



# Building African Immigrant Communities in Minnesota



## 2023 OUTCOMES


- \$2.0M\*** Deployed in Loans & Grants
- 718** Businesses Served In Lending
- 147** Clients Served in Home Ownership
- 195** Graduates in Culturally Intelligent Business Program for Aspiring Entrepreneurs.

\* Doubled from \$1.1M in 2022

## CONTACT US

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### OUR STORY

Established in 2008, AEDS emerged out of the efforts of a small group of immigrants who were concerned about the paucity of business ownership among the vast African immigrant communities in the Minnesota. The group realized that African immigrants had to grapple with rampant economic disparities and other unique barriers that hindered the community's ability to seize the numerous opportunities available in Minnesota.

Overtime, the group learned from local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs that some of the most limiting factors were related to language and cultural differences. The group also concluded that wealth-building held the key to empowering African immigrants in the region. This is why they decided to create a business development organization built around cultural intelligence and with an asset-based model.



### OUR MISSION

To create wealth within marginalized communities and communities of black heritage in Minnesota. We accomplish this by providing customized financial literacy training, micro-entrepreneurship training and coaching, and homeownership education.



### OUR VISION

We want our clients to build businesses that create jobs with livable wages. We want families to own homes and to break free of poverty. We strive to connect and build vibrant communities with creativity and social connection.

