Aspen Institute Economic Mobility Fellowship

An Action Learning Lab for Corporate Leaders

Economic inequality has been increasing in the U.S. almost continuously since 1980, resulting in the most unequal distribution of wealth among industrialized countries.

In the past several years, economic uncertainty, political discord, and rapid advances in AI have further destabilized the financial well-being and prospects of our country's marginalized.

The Aspen Institute Economic Mobility Fellowship was founded in response to these dynamics. Now in its fourth year, this Fellowship helps business leaders to scale promising projects that drive business value and enhance economic mobility for low-income individuals and families in the U.S.

BUSINESS & SOCIETY
aspen institute





The Aspen Institute Economic Mobility Fellowship helps business leaders to scale initiatives that expand economic opportunity for low-income families while delivering value to their companies.

THE FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

CURRICULUM

Program content is created alongside industry experts and draws on over 20 years of experience working with change leaders in large companies:

- Economic mobility trends, data, and insights
- Case studies in corporate practice
- Intrapreneurial skills and strategies
- Effective storytelling and communication strategies
- Designing a robust financial case
- Driving organizational change
- Strategies for scaling and institutionalizing impact programs
- Navigating the impacts of AI adoption

2027 PROGRAM DETAILS

ATTENDANCE

Fellows must attend all three seminars*:

- Seminar 1: Aspen, Colorado, May/June 2027
- Seminar 2: Amenia, New York, Oct/Nov 2027
- Seminar 3: Albuquerque, New Mexico, Feb/Mar 2028

**Seminar dates and locations will be finalized as the cohort is established.*

FELLOWSHIP FEE

Thanks to a generous grant from Ballmer Group, the costs for the Economic Mobility Fellowship are heavily subsidized. Companies will be required to pay $17,500 to participate, as well as travel costs to/from the seminar locations. The fee covers individual tailored support for each Fellow, content development and delivery, and onsite costs such as meals and lodging.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Fellows are nominated by leaders in their industry and company—or can self-nominate. Ideal candidates have a proven track record in innovation, coupled with a compelling idea about a Fellowship Project to undertake during the Fellowship. We are especially interested in candidates who work in core business functions. Promising candidates are invited to submit an application and participate in an interview with members of the Fellowship program staff.

Are you interested in learning more about the Fellowship? Do you have a candidate in mind?

CONTACT US

What is the value of the Fellowship?

FOR COMPANIES

We have over 20 years of experience working with hundreds of executives and change leaders inside of large companies to deliver new innovations that generate measurable business value and meaningful social impact. By participating in the Economic Mobility Fellowship, companies will:

- Scale projects that solve critical business challenges while reducing income and wealth gaps
- Develop and support internal change-leaders who can drive enterprise-wide value creation
- Leverage and contribute to a growing body of knowledge on how corporate practice can support greater economic mobility

FOR PARTICIPANTS

Fellows will receive the support they need to translate promising projects into lasting impact. Participants will:

- Collaborate with cross-industry leaders at the cutting edge of practice
- Access emerging data and insight on issues of economic mobility
- Receive tailored project coaching from experts in economic mobility and corporate intrapreneurship
- Sharpen their ability to drive projects with measurable social and business impacts
- Develop their capacity to lead cross-functional change inside of large companies
- Multiply their networks of peers and subject matter experts

"The Economic Mobility Fellowship has been one of the most valuable experiences of my career. The time I've spent with the Aspen Institute and my fellow Fellows has inspired me to act and given me the tools necessary to create change."



Sal Venegas

SVP, Global Talent Management & Team Member Experience

Walgreens Boots Alliance

"This has hands-down been one of the most valuable professional growth experiences I've had. Between the connection to an incredibly smart and passionate group of Fellows and coming away with tools, knowledge, and-most importantly-energy to help bridge the opportunity gaps in our economy, I can't recommend it enough!"

Melina Wyatt

Senior Manager, Opportunity Programming

Gap Inc.



Who makes a great candidate?

Great candidates work inside of large, for-profit companies.

The Economic Mobility Fellowship is designed for exceptional business professionals inside of large private or public companies across industries. The program does not accept people working in government, start-ups, or the nonprofit sector.

Great candidates are committed to business growth and supporting economic mobility.

Candidates should have 10+ years of industry experience, a demonstrated track record of innovation, and a deep passion for economic mobility—along with the authority to lead a new change initiative.

Great candidates come from a variety of backgrounds.

The program aims to build a class that is diverse in demographics, industries, roles, and project type.

Great candidates are positioned to accelerate, optimize, or scale projects poised for significant impact.

We seek a broad range of innovative hiring, retention, and advancement practices, as well as new products and services that serve the needs of low-income individuals and families in the U.S.

Example projects include:

- Talent pipeline development & skills-based hiring programs
- Financial and insurance services & tools for low-income individuals
- Networking & career development tools for frontline workers
- Expansion of access to quality education, healthcare, internet, or housing
- Apprenticeship & skills development programs
- Supply chain strategies that support business growth from marginalized communities
- Human-centered AI deployment and adoption





By the numbers

53 FELLOWS across **4 FELLOWSHIP CLASSES**

100% OF FELLOWS would recommend the program to others.

94% OF FELLOWS indicate the Fellowship has had a significant or transformational impact on them.

Here's a selection of the most important impacts that Fellows report immediately following their Fellowship year.

70% OF FELLOWS indicated that their company has greater leadership capacity because of their growth as a leader.

81% OF FELLOWS indicated that they have a clearer understanding of where and how supporting economic mobility can align with long-term business goals.

92% OF FELLOWS brought Economic Mobility Fellowship tools or practices back to their company.

81% OF FELLOWS indicated their projects moved forward during the Fellowship.

72% OF FELLOWS indicated that they are able to be more strategic at work.

PARTICIPATING COMPANIES INCLUDE:

amazon, COMCAST, Google, HCA Healthcare, LEVI STRAUSS & CO., LinkedIn, Mastercard, McDonald's, J.P.Morgan, Walmart, CVS pharmacy, UNITED, Adobe

Who we are

The Aspen Institute Business and Society Program, founded in 1998, works with business executives and scholars to align business decisions and investments with the long-term health of society—and the planet. Through carefully designed networks, working groups, and focused dialogue, the Program identifies and inspires thought leaders and "intrapreneurs" to challenge conventional ideas about capitalism and markets, to test new measures of business success, and to connect classroom theory and business practice.

PROGRAM DESIGN TEAM

Jaime Bettcher
Assistant Director, Aspen Institute Business & Society Program

Becca (Chacko) Carroll
Chief Strategy Officer, IDEO

Haley Glover
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Eli Malinsky
Deputy Director, Aspen Institute Business & Society Program

Ethan Rouen
Associate Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School

Judy Samuelson
Executive Director, Aspen Institute Business & Society Program

Kristen Tadrous
Program Manager, Aspen Institute Business & Society Program

PROGRAM EXPERTS

The Fellowship partners with experts from a wide range of organizations to provide cutting edge information, tools, and training. Sample speakers came from the following organizations:

- PepsiCo
- University of Michigan
- Good Jobs Institute
- Edelman
- PolicyLink
- PayPal
- Harvard Business School
- Financial Health Network
- Morgan Stanley

