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

*SHRM*

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

These HR Leaders Are Going 'All In' to Bridge the Skills Gap

**Why Workplace Financial Wellness Programs Are Hot**
By Kerry Hannon, *NextAvenue*

**As Store Layoffs Mount, Retail Lags in Retraining Workers**

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.

**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**.

**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](#).

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](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/eop).

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Thank you to our many partners and funders for supporting our efforts.

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