

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

### Can good jobs be built into America's infrastructure investments?



In March, we held our latest Working in America event, [Building Good Jobs into America's Infrastructure Investments](#). Panelists - including Denise Fairchild of Emerald Cities Collaborative, Rick Moore of Swinerton Incorporated, Mayor Dana Redd of Camden, New Jersey, and Adie Tomer of Brookings - discussed the benefits that infrastructure projects could have for workers and business. [More](#).

### How to help the microfinance field achieve its maximum potential



### Our Initiatives

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



**UpSkillAmerica**

**GOOD COMPANIES  
GOOD JOBS**

### In the News



[We all have a role to play in addressing inequality and advancing opportunity](#)  
By Maureen Conway,  
*Huffington Post*

Microenterprise finance organizations around the country are working to create opportunities through business ownership. The Microfinance Impact Collaborative is a FIELD project to inform, strengthen, and accelerate the efforts of these organizations. In March, the Collaborative gathered again to learn from each other and identify ways to increase the microfinance field's impact. [More](#).

## The dissolving link between work and wealth



On the eve of the [Aspen Summit on Inequality and Opportunity](#), the Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program hosted [a discussion on work, wealth, and the dissolving link between the two](#). The event featured several phenomenal speakers, including Lata Reddy of Prudential Financial and the Prudential Foundation, Juan Salgado of Instituto del Progreso Latino, Jared Bernstein of Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Justine Zinkin of Neighborhood Trust, and Tom Shapiro of Brandeis University. [More](#).

[Building Barriers Won't Solve Economic Inequality](#)  
By Bill Bynum, Aspen Institute Trustee and Chief Executive Officer, HOPE

[What Wealth Inequality Means for the Newest Americans](#)  
By José A. Quiñonez, CEO, Mission Asset Fund

[Protecting the Future of Work](#)  
By Dan Bryant, Senior Vice President for Global Public Policy and Government Affairs, Walmart

[Fighting Income Inequality Is About More than Jobs](#)  
By Margaret Libby, Founding Executive Director, MyPath, and nLIFT member

[Every American Deserves Financial Security](#)  
By Mae Watson Grote, Founder, The Financial Clinic, and nLIFT member

[Half of All Americans Don't Have \\$400 to Spare](#)  
By Timothy Flacke, Executive Director, Commonwealth, and nLIFT member

## Inequality, opportunity, and the Aspen Institute



The second [Aspen Summit on Inequality and Opportunity](#) brought together hundreds of leaders from philanthropy, business, nonprofits, education, and more for a series of discussions. Many of the panels were developed with guidance from EOP leaders, including "[Why Good Jobs Are Good Business](#)," which was moderated by Maureen Conway. Watch the Summit videos [online](#) and read Maureen's [highlights](#).

## Join the Conversation!

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



"It's really important to open #biz ownership as an opportunity for women." - Joyce Klein #IWD2017 -FIELD, @AspenMicro

## Economic opportunities through rural

How can we improve low-

## entrepreneurship



Particularly in rural communities, entrepreneurs are the engines for job growth and with support can become anchors for community economic development. In March, FIELD Director Joyce Klein moderated [Supporting Entrepreneurial Economies](#), a panel discussion on the importance of entrepreneurs in rural areas, presented by the Aspen Community Strategies Group with the Rural Development Innovation Group. [More](#).

income #jobquality? Start by building ladders & raising the floor. [as.pn/buildladders](https://aspenworkforce.org/as.pn/buildladders) -AspenWSI, @AspenWorkforce

From burritos to baccalaureates. How @ChipotleTweets is using #education to #upskill its workforce. [bit.ly/ChipotleU](https://bit.ly/ChipotleU) -UpSkill America @upskillamerica

## Investing in workforce organizations building capacity and pursuing new strategies



How can funders support workforce development organizations seeking to build their capacity and pursue new strategies? In a new report, "[Investing in Workforce Program Innovation](#)," AspenWSI researched how the Capital One Foundation's Human Capital Innovation Fund (HCIF) invested in building the capacity of five organizations: Brooklyn Workforce Innovations, DC Central Kitchen, the Greater New Orleans Foundation, JobsFirstNYC, and The Door. [More](#).

## Six local partners join Reimagine Retail



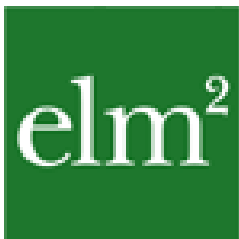
The Economic Opportunities Program announced this week the selection of six local partners from around the country to receive up to \$200,000 each to participate in Reimagine Retail. Over a two-year period, the diverse group of organizations will participate in the project, which aims to explore ways to enhance job quality and improve mobility for workers in retail, in collaboration with the Walmart Foundation. [More](#).

## How companies are investing in their employees



Jaime Fall, director of UpSkill America, was a keynote speaker at the [Chief Talent Officer Exchange](#) in Kissimmee, Florida, on March 21. Jaime helped kick off the day by sharing some models of how companies are investing in their employees, the benefit these investment are bringing to the companies, and some tips for how companies can receive a greater impact from their upskilling investments.

## Tomorrow's leaders in microbusiness



FIELD's Emerging Leaders in Microbusiness (ELM2) aims to attract and strengthen leaders to support the continued growth and vitality of microbusiness in the US. In April, ELM2 fellows met in New York City to discuss building skills to support creativity and strengthening the voices of clients and leaders in the microbusiness development field. ELM2 fellows met with Cathie Mahon of the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions to discuss her leadership experiences. [More.](#)

## Upcoming events

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

- Nonprofit Leaders in Financial Technology (nLIFT), a group of organizations convened by the Aspen Institute with the common goal of increasing financial inclusion through technology-driven platforms, and JPMorgan Chase & Co. are hosting an evening reception on Wednesday, May 10, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in New York City. [Register.](#)
- The Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program will host "[Double Bottom Line: The Business Benefits of Employee Financial Well-Being](#)," on Tuesday, May 16, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The event will feature several panel discussions and special guest speakers. [Register.](#)
- Our next Working in America event will cover tax reform and its effects on low- and moderate-income workers. It will be held on June 5 at the Aspen Institute offices in Washington, DC. Save the date!

Stay tuned for more event announcements soon!



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.