

San Juan, PR – UPBI Adult + University Program

Location: San Juan, PR

Venue: Youth Entrepreneurship Education System LLC

Intro to the City, Distinctive Aspects and Demographics:

San Juan, the capital of Puerto Rico, is a vibrant and culturally rich city blending history, art, and commerce. With a population of approximately 318,000, it is the island's largest urban center. San Juan boasts a unique mix of colonial architecture in Old San Juan and modern skyscrapers in areas like Condado and Santurce. The city is a tourism and cultural hub and serves as the starting point for our island-wide mission.

While based in San Juan, our work extends to all 78 municipalities of Puerto Rico, connecting communities through our programs and network. This approach ensures that we address the diverse realities and challenges faced across the island.

Overview of the Local Economy: San Juan serves as the financial, commercial, and cultural epicenter of Puerto Rico, but disparities are stark across the island. While some municipalities like Guaynabo and Dorado boast lower poverty rates (25.1% and 30.6%, respectively), others, such as Guánica and Adjuntas, face severe economic challenges, with poverty rates exceeding 60%. These disparities highlight the urgent need for programs that bridge the economic gap by fostering entrepreneurial skills and providing resources to disadvantaged communities.

The Poverty and Disadvantage Challenge in Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico's poverty rate remains alarmingly high, with 42% of the population living below the poverty line. The crisis is particularly acute in municipalities such as Guánica (66.3%), Adjuntas (63.4%), and Arroyo (57.7%), where systemic economic disadvantage limits opportunities for upward mobility. These areas are burdened by a lack of access to education, entrepreneurial resources, and employment opportunities. Addressing this requires not just economic intervention but a cultural shift to empower individuals to create sustainable businesses and generate wealth in their communities.

Poverty and Entrepreneurship Programs: We operate two programs designed to serve both adults and university students across Puerto Rico, combining decades of experience from **Youth Entrepreneurship Education System LLC**:

1. **UPBI Adult Program:**



- a. **Who You Are Serving:** Adults from disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas, focusing on regions with high poverty rates like Adjuntas, Guánica, and Lajas, alongside urban centers such as San Juan.
 - b. **Governance Structure:** Operated through Youth Entrepreneurship Education System LLC and supported by a team of experienced mentors, trainers, and community leaders.
 - c. **Annual Cycle:** Runs from January to December, starting with intensive entrepreneurship training followed by mentorship, financial guidance, and access to funding opportunities.
 - d. **Unique Aspects:** Employs a hands-on, gamified approach to teaching entrepreneurship, supported by advanced AI tools that accelerate business planning and research.
2. **UPBI University Program**
- a. **Who You Are Serving:** University students from low-income households across Puerto Rico, with a focus on equipping them with practical entrepreneurial skills.
 - b. **Governance Structure:** Delivered in collaboration with Youth Entrepreneurship Education System LLC and partner universities across the island.
 - c. **Annual Cycle:** Aligns with the academic year, running from August to May, and includes workshops, pitch competitions, and startup resources.
 - d. **Unique Aspects:** Tailored to help students balance academics and entrepreneurship, using AI-enhanced research tools to create scalable business models.

Program Goals: Our mission is to transform lives through entrepreneurship, equipping participants with the tools to build sustainable businesses and generate wealth. By leveraging the strengths of **Youth Entrepreneurship Education System LLC**, we aim to:

1. **Expand Reach:** Increase our impact in municipalities with the highest poverty rates, ensuring that underserved areas receive the resources they need.
2. **Leverage Technology:** Use AI to streamline market research, enhance training, and improve outcomes for participants.
3. **Strengthen Communities:** Empower individuals to create businesses that uplift local economies and reduce poverty island-wide.
4. **Inspire Transformation:** Position our programs as a replicable model for using entrepreneurship to combat poverty and create lasting change across Puerto Rico.

