

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

### New initiative at the Economic Opportunities Program: Good Companies/Good Jobs



The [Good Companies/Good Jobs Initiative at the Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program](#) was launched in January. The new initiative encourages and equips business leaders to enact strategies that simultaneously produce outstanding outcomes for their businesses and their frontline workers. Good Companies/Good Jobs is led by [Mark Popovich](#) (pictured above), former vice president for programs at The Hitachi Foundation. [More](#).

### Employers and frontline workers discuss economic opportunity strategies

### Our Initiatives

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



### In the News



[How Do We Make More Jobs Good Jobs](#)

By Elliot Gerson and Maureen Conway, *Aspen Journal of Ideas*



[We Need Good Companies to Create Good Jobs](#)

By Mark Popovich and



As part of the launch of Good Companies/Good Jobs, EOP held a [Working in America event](#). Moderated by EOP Executive Director Maureen Conway, employer-worker pairs from ASK Power, a manufacturing firm in Aurora, Illinois, and Anne Arundel Health System, a regional health system headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland, described how high quality jobs helped frontline workers excel and helped the employers achieve their goals. [More](#).

## CDFI CONNECT®

[Why CDFIs Must Play a Key Role in Bridging the Racial Wealth Gap through Business Ownership](#)  
By Joyce Klein, CDFI Connect

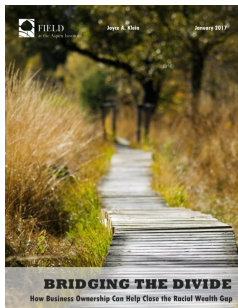


[Announcement of Inaugural Class of Detroit Workforce System Leadership Development Academy](#)  
*Aspen Institute Press Release*



[Business Ownership Key to Addressing the Racial Wealth Gap](#)  
By the Annie E. Casey Foundation, featuring FIELD report *Bridging the Divide*

## New FIELD publication on the racial wealth gap



In January, FIELD released [Bridging the Divide](#), the initiative's latest publication on business ownership and the racial wealth gap. The publication outlines the role that business ownership plays in building wealth for people of color. Additionally, it provides short- and long-term recommendations for further narrowing the racial wealth gap through business ownership strategies. [More](#).

## Join the Conversation!

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



Will mounting student debt lead to a lost generation of #entrepreneurs?  
<http://nyti.ms/2iCSOMu>  
-FIELD, @AspenMicro

The number of Americans in need of long-term care will double by 2050. How can we prepare?  
[bit.ly/SEIUCaseStudy](http://bit.ly/SEIUCaseStudy)  
-AspenWSI, @AspenWorkforce

Our new year's resolution? Make 2017 the year of the adult learner.

## Scheduling and income volatility



The Economic Opportunities Program joined the Financial Security Program's EPIC initiative to host "[Juggling Shifts: The Effect of Unpredictable Scheduling on Income Volatility and Potential Solutions](#)." Panelists explored cross-sector innovative solutions to both scheduling unpredictability and income volatility. [More](#).



UpSkill America [highlighted upskilling stories](#) on its website, examples of employers' training and advancement practices that are helping workers progress in their careers and move into better-paying jobs. Additionally, UpSkill America Director Jaime Fall discussed upskilling strategies at a CPAC event on "Innovation and the Future of Work" and in a presentation at the US Department of Labor Region VI and Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Strategic Dialogue Convening. [Learn more about upskilling strategies.](#)

## Upcoming events

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

- On Wednesday, March 15, the Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program will hold "[Finding Steady Ground: A Conversation on Work and Wealth](#)," an evening reception and discussion at our offices in Washington, DC. On the eve of the Aspen Institute Summit on Inequality and Opportunity, panelists will discuss challenges facing working people struggling to attain economic stability. [More.](#)
- On Thursday, March 16, the [Aspen Institute Summit on Inequality and Opportunity](#) will take place at the Mead Center for American Theater. The Summit is a collaboration between the Institute's public and policy programs working to increase access to opportunity and financial security around the country. [Register here.](#)
- On Friday, March 17, the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group, one of our fellow policy programs, will host "[Supporting Entrepreneurial Economies](#)," presented with the Rural Innovation Group. [More.](#)
- On Tuesday, March 21, the Economic Opportunities Program will host its next Working in America event, "[Building Good Jobs into America's Infrastructure Investments](#)," at our offices in Washington, DC. Speakers will discuss the opportunities for work created by infrastructure projects as well as the benefits that renewed infrastructure offer for both workers and business. [More.](#)

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).*

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