

What's new at the Economic Opportunities Program - Jan. 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.

How to increase business ownership and reduce the racial wealth gap



How can business ownership help narrow the racial wealth gap? And how can we expand business ownership opportunities to Latinos, African Americans, and other underserved groups? FIELD hosted "[Business Ownership and the Racial Wealth Gap: Expanding the Growth of Minority-Owned Firms](#)" in December, exploring these questions and many more. The full video and related resources are available online. [More](#).

Newly released materials and reflection from the Communities that Work Partnership

Our Initiatives

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



In the News



[By supporting overtime rule fix, President-elect Trump can keep his promises to workers.](#)
By Maureen Conway,
Cleveland Plain Dealer.



[Why You Should Be Investing in Your Employees' Education](#)
By Jaime Fall, *Media Planet and USA Today.*





In November, AspenWSI teamed up with the US Department of Commerce to present an event reflecting on the [Communities that Work Partnership](#), an 18-month effort to document and accelerate the development of employer-led regional workforce initiatives across the country. Leaders from the partnership shared key lessons and future directions, as well as strategies implemented across the partnerships and documented in a playbook released at the event. [More](#).

Financial inclusion through nonprofit-powered financial technology



December marked the launch of [Nonprofit Leaders in Financial Technology \(nLIFT\)](#), a group of organizations with a shared goal of increasing financial inclusion through technology-driven platforms, convened by FIELD and the Financial Security Program at the Aspen Institute. In a piece released on Medium, the participating organizations argued that nonprofits can drive meaningful and lasting change at the intersection of technology and financial inclusion. [More](#).

Challenges and opportunities for young workers

[How Do We Make More Jobs Good Jobs?](#)
By Maureen Conway and Elliot Gerson, *Medium*



[The Racial Wealth Gap Hurts Entrepreneurs – and the Economy](#)
By Alison Decker, *The Aspen Institute Blog*

Forbes

[How the Commerce Department Is Fighting to Close the Skills Gap](#)
By Vicky Valet, *Forbes*, describing the Communities that Work Partnership.



[Will Amazon Go Eliminate Jobs? Experts Say Probably Not](#)
By Eric Tegethoff, *Public News Service*, quoting Maureen Conway.



[6 Ways Companies Can Support Degree Completion for Employees](#)
By *College for America*, quoting Jaime Fall.



[The Importance of a First Job](#)
By Alison Decker, *The Aspen Institute Blog*.



[The Hitachi Foundation Launches Good Companies, Good Jobs Strategy; Makes \\$11 Million in Gifts](#)
Press Release from the



Join the Conversation!

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



Can we increase inclusion through nonprofit-powered #fintech? #nLIFT
bit.ly/2hQmz90
-FIELD, @AspenMicro

How are public and private sectors building #communitiesthatwork? Find out at as.pn/ctwp
-AspenWSI, @AspenWorkforce

Our new year's resolution? Make 2017 the year of the adult learner.
bit.ly/UpSkillIMP
-UpSkill America @upskillamerica

In "[Has the First Job Disappeared?](#)," the final Working in America event of 2016, a diverse panel explored trends in young adult participation in the workforce. Moderated by Melanie Trottman of the Wall Street Journal, panelists took a close look at the role connections to employers can play in helping young adults access career-launching experiences and long-term prosperity. [More.](#)

AspenWSI now accepting Letters of Interest for Reimagine Retail



In 2016, with the support of the Walmart Foundation and in partnership with Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, AspenWSI launched [Reimagine Retail](#). Through this initiative, AspenWSI will award five sites across the country up to \$200,000 to explore and pursue strategies to improve job quality and support advancement for frontline and entry-level retail workers. AspenWSI is accepting Letters of Interest from prospective organizations until January 18, 2017. [More.](#)

Emerging Leaders in Microbusiness continue to develop skills



In 2016, FIELD created an alumni program for its three cohorts of Emerging Leaders in Microbusiness ([ELM2](#)) fellows. Alumni met for the third time this year, this time in San Francisco, to continue to build their leadership skills and networks. Highlights include continued training on change management from Capital

One, peer coaching sessions on key leadership challenges, and an interview with Carla Javits, CEO of REDF. [More.](#)

Upcoming events

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

- On Thursday, January 12, the Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program will hold "[Juggling Shifts: The Effect of Unpredictable Scheduling on Income Volatility and Potential Solutions](#)" at the Aspen Institute offices in Washington, DC.
- On Thursday, January 26, the Economic Opportunities Program will hold the "[Launch of the Good Companies/Good Jobs Initiative at the Aspen Institute](#)" at our offices in Washington, DC. The new initiative will look to sectors that have the potential to house good companies and good jobs,

including health care, manufacturing, retail, hospitality, and more. It will also explore tools to better align capital deployment to firms with good jobs outcomes. [Join us!](#)

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.

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.

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.