



Urban League of  
Greater Cleveland

*Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.*



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **The Urban League of Greater Cleveland and UBIZ Venture Capital Hosted Graduation for Ten Participants of the Black Restaurant Accelerator Program**

CLEVELAND, OH— The Urban League of Greater Cleveland (ULGC) and UBIZ Venture Capital hosted a graduation on July 10 for ten business owners who have completed the Black Restaurant Accelerator Program (BRAP). The program included a sample showcase of graduates' menu items along with guest speakers. BRAP is an interactive series of six workshops conducted by the Entrepreneurship Center at ULGC for black restaurant owners. Participants are provided technical assistance, entrepreneurial coaching, and training on various business-related topics including:

- Operational Excellence
- Virtual Ordering Systems
- Profitability
- Food Health and Safety
- Customer Service
- Cost Controls

“Accelerating minority-owned black businesses is our primary focus,” said Michael Obi, President of UBIZ Venture Capital. “We are thrilled to give black restaurant owners the tools needed within their industry to succeed. BRAP promotes acceleration, which is a vehicle's capacity to gain speed within a short time.”

Through a partnership with PepsiCo Foundation and the National Urban League, Cleveland is 1 of 12 Entrepreneurship Centers across the United States to host BRAP. All participants will be presented with a stipend of \$10,000 for completing this rigorous program. According to Obi, this brings the total grants given to the graduates of BRAP to \$350,000 since 2021.

“The greater the number of businesses we can assist, the greater the opportunity to grow our impact and community wealth generation,” said Marsha A. Mockabee, President & CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland. “With this in mind, we know our graduates will push forward within the community using their new skills and insight to boost the Greater Cleveland area's economic system.”

For many, they will continue their relationship with the Entrepreneurship Center, SBDC, and MBAC. This is just the beginning.

### **About the Urban League of Greater Cleveland**

The Urban League of Greater Cleveland is a community-based organization whose mission is to enable African Americans and other minorities to develop and realize their potential through education, research, advocacy, and the provision of services. The Urban League's work is focused in the following areas: Economic Empowerment, Education and Youth, and Workforce Development, and is undergirded by Civil Rights and Racial Justice.

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To learn more about the Urban League of Greater Cleveland, please visit our website at [www.ulcleveland.org](http://www.ulcleveland.org).

**About the UBIZ Venture Capital**

UBIZ Venture Capital is a vehicle that has been strategically established with the full support of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland. UBIZ aims to bring tangible solutions to disparities in small business lending for African Americans and other disadvantaged small businesses.

To learn more about UBIZ Venture Capital, please visit our website at <https://www.ubiz.biz/>.