

The iBELIEVE Foundation provides equitable and inclusive access to experiential opportunities for Appalachian youth to learn and continue to develop the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary for success in high school and beyond.

Since 2011, we have facilitated year-round leadership development programs through our Fall Leadership Summits, Digital Leadership Academy during the winter, Community Service Days in the spring, and our premier experience, Youth Leadership Workshops in June and July. Thousands of high school students, as well as their schools and communities - have benefited from these events - all at no cost to them or their families.

The iBELIEVE Foundation, like so many other non-profit organizations, is working hard to recover from the financial strains of the global pandemic. We remain committed to our purpose, however, because we see in our students that what we provide is needed now, more than ever.

Students who participate in our programs learn the importance of building strong connections with their peers, as well as establishing and maintaining relationships with mentors. They discover that effective leadership is based in service to others and taking action that results in positive change. Most importantly, they return to their schools and communities with a new understanding of both their responsibility to contribute in impactful ways and their ability to do so.

iBELIEVE offers students the opportunity to engage in meaningful programming throughout their high school years. Our Youth Leadership Workshop curriculum provides 3 years of learning and growth. Year 1 focuses on self-awareness, self-confidence, basic skill-building. The 2nd year program focuses on team building and team work and one's individual role within groups. Year 3 is the transition program. As they prepare for their senior year, or have perhaps just graduated, this program helps them to get their feet solidly on the ground for what comes next.

Students learn and practice vital skills necessary for success including communication, problem-solving, delegating, giving and receiving feedback, conflict resolution, organization, motivation, and collaboration. Through our hands-on learning experiences, they go beyond those skills and discover the attitudes and behaviors that will be most beneficial in their day-to-day lives: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

The funding we seek is critical to our ability to continue to fulfill our purpose, and to grow our organization in a sustainable way. As previously mentioned, we offer our opportunities at no cost to students or their families. This is an integral part of our mission as we strive to "level the playing field" for an underserved population. While we have asked for a moderate increase for this budget cycle (from \$200K to \$300K per year), the increase will support our year round programs for students, and will also allow us to add a much-needed full time employee to our team to aid us in our growth efforts.



**PROVIDING
APPALACHIAN
YOUTH
OPPORTUNITY**

OUR MISSION

The iBELIEVE Foundation provides equitable and inclusive access to experiential opportunities for Appalachian youth to learn and continue to develop the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary for success in high school and beyond.

OUR HISTORY

The iBELIEVE Foundation was created in 2011 to help provide opportunities for Appalachian youth. Initially, the foundation sponsored students to attend Summer Leadership Workshops hosted by the Ohio Association of Student Councils. In 2012, iBELIEVE began hosting our own workshops and added additional weeks and college sites to accommodate the growing numbers of participants. Since iBELIEVE's inception, we have served students from the states of Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Tennessee. However, since the pandemic, we have had to scale back our reach, and are currently serving Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Youth Leadership Workshops

Youth Leadership Workshop, formerly known as Summer Workshop, is our signature program designed for students to develop real-world leadership skills necessary to prepare them for the classrooms and jobs of tomorrow. Students spend 5 days and 4 nights on a college campus of their choice. Over the course of the week, students learn more about themselves and the skills they need to grow as a successful leader in their future. The program allows students to form life-long friendships with one another, as well as network with the staff and other adults.

To date, our Youth Leadership Workshops have provided 4466 opportunities for 2654 students from Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee and Pennsylvania, across all 3 levels of our program.

YLW participants to date

iB LEVEL 1
2654

iB LEVEL 2
1230

iB LEVEL 3
582

Leadership Summits

Summits are school-day events that are hosted on a college campus. Participating high schools select students to attend a program that is a day centered around the basic skills of leadership. Summits are hosted regionally in an effort to re-connect with students that have previously participated in an iBELIEVE program and to provide additional program opportunities for new students.

Digital Leadership Academy

Digital Leadership Academy provides an opportunity for students to connect via the Zoom platform during the winter months. Sessions are held bi-weekly in the evening and include time for learning new concepts and skills as well as engaging in meaningful conversations around those topics. The series is built around a different leadership development-themed book each year, which students receive at no cost.

2023 YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP PROJECTED IMPACT FOR OHIO

263
STUDENTS
FROM 57
SCHOOLS
ACROSS OHIO



FY 2024 Impact for Ohio Students

Youth Leadership Workshop Opportunities: 409
Leadership Summit Opportunities: 650
DLA Opportunities: 50

Total Opportunities Provided: 1109

FY 2025 Impact for Ohio Students

Youth Leadership Workshop Opportunities: 513
Leadership Summit Opportunities: 650
DLA Opportunities: 50

Total Opportunities Provided: 1213

Proposed Budget Per Fiscal Year	
Account	Budget
Program Supplies & Travel	\$36,300.00
Facility Rentals & Dining	\$125,000.00
Liability Insurance	\$8,700.00
Staff Training & Prep	\$15,000.00
Program Salaries	\$115,000.00
Total Per Fiscal Year	\$300,000.00
Total for the Biennium	\$600,000.00

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

“iBELIEVE is a fantastic opportunity for youth to learn about themselves as well as leadership, which is something that should be available at no cost. This way, it is equally accessible to everyone who is chosen for the program.”

“These workshops can teach so many people the skills they need to accomplish their goals. There are so many people in Appalachia that have the desire to succeed and inspire change, and they have ideas on how. The problem is that some of them just don’t have the opportunity to learn how, and some don’t have the means to pay for such opportunities. Also, the idea of it being no cost makes it feel more like a community.”

“I think iBELIEVE matters because it teaches kids important leadership skills, how to work with others, and fosters more confidence in each delegate that goes through the program. With no cost involved, everyone that earns a nomination can participate.”

“If there was a cost, that could exclude some people through no fault of their own. This is a life changing experience.”

“It is an opportunity like no other that I would not have had otherwise. Appalachia is widely underrepresented and this organization brings those that want to lead and gives them the materials to go back into their communities and blossom.”