

Policy Programs

The Aspen Institute

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The Aspen Institute policy programs advance public and private sector knowledge on significant policy issues confronting contemporary society. Policy programs frame critical topics and convene leaders and experts from relevant fields to reach constructive solutions. While each is unique in substance and approach, Aspen Institute policy programs all share a common mission and methodology. Each serves as an impartial forum, bringing a diversity of perspectives together in informed dialogue, research and action.

Currently, the Aspen Institute policy programs are:

The Advocacy and Exchange Program on Agent Orange/Dioxin promotes dialogue within the US policy community, and between the United States and Vietnam, on solutions to the continuing impact of the wartime use of herbicides in Vietnam. (www.aspeninstitute.org/agentorangeprogram)

The Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) is a newly emerging network of entrepreneurial leaders who invest in and provide management assistance to small and growing businesses, as well as the foundations and investors who fund and support these efforts. ANDE will bring together leading intermediaries, funders, and experts who share a common goal and vision: to dramatically increase the amount and effectiveness of capital and technical/business assistance for entrepreneurs in developing countries. (<http://aspeninstitute.org/ANDE>)

The Aspen Strategy Group (ASG) convenes prominent foreign policy and national security experts to consider the important challenges facing the United States in the world today. (www.aspeninstitute.org/asp)

The Business and Society Program (BSP) is dedicated to developing leaders for a sustainable global society. Through dialogues and path-breaking research, it creates opportunities for executives and educators to explore new pathways to sustainability and values-based leadership. Its websites, www.BeyondGreyPinstripes.org and www.CasePlace.org, are the leading sources of innovative curriculum in top business schools around the world. (www.aspeninstitute.org/bsp)

Change and Prosperity: The Program on the World Economy promotes dialogue among leaders in business, finance, government, academia, and the media from industrial and developing nations in

order to generate new approaches to major global economic challenges. (www.aspeninstitute.org/pwe)

The Commission on No Child Left Behind is a bipartisan, independent commission that will examine the strengths and weaknesses of the No Child Left Behind Act and make concrete and realistic recommendations to Congress, the Administration, state and local stakeholders, parents, and the general public to ensure the law is an effective tool in spurring academic achievement and closing the achievement gap. (www.nclbcommission.org)

The Communications and Society Program (C&S) promotes dialogue and innovative decision-making in the fields of communications and information policy. It convenes leaders to assess the impact of modern communications and information systems and develops new models for communications policy. (www.aspeninstitute.org/c&s)

The Community Strategies Group (CSG) designs and manages peer learning exchange and critical examination opportunities among community leaders, practitioners and policymakers engaged in improving regional and community economic development, civic capacity, family livelihoods, and the development of local philanthropic resources. (www.aspeninstitute.org/csg)

The Congressional Program offers nonpartisan educational programs designed to foster leadership on public policy issues among members of the US Congress. (www.aspeninstitute.org/congressional)

The Council of Women World Leaders and the Ministerial Initiative is a partnership with the Institute that promotes good governance and gender equality and aims to increase the number, effectiveness and visibility of women in top leadership roles. (www.womenworldleaders.org)

The Economic Opportunities Program (EOP) advances strategies that connect the poor and underserved to the mainstream economy by providing practical tools, training, and research-based information to organizations that help low-income individuals start a business, find a better job, and build wealth. (www.aspeninstitute.org/eop)

The Education and Society Program identifies emerging policy issues and encourages new initiatives in education among diverse groups of policymakers, practitioners, analysts and other leaders. (www.aspeninstitute.org/education)

The Energy and Environment Program brings together leaders in business, government, educational, research, and environmental organizations to seek creative solutions to domestic and international policy issues involving energy and the environment. (www.aspeninstitute.org/ee)

The Global Initiative on Arts, Culture, and Society seeks to build a neutral platform for reflection, network building, policy formulation, leadership development, and resource mobilization in the fields of arts, culture, and socioeconomic development. (www.aspeninstitute.org/artsandculture)

The Global Interdependence Initiative (GII) commissions research and provides technical assistance to help global issues advocates, experts and communicators engage the American public in dialogue about the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly interdependent world. (www.aspeninstitute.org/gii)

The Health, Biomedical Science and Society Initiative (HBSS) examines societal issues related to health policy, medicine, nutrition and biotechnology through a combination of roundtable discussions, speaker series and public convenings. (www.aspeninstitute.org/health)

The Homeland Security Initiative examines the issues relating to US homeland security, assessing progress made by the US Department of Homeland Security and developing recommendations for making America safer. (www.aspeninstitute.org/security)

The Initiative on Financial Security (IFS) brings together business executives, elected officials, policy experts, and leaders from the non-profit community to explore and develop proposals on how low and moderate income Americans can save, invest, and own assets over their lifetime. (www.aspeninstitute.org/ifs)

The Justice and Society Program (J&S) convenes leaders from several disciplines and professions to affect national and international policy regarding human rights, international law, transitional justice and post-conflict multilateral peacekeeping operations. (www.aspeninstitute.org/justice)

The Market Building Initiative creates dialogue, frameworks, and active engagement to support countries in building legitimate market economies after conflict and instability. Complementary to the Institute for State Effectiveness' work on state-building, the program aims to put in place the value chains and underpinning credible institutions and infrastructure to allow citizens to participate in the benefits of a globalizing world.

The Middle East Strategy Group (MESG) includes prominent American, Palestinian, and Israeli business and political leaders committed to developing pragmatic economic and policy initiatives that advance prospects for peace in the Middle East. (www.aspeninstitute.org/mesg)

The Aspen Program on Philanthropy and Social Innovation employs seminars, leadership programs and evidence-based discussion to strengthen and inform philanthropy, the non-profit sector and social enterprise so that each can contribute to the good society, domestically and internationally. (www.aspeninstitute.org/psi)

Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative aims to put human rights principles and standards at the heart of global governance and policy-making by catalyzing new thinking and action to address global inequities. Founded by President Mary

Robinson, it is a partnership of the Aspen Institute, Columbia University, and the International Council on Human Rights Policy. (www.aspeninstitute.org/egi)

The Roundtable on Community Change (RCC) is a forum in which leaders working to revitalize distressed urban and rural communities can address common problems and share strategies for promoting positive change. (www.aspeninstitute.org/rcc)

The Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy Group convened in partnership with the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship, gathers influential leaders to explore the promise of providing entrepreneurship education at the 9th and 10th grade level in low-income communities across the US. (www.aspeninstitute.org/yesg)