



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
Economic Opportunities
PROGRAM

What's new at the Economic Opportunities Program - July 2017

We are pleased to bring you the latest edition of the [Economic Opportunities Program's](#) newsletter! Learn how the Economic Opportunities Program (EOP) is driving change and helping low- and moderate-income Americans connect to and thrive in a changing economy.

What does tax reform mean for low- and moderate-income workers?



In June, we held our latest Working in America event, [What Does Tax Reform Mean for Low- and Moderate-Income Workers?](#) Panelists - AEI's Alex Brill, United Way Suncoast's Mireya Eavey, and Americans for Tax Fairness's Frank Clemente - discussed the many ways that tax policy affects low- and moderate-income workers' lives and the potential reforms that could increase economic opportunities, moderated by Jeanne Sahadi of CNNMoney. [More.](#)

How employers can expand economic opportunities through upskilling



Our Initiatives

The Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program has several initiatives. Learn more!



[Paying Workers Better Shouldn't Be Bad News on Wall Street](#)

By Maureen Conway and Mark Popovich

[What Washington Doesn't Understand About Working Families](#)

By Maureen Conway and Ida Rademacher

[Making Work and Family Work -- for Parents and Their Employers](#)

By Mark Popovich

[Optimax: Doing Great and](#)

UpSkill America released the [UpSkilling Playbook for Employers](#), designed to be a tool for employers interested in investing in economic opportunities for frontline and entry-level workers, while at the same time improving business outcomes. "We hope the playbook will inform a national conversation on sustainable jobs, expanding opportunity, and the role that employers can and do play," said UpSkill America Director Jaime Fall. [More](#).

Shared platforms for microenterprise development organizations



Many organizations are thinking about how to deliver financial and technical support to micro and small businesses more efficiently. How can advancing technology help these organizations increase the impact of their work? In a series of reports, [The Promise of Shared Platforms for the Microenterprise Industry](#), FIELD's Joyce Klein and Alan Okagaki begin to explore how technology can be leveraged. [More](#).

What are the outcomes of microenterprise and small business organizations' clients?



Every year FIELD works with a set of 15-25 microenterprise and small business development organizations to collect client outcomes data through EntrepreneurTracker. FIELD recently published survey data from 2015, including [EntrepreneurTracker Client Outcomes Survey Highlights](#). The highlights shed light on the people served by microenterprise organizations and the way that clients' businesses start and grow with their support. [More](#).

Nominate for the Job Quality Fellowship

[Doing Good](#)
By Mark Popovich

In the News



[These HR Leaders Are Going 'All In' to Bridge the Skills Gap](#)

By Dori Meinert,
SHRM.org, quoting
Maureen Conway.



[Why Workplace Financial Wellness Programs Are Hot](#)

By Kerry Hannon,
NextAvenue



[As Store Layoffs Mount, Retail Lags in Retraining Workers](#)

By Yuki Noguchi, *National Public Radio*, quoting
Maureen Conway.

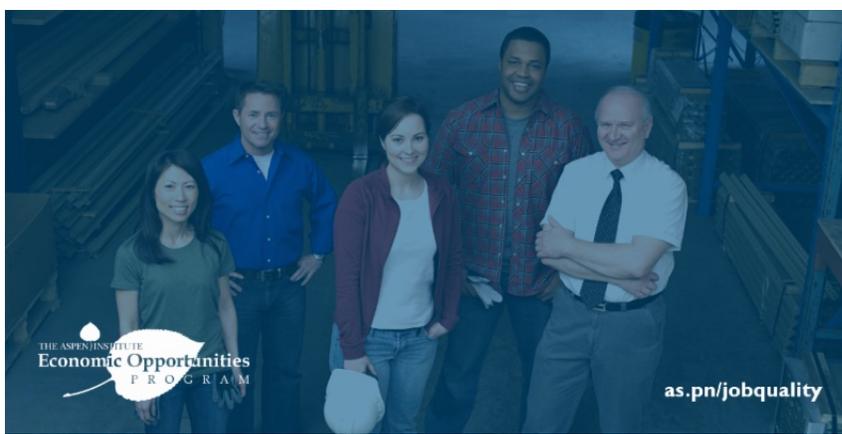
Join the Conversation!

Follow the Economic Opportunities Program initiatives on Twitter and Facebook to join the conversation!



