’s “That’s Just Good Teaching Program” Secures \$4 Million Department of Education Grant

### Grant Will Strengthen Parent-Teacher Partnerships and Student Academic Outcomes

Durham, North Carolina - Village of Wisdom’s That’s Just Good Teaching (TJGT) Program was awarded a \$4 million Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant by the Department of Education. The grant will support a five-year initiative designed to enhance social-emotional and academic outcomes for students by harnessing the power of parent-teacher partnerships.

“The Department of Education funding allows Village of Wisdom to center Black parent wisdom as integral in strengthening home-school partnerships and creating learning environments for students to thrive,” said Dr. Dawn X. Henderson, Director of Participatory Research and Power Building at Village of Wisdom.

As the nation's first program of its kind, the TJGT Program fosters collaboration between teachers and parents by training them to develop culturally affirming learning strategies and digital resources tailored to students' social-emotional and academic needs.

The Program includes teacher professional development in [culturally affirming learning](#), parent-teacher residencies, community-driven assessments, and participant stipends to improve social-emotional and academic outcomes for high-needs students.

“This grant gives us the opportunity to equitably support the real heroes: educators and Black parents. For decades, they have been pitted against one another, all the while our children, Black children, walk away improperly prepared to navigate a world that has yet to fully embrace and acknowledge not only their genius but their humanity.” Arssante Malone, Director of Instructional Liberation at Village of Wisdom.

The EIR Program supports evidence-based innovations designed to improve academic achievement for high-need students. Village of Wisdom's TJGT Program was one of 17 Early-phase Competition Grantees awarded under Absolute Priority 4, prioritizing innovations that meet students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

The \$4 million Education Innovation and Research grant will cover 83 percent of program costs. The remaining \$800,000, or 17 percent, in program costs will be raised over the five-year duration of the program.

“Recognizing the need for evidence-based practices that acknowledge the genius of Black students, Village of Wisdom has spent the better part of a decade working with parents to create solutions. Black children deserve research that quantifies the impact of instructional strategies centered around their cultural and intellectual genius. Securing this grant is a testament to the power of fully committing to the genius of our children, our people, and our community. We plan to ride that commitment all the way to liberation,” said Dr. William P. Jackson, Executive Director of Village of Wisdom.

The TJGT Program embodies Village of Wisdom's core mission to provide Black children with the learning spaces they deserve and need to thrive. The program follows the ingenious idea of Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings to put Black parents in the validation process of teachers. Dr. Ladson-Billings authored the seminal paper on culturally relevant pedagogy nearly 30 years ago. By incorporating culturally relevant pedagogy into standards-based practices in partnership with parents and communities, the TJGT Program is designed to serve as a model for reimagining education for students nationwide.

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To learn more about Village of Wisdom and its initiatives, please visit [www.villageofwisdom.org](http://www.villageofwisdom.org).

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