

“The girls who have participated in the Economic Literacy program absolutely love it! (The program) ... meets the need to prepare girls for economic self-sufficiency by providing information and activities in a manner that is clear, fun, and appealing for girls of all ages.”

— Lourdes Martinez, Teen Coordinator and Eureka!® Manager, Girls Inc. of Orange County, CA

Why This Program?

Economic literacy—the ability to use basic economic concepts to make decisions about earning, saving, spending, and sharing money—is a skill. As with reading and writing, a working knowledge of basic economic concepts is essential for future success. Whether a girl is from a low-income or wealthy home, whether she lives in a rural or urban community, she is likely to work for pay for much of her adult life, and at some point in her life she is likely to be responsible for her own financial well-being.

Girls tend to feel less confident than boys about managing money. Socially, girls tend to be taught that their role is to be the caregiver and nurturer while boys tend to be taught that they are to be providers which includes managing finances. In turn, when girls grow up and earn wages, they are less likely than their male counterparts to know how to manage their finances.

It is critical that girls have the support and skills to enhance their financial competence and confidence and to help them exercise control over their financial future. Additionally, given long-standing gender disparity in pay and income, it is also critical that girls gain a sense of economic justice so that they can better understand and assert rights relevant not only to their own economic well-being, but also the economic well-being of all girls and women, their families, their communities, their country, and their world.

About the Program: Girls Inc. Economic Literacy®

Through Girls Inc. Economic Literacy, girls learn about money and the economy, including how to manage, invest, and save money and how to help others through philanthropy. As girls explore how the economy affects everyone locally and globally, they develop skills critical to being financially savvy and to becoming economically independent adults. The following core components give girls a foundation for an economically independent adulthood and an understanding of key economic concepts at the individual, family, community, national, and global levels and of the impact that girls can have.

- **She's on the Money!®** (for girls ages 6 to 8) uses games, role plays, art projects, and field trips to build girls' skills for identifying and counting money and to increase their understanding of basic concepts and topics such as using banks, saving for the future, planning for a career, differentiating between wants and needs, donating and volunteering, comparison shopping, taxes and government services, and global economics.

- **Dollars, Sense, and MeSM** (for girls ages 9 to 11) further enhances girls' understanding of economic and financial concepts and introduces additional topics and skills, including exchanging goods and services, investing in the stock market, entrepreneurship, budgeting, writing checks, and labor and management.

- **Equal Earners, Savvy SpendersSM** (for girls ages 12 to 14) deepens girls knowledge about and appreciation for economic and financial topics covered by previous components. Additional skills and topics include loan options, investment risk vs. return, consumer tips, credit card use, labor laws, economic equity for women and girls, work-life balance, and global economics.

- **Futures and OptionsSM** (for girls ages 15 to 18) prepares girls for entering the world of work by helping them examine topics such as attitudes and values about money, career strategies, economic justice and workers' rights, paycheck deductions, responsible use of credit and avoiding predatory lenders, renting vs. buying, and investing.

Ancillary Components:

- **Mother-Daughter Communications Workshop:** This four-hour workshop for girls ages 9 to 14 and their mothers or “other mothers” enhances communication and listening skills by using activities and questions around economic literacy as one of the foundation topics.

- **ING—Girls Inc. Investing Matters:** This nine-session program for girls ages 12 to 18 communicates and reinforces sound investing principles that encourage girls to take charge of their financial futures. Through a program of hands-on activities, girls participate in a series of educational activities, gain experience building a diversified investment portfolio, and apply their knowledge and skills using an online virtual stock exchange program to invest and track their investments.

About Girls Inc.

Girls Inc. delivers life-changing programs that inspire girls to be strong, smart, and bold. Research-based curricula, delivered by trained professionals, equip girls to achieve academically; lead healthy and physically active lives; manage money; navigate media messages; and discover an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math. The network of local Girls Inc. nonprofit organizations serves 136,000 girls annually at over 1,250 sites in 325 cities across the United States and Canada. Learn more about our programs and advocacy at: www.girlsinc.org.