So glad to be part of a full room of committed women in the CDFI industry
[@OppFinance!](#)
[-FIELD](#), [@AspenMicro](#)

Please take our survey to help us learn how you



In communities across the country, leaders are innovating to improve the availability of quality jobs. The Economic Opportunities Program recently announced the creation of the [Job Quality Fellowship](#), which will bring together such leaders. Until July 10, we are accepting nominations for the fellowship. Visit [our website](#) for more information and answers to frequently asked questions. [More](#).

prepare young people for different forms of work. <http://bit.ly/EOP-Survey>
-AspenWSI,
@AspenWorkforce

Employers: Want to learn how to educate & train #frontline workers? See our #UpSkilling playbook!
-UpSkill America
@upskillamerica

Important read on the cruelty of adding #work requirements to #healthcare.
-Maureen Conway
@conway_maureen

Survey: What services do young people need?

The Economic Opportunities Program is conducting [a survey to learn perspectives of individuals preparing young people ages 16 to 24 for work](#). To what degree are economic changes, such as the rise of nontraditional work, affecting the types of work opportunities available to young people? What are the implications for organizations focused on education, entrepreneurship, youth development, and workforce development? We want to hear from you. [Complete the survey](#).

US Microenterprise Census Survey

Funders, federal and state policymakers, and others look to FIELD's [US Microenterprise Census](#) as the primary source of program data on the microenterprise industry. By submitting data, microenterprise development organizations help demonstrate the value of their work. They also get access to data they can use to compare and benchmark their performance with that of others in the industry. To submit data, organizations can go to [microTracker.org](#). [More](#).

EOP leaders take the stage

Leaders from the Economic Opportunities Program presented on several occasions in recent months, highlighting promising policies, practices, and ideas to help low- and moderate-income workers connect to and thrive in today's economy.

- Maureen Conway and Judy Samuelson (of the Business & Society Program) jointly led a program at the [2017 Aspen Ideas Festival](#), titled "What Constitutes a 'Good Job' and How Can We Create More of Them?" as part of the Aspen Policy Series.
- Maureen Conway moderated the plenary discussion, "Promoting Health and Financial Wellness" at the [National Fund for Workforce Solutions Annual Meeting 2017](#).
- Ranita Jain participated in a panel discussion titled "Manufacturing Good Jobs in Chicago: The Genesis Movement" at the [National Fund for Workforce Solutions Annual Meeting 2017](#).
- Jaime Fall, director of UpSkill America, participated in a panel discussion titled "Beyond Starbucks/ASU: The Future of Education Benefits" held at SHRM 2017 in New Orleans, La. He highlighted the [UpSkilling Playbook for Employers](#), released that morning at the conference.
- Joyce Klein participated in a plenary session titled "Serving Entrepreneurs of Color" and moderated a panel discussion on "Responsible Business Lending: What's the Role for CDFIs?" at the Opportunity Finance Network's [Small Business Finance Forum](#).
- Joyce also provided opening remarks at Wacif's [Small Business Capital Forum: Navigating the Online and Alternative Lending Marketplace](#).
- Joyce participated in a panel discussion titled "[Fintech Lenders and Their Potential to Reach Underserved Women- and Minority-Owned Small Businesses](#)" at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's 2017 Policy Summit.
- Joyce participated as a panelist in the discussion titled "Technology and Nonprofit Operations" at the [Credit Builders Alliance 2017 Symposium](#).

- Maureen Conway provided opening remarks at "[Double Bottom Line: The Business Benefits of Employee Financial Well-Being](#)," an event jointly hosted by the Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program, with Prudential, at the National Press Club in May.

Upcoming events

Join the Economic Opportunities Program at one of our upcoming events, either in person or online.

- Our next event in the Working in America series, "Dream Hoarders: A Book Talk with Richard Reeves," will be held from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm on Thursday, July 20, 2017. Join us in person or online! [More](#).
- The Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program will host the 2017 Economic Security Summit, "Reconnecting Work and Wealth: Constructing a New American Middle Class" in Aspen, Colorado, in July. [More](#).

Stay tuned for more event announcements soon!



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***The Economic Opportunities Program (EOP)** advances promising strategies, policies, and ideas to help low- and moderate-income Americans thrive in a changing economy. Over its 25 years of work, EOP has focused on expanding individuals' opportunities to connect to quality work, to start businesses, and to build assets and economic stability. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org/eop.*

***The Aspen Institute** is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute is based in Washington, DC; Aspen, CO; and on the Wye River on Maryland's Eastern Shore. It also has offices in New York City and an international network of partners. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org.*

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Questions or comments? Email us at eop@aspennst.org or call us at (202) 736-2933.