

# Office Of Financial Empowerment - October Newsletter



**Office of Financial Empowerment  
Treasurer, City of St. Louis**

## **Newsletter**

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### **OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS**

We kicked off the month of October with a celebration event in partnership with the Small Business Majority at the Central Library. Treasurer Tishaura Jones headlined the event, which featured panel discussions in which women shared their entrepreneurial stories and information on where to find small business assistance. The panels were followed by presentations on mentoring and access to capital, with time at the end for networking and Q&A.

Later in October, we continued our entrepreneurial and small business theme by partnering with Busey Bank and Small Business Majority to present Access to Capital, Credit Building and Wealth Building for Women in Small Business in which minority entrepreneurs came together to share stories of how they began their business and learned how to capitalize and expand.

While student debt is a serious financial problem, few people know that the federal government offers the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program to employees of federal, state, local and tribal governments as well as to employees of many not-for-profit organizations. The Foundation for Financial Education gave a presentation at OFE regarding finding a forgiveness plan for our attendees. Every repayment plan offered by the government makes students eligible for forgiveness; however, it is important to find the program which suits you best.

Visit our website at [stlofe.org/event-calendar/](http://stlofe.org/event-calendar/) for more information on past and upcoming classes offered by the Office of Financial Empowerment.

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# Treasurer's Office Brings Cities for Financial Empowerment Conference to St. Louis

Treasurer. Jones recently welcomed the Cities for Financial Empowerment Coalition's (CFE Coalition) Fall Conference to St. Louis. This is the first time St. Louis has played host to the CFE Coalition.

The CFE Coalition brings together pioneering municipal governments from across the country that have begun to use their power and positions to advance innovative financial empowerment initiatives. Its 15-member cities representing almost 22 million people have made tangible, measurable commitments to supporting financial empowerment programming, and both teach and learn from one another. The CFE Coalition also leverages its members' collective power to advance the financial empowerment agenda on a state and national level, including through advocating for key policy priorities. St. Louis has been a member of the CFE Coalition since 2015.

The conference was October 29 - 31 at the Federal Reserve of St. Louis. Guests were greeted at a welcome reception at the National Blues Museum downtown and were also treated to a private tour of the newly remodeled Gateway Arch.

Conference session topics included innovations and policy considerations in savings and small dollar lending; the impact on student loan debt; and the use of data in financial empowerment.

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## OFE CO-SPONSORS SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY LEARNING SERIES





The OFE and Small Business Majority are partnering on a four-part learning series designed to help current and future small business owners.

Sessions will be on Wednesdays from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in the OFE office at City Hall (1200 Market Street, Room 220).

The following topics will be offered:

- November 28: Small Business Majority and Advocacy 101: learn about the SBM and how it can help you start a business.
- December 19: Access to Capital and the Small Business Owner's Bill of Rights: alternative funding opportunities, the importance of building credit, and how to avoid predatory lending practices.
- January 16: Wealth Building Tactics for Small Business Owners: building wealth will ensure the sustainability of your small business, as well as support your retirement savings.
- February 20: The Affordable Care Act and Health Literacy: discover how the ACA can impact your small business and why being health literate will benefit your business' bottom line.

To register, visit [www.smallbusinessmajority.org/events](http://www.smallbusinessmajority.org/events)



## Treats with the Treasurer at Columbia Elementary





During October, Treasurer Tishaura Jones visited with first graders at Columbia Elementary to talk about the importance of making smart money decisions. Treasurer Jones delighted the students by reading Banker Bill's Guide to Common Cents which - in addition to many other lessons - outlines three important rules of thumb when it comes to saving money: 1) pay yourself first, 2) buy what you should instead of what you could, and 3) make savings goals for small and large things. Good reminders for us all!

Treasurer Jones also spoke with students about their College Kids account and ways that students and their families can earn deposits. While the Treasurer's Office automatically deposits the first \$50 in to every account opened, students can earn \$1 for every week of perfect attendance. Families can also earn \$5 for their College Kids account by participating in a variety of financial education courses offered through the Treasurer's Office.

To end the visit, Treasurer Jones gave every student her own piggy bank in the hope that she, to, will be able to make her own deposit soon.

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## **New Financial Wellbeing Coach Has Big Plans**



Ami Boehlje has joined our staff as the new Operation HOPE financial wellbeing coach.

I am thrilled to be joining the team in the Office of Financial Empowerment! The mission of the OFE and Operation HOPE align very well with my own personal values, of respecting people's lived experiences, and equipping them to reach their goals," said Ami. "The financial piece of each of our lives is fundamental to our overall health and happiness, yet the skills and tools to achieve success in this area are not often taught in schools and are sometimes not modeled at home."

Ami plans to build relationships with clients, community organizations, and businesses to increase awareness of the resources available in the OFE and through Operation HOPE, with a goal of sharing strategies for increasing the financial wellbeing of the citizens of the City of St Louis.



If you are interested in scheduling a counseling session with Ami, or learning more about her upcoming workshops, please contact her at [ami.boehlje@operationhope.org](mailto:ami.boehlje@operationhope.org).

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## UPCOMING CLASSES

November 7: Preventing Elder and Vulnerable Adult Financial Abuse  
11:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Carondelet Park Rec Plex

November 13: Financial Planning  
12:30 - 1:30 pm  
1520 Market Street

November 13: Green Light Home Improvement Loan  
6:00 - 7:00 pm  
Kingdom House

November 15: Bank at Work  
12:30 - 1:30 pm  
133 S 11th Street, Suite 300

November 30: Budgeting for the Holidays  
12:30 - 1:30 pm  
133 S 11th Street, Suite 300

RSVP: [stlofe.org/event-calendar/](http://stlofe.org/event-calendar/)

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