

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

Consider the quality of jobs when diagnosing a company's challenges



Maureen Conway, executive director of the Economic Opportunities Program, and Mark Popovich, director of EOP's Good Companies/Good Jobs Initiative, wrote a Letter to the Editor in response to a recent Washington Post article on the challenges of a manufacturing firm to attract and retain workers. Maureen and Mark argued that the quality of the jobs they offered might have something to do with it. [More](#).

Reducing "dream hoarding" and creating more equitable opportunities



"Part of the challenge to change social norms is to challenge this idea that we live in a meritocracy," said Richard Reeves, author of the new book *Dream Hoarders*. Reeves spoke with Maureen Conway about his

Our Initiatives

The Aspen Institute Economic Opportunities Program has several initiatives. [Learn more!](#)



[Money Talks: Can Business Decisions Align with Social Needs?](#)
 By Mark Popovich

[Who Can Access the American Dream?](#)
 By Nicole Corea

[Economic Inequality and the Future of Democracy](#)
 By Karen Kahn

In the News

new book, inequality, economic mobility, "opportunity hoarding," and more at our latest Working in America event in July. Read the [summary](#) and watch the [full video](#) online.

Work, wealth, and the future of the middle class



EOP partnered with the Institute's Financial Security Program to hold the second [Economic Security Summit](#). The programs convened leaders from across sectors and across the country to discuss strategies to address the growing disconnect between work and wealth. "The Summit was a rare and valuable opportunity for me to step back and situate our work in broader economic and social context," [wrote participant Alex Mazer of Common Wealth](#). [More](#).

What makes a "good job?"



At the 2017 Aspen Ideas Festival, EOP's Maureen Conway and the Institute's Business and Society Program Director Judy Samuelson led a discussion about what constitutes a "good job" and what roles government and business play in creating them. [More](#).

Women in community development finance

The Washington Post

[Maybe Consider the Company's Practices When Diagnosing Its Challenges](#)

By Maureen Conway and Mark Popovich, *Washington Post*



[When Filling Vacancies, Don't Overlook Current Employees](#)

By Tess Taylor, *HRDive*, quoting UpSkill America Director Jaime Fall



[Building economic security through work and wealth](#)

By Alex Mazer, *Medium*, with reflections from the Economic Security Summit 2017.



[Americans: Getting By, But Not Getting Ahead](#)

By Richard Eisenberg, *Next Avenue*

Talent Economy

[The Self-Employed Workforce Comes with Benefits, Caveats](#)

By Lauren Dixon, *Talent Economy*, quoting Maureen Conway and Joyce Klein

Join the Conversation!

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



FIELD partnered with the Opportunity Finance Network and the Feighan Team to host a regional networking event at the Aspen Institute for women working in or interested in the community development finance (CDFI) industry. The event was part of a national movement to formalize a network for women in the CDFI industry. [More about the CDFI Women's Network.](#)

Economic stability and mobility



EOP Executive Director Maureen Conway spoke as part of "[Economic Mobility, Economic Security, and the Future of Employment](#)," a panel discussion organized by The Pew Charitable Trusts and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in partnership with the Senate Economic Mobility Caucus, co-chaired by Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH). [More.](#)

US Microenterprise Census Survey

Funders, federal and state policymakers, and others look to FIELD's [US Microenterprise Census](#) as the primary source of program data on the microenterprise industry. By submitting data, microenterprise development organizations help demonstrate the value of their work. They also get access to data they can use to compare and benchmark their performance with that of others in the industry. To submit data, organizations can go to [microTracker.org](#). [More.](#)

Upcoming events

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

- On September 25, the Economic Opportunities Program and the Financial Security Program will host a discussion at the Aspen Institute with Rick Wartzman about his new book, *The End of Loyalty: The Rise and Fall of Good Jobs in America*. Save the date!
- On October 12, we will host the next event in our Working in America series, a discussion of the quality of jobs in the long-term care industry. Stay tuned for more information and the option to register.
- On October 25, we will host another Working in America event on the experiences of black



Closing biz ownership gender gap: Women are 37% of US biz owners but 50% of microbiz clients. #WomensEqualityDay -FIELD, @AspenMicro

#Dreamhoarding is a collective action/equilibrium problem: If everyone does it, everyone will keep doing it. -@RichardvReeves #talkgoodjobs -AspenWSI, @AspenWorkforce

Once you start #upskilling, how can you maintain success? bit.ly/Upskilling8 -UpSkill America, @upskillamerica

Reality of today's economy: Jobs are plentiful, but jobs with good wages aren't... -Maureen Conway, @conway_maureen

- workers in the United States and the implications for economic mobility overall. Stay tuned for more information and the option to register.
- FIELD is hosting two webinars for leaders in microfinance organizations in the coming months. The first will be held on September 21 and will cover [best practices for microloan underwriting](#). The second will occur on October 26 and will cover portfolio management. Stay tuned for more information!
 - Joyce Klein will be speaking at the [Behavioral Finance Symposium](#), hosted by Ideas42 and Center on Finance, Law, and Policy and the University of Michigan, on September 14.
 - UpSkill America's Jaime Fall will be the [keynote speaker](#) at NYC Employment & Training Coalition's 2017 Summit: Building Talent Pipelines for Today's Economy, on September 19.
 - Jaime will also moderate a session on the Toyota Model of upskilling at [a day-long forum](#) hosted by The Philanthropy Roundtable and the Morgridge Family Foundation in Lakewood, Colorado, on September 12.
 - Jaime will moderate a session on the role of employers in education, training, and development, at the [Close It Summit](#) in Chicago, Illinois, on September 26.

Stay tuned for more event announcements soon!



***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.