



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE  
**Economic Opportunities**  
P R O G R A M

## What's new at the Economic Opportunities Program - Nov. 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.

### Ensuring economic opportunity is inclusive



What do racial inequities — in hiring rates, earnings, benefits, and wealth — tell us about working in America today? At the latest [Working in America](#) event, "[Race, Work, and Opportunity in America](#)," panelists explored the history and enduring impact of systemic barriers that Black workers face in the American workforce. Read the summary and watch the [full video](#) online.

Additionally, EOP leaders are exploring opportunities for work to be more inclusive. EOP Executive Director Maureen Conway spoke at the [Women's Convention in Detroit](#) in "Future(s) of Work," a panel discussion, highlighting how better policies and business practices are key to improving the future of work for women.

FIELD Director Joyce Klein discussed strategies to reduce the racial wealth gap through business ownership in recent panel discussions. She highlighted FIELD's recent paper, [Bridging the Divide: How Business Ownership Can Help Close the Racial Wealth Gap](#), both at the 2017 Urban America Forward convening in Chicago and at

### Our Initiatives

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



**UpSkillAmerica**

**GOOD COMPANIES  
GOOD JOBS**



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[Three Reasons Why Rising Pay Won't Pummel Profits](#)  
By Maureen Conway and Mark G. Popovich

["Access to Capital for DC Innovators,"](#) hosted by the Aspen Institute Center for Urban Innovation.

## Expanding access to quality jobs



EOP recently announced the 16 fellows in the inaugural cohort of the [Job Quality Fellowship](#), which aims to support and strengthen the work of leaders dedicated to expanding availability of better quality jobs in our economy. In early October, EOP convened the 16 fellows in Aspen, Colorado. Fellows discussed, debated, and collaborated on a host of crucial issues related to job quality.

UpSkill America, one of EOP's initiatives, [received a \\$600,000 grant from Walmart](#) to expand its efforts to equip businesses with the tools to educate, train, and develop frontline workers so that these workers can advance in their careers. "With this new support, we look forward to further developing tools to help other employers launch, improve, and expand upskilling programs," [said Jaime Fall](#), director of UpSkill America.

## History and future of work

### [The Retail Marathon: People Practices Power Performance](#)

By Mark G. Popovich and Amanda Newman

### [Shaping the Future for Black Workers Means Confronting Our History](#)

By Nicole Corea

### [Creating a New Golden Age for American Workers](#)

By Nicole Corea

### [The US Must Improve Its Long-Term Care Industry](#)

By Nicole Corea

## In the News

The Forbes logo is displayed in a large, bold, blue serif font against a white background.

### [How to Fix Racial Inequities in the Workforce](#)

By Richard Eisenberg, *Next Avenue* and *Forbes*, covering "Race, Work, and Opportunity in America," a Working in America event.

The logo for "Spotlight on Poverty &amp; Opportunity" features the words "SPOTLIGHT ON POVERTY &amp; OPPORTUNITY" in a bold, sans-serif font. "SPOTLIGHT" is in red, "ON POVERTY" is in black, and "&amp; OPPORTUNITY" is in red. The text is set against a white background with a thin black border.

[Rising Racial and Economic Inequality Threatens Opportunities for Workers of Color](#)  
In *Spotlight on Poverty & Opportunity*, covering "Race, Work, and Opportunity in America."



The Economic Opportunities Program hosted several book talks in recent months that highlighted historical trends and future projections related to job quality. In September, EOP and the Financial Security Program [hosted a book talk with Rick Wartzman](#) to discuss his new book, *The End of Loyalty: The Rise and Fall of Good Jobs in America*, with Neil Irwin of the New York Times.



In October, the Economic Opportunities Program, in collaboration with the Health, Medicine, and Society Program, hosted [a Working in America event on long-term care](#), an industry that is expected to demand far more workers in the coming decades. Alongside fellow panelists, MIT Economist Paul Osterman discussed his new book, *Who Will Care for Us?*, in a conversation on how to improve work and care.



[America's Stores Are Closing. Why Isn't That Raising a Jobs Alarm?](#)  
By Schuyler Velasco,  
*Christian Science Monitor*, citing EOP research.

## Join the Conversation!

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



To confront the [#racialwealthgap](#), we need to boost investments in minority-owned businesses. [#UrbanFWD](#) -FIELD, [@AspenMicro](#)

How do we understand the experience of Black workers, and what does it tell us about working in America today? [as.pn/raceandwork](#) [#talkgoodjobs](#) -AspenWSI, [@AspenWorkforce](#)

"We look forward to further developing tools to help other employers launch, improve, & expand upskilling programs."

## Making a difference in business ownership



-UpSkill America,  
@upskillamerica

More than 1 in 20 people  
working full-time year  
round live in poverty.  
#workingpoor  
#ruralinnovation  
-Maureen Conway,  
@conway\_maureen

FIELD recently convened the Fall 2017 Microfinance Impact Collaborative meeting. The [Microfinance Impact Collaborative](#) works to inform, strengthen, and accelerate the efforts of US microenterprise finance organizations that are committed to significantly increasing the impact of their work. At this meeting, MIC members discussed portfolio trends, loan product offerings, and challenges and pathways to scale.

FIELD also hosted two free webinars on microloan underwriting and microloan portfolio management, asking participants who work in microenterprise development programs to [complete the US Microenterprise Census Survey](#). The data reported to the Census is a crucial tool to help [build the microenterprise industry and make the case for its work](#) expanding economic opportunities through business ownership strategies.

Finally, Joseph Blasi, distinguished professor and sociologist at Rutgers and director of the Fellowship Program on Employee Share Ownership and Profit Sharing at Rutgers, [has joined EOP](#) as Senior Fellow. We are excited to have Joseph working with us to advance ideas of how employees can participate in business ownership and have a greater stake in economic success so they can thrive in a changing economy.

## Upcoming for the Economic Opportunities Program

- On Friday, November 17, the Economic Opportunities Program and the Future of Work Initiative will host the next event in the Working in America series, "[What's in Store: The Future of Work in Retail](#)," at our offices in Washington, DC. The panel discussion will cover evolving trends in the retail industry and their impacts on work. [Register today!](#)
- **We're Moving!** The Aspen Institute headquarters will be relocating to 2300 N Street NW, Washington, DC, at the end of the year. The Economic Opportunities Program has many exciting events planned for 2018. Join us at our beautiful new offices and event space for our Working in America series discussions and other conversations. We look forward to seeing you there!



## THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

**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).

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

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

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

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