

My People!

By Adai Lamar

As a black woman who works full time, a care-giver and involved in my community, I see firsthand how important it is for us to have real opportunities to grow financially. Economic growth ensures our communities can create more jobs, stronger schools and better/safer neighborhoods. But to make that happen, we need to take action and push for change.

Three ways to Build Wealth in our Black Communities:

1. Support Black Businesses

Keep our dollars circulating in our communities.

A strong economic foundation for those entrepreneurs and others would include more banks and programs to help with starter money to grow and build.

2. Money and Wealth Empowerment

We first need to understand these two are not the same.

Many of us were not taught how to manage money, invest or build credit. This has to change. Financial literacy has to be more accessible to communities. If we don't understand money management, we will never understand wealth!

3. We Must OWN Homes and Land

One of the best ways to build and maintain wealth.

Better relationships with lenders to create better lending practices will go a long way. Land must be explored as well. My great-grandfather John Greenwood forbid us to sell any of our Texas land. He would often say, "One thing they can't make any more of is LAND!"

Just a few things to address – but many challenges to conquer. We can do it **collectively**. We have to start somewhere, why not here!