

# Aspen Institute Economic Mobility Fellowship

An Action Learning Lab for  
Corporate Leaders



# OPPORTUNITY FOR IMPACT

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 deadlock, and technological advances have further destabilized the financial well-being and prospects of our country's marginalized.

**The Aspen Institute Business & Society Program sees fresh opportunity in this moment for the private sector to make meaningful progress on economic mobility while generating long-term business value.**



# ECONOMIC MOBILITY FELLOWSHIP

**Now in its third year, the Economic Mobility Fellowship helps business leaders to scale promising projects that drive business value and enhance economic mobility for low-income individuals and families in the US.**

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

## Participating 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

**100% of Fellows** indicated their project would create value for their company by enhancing their company's reputation.

**92% of Fellows** indicated they have a clearer understanding of the corporate sector's role in supporting /hindering access to economic opportunity.





# PROGRAM TIMELINE

## **SEMINAR 1** **(June 2025)**

*Project framing, scoping,  
and objective setting*

PROJECT COACHING

PEER CONSULTING

DIGITAL WORKSHOPS

TAILORED NETWORK  
CONNECTIONS

## **SEMINAR 2** **(October 2025)**

*Project audit, calibration,  
and assessment strategy*

PROJECT COACHING

PEER CONSULTING

DIGITAL WORKSHOPS

TAILORED NETWORK  
CONNECTIONS

## **SEMINAR 3** **(February 2026)**

*Project optimization and  
institutionalization*

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

- Economic mobility trends, data, and insights
- Case studies in corporate practice
- Intrapreneurial skills and strategies
- Impact of racial inequality
- Designing a robust financial case
- Driving organizational change
- Strategies for scaling and institutionalizing impact programs

**100% of Fellows** would recommend the program to others.

**92% of Fellows** indicated the Fellowship had a significant or transformational impact on them.



# PARTICIPANT PROFILE

## COMPANY PROFILE

We are looking for innovative leaders from large companies across industries. Companies should have a sizable front-line workforce - or should otherwise be poised to drive meaningful impact for a significant number of low-income individuals in the US. **Sample past participating companies:**



Walmart



LEVI STRAUSS & CO.



COMCAST

Meta

amazon



Walgreens Boots Alliance

## PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Individual participants should have a demonstrated track record of innovation and a deep passion for the topic of economic mobility. Selected Fellows must have 10+ years of experience in their fields and the authority to lead a new change initiative.



# PROJECT PROFILE

## PROJECT TYPE

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 US. **Projects should be past the ideation stage and ready for optimization, acceleration and/or scaling for impact on economic mobility.**

Example projects include those focused on:

- 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
- Internal hiring & career pathway development initiatives



## **SEMINAR DATES**

Seminar #1: June 8-11, 2025 (Aspen, CO)

Seminar #2: October 20-23, 2025 (Amenia, NY)

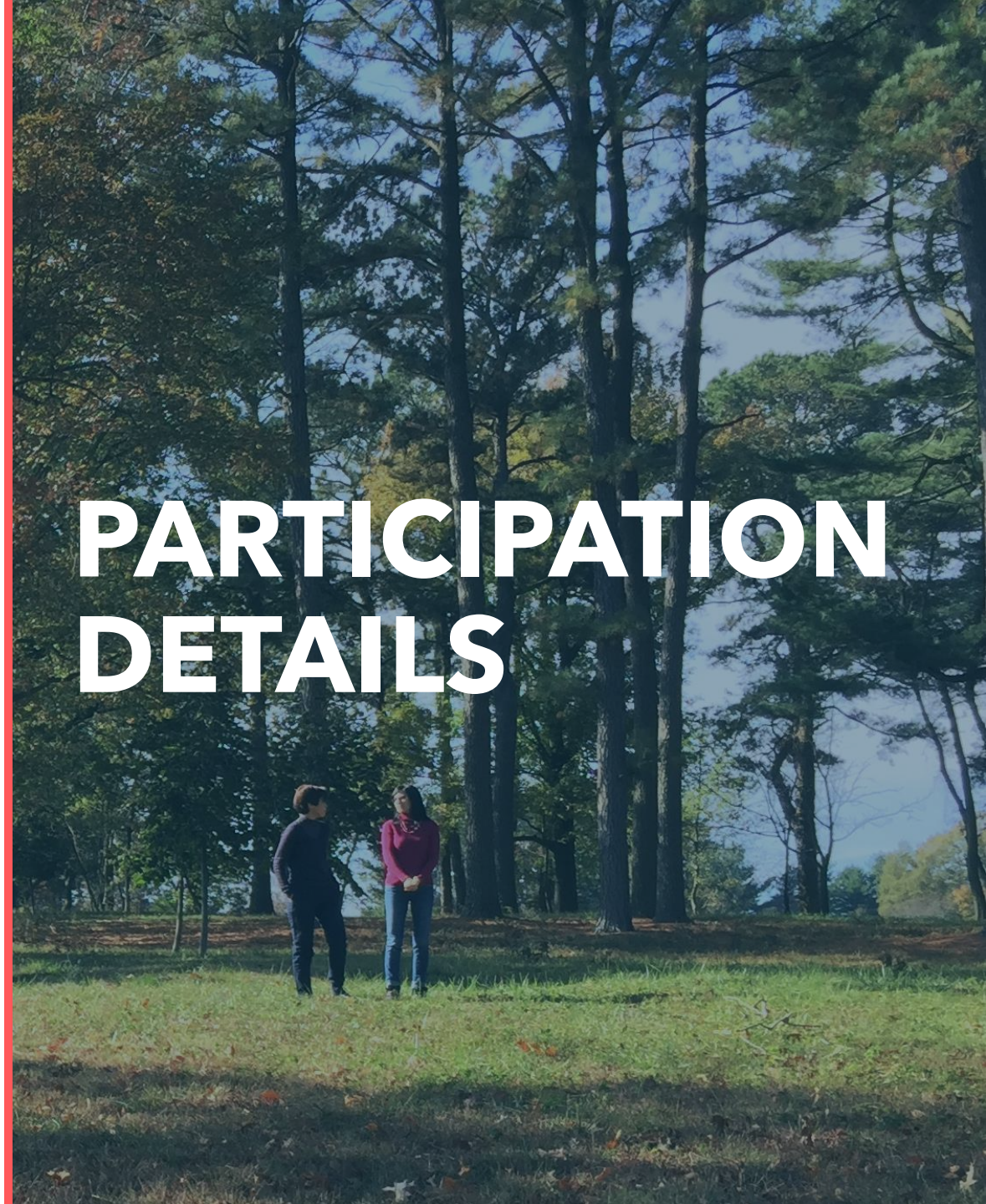
Seminar #3\*: February 2026 (Serenbe, GA)

*\*Seminar 3 dates and location will be finalized as the cohort is established*

## **FEES**

Thanks to a generous grant from Ballmer Group, the costs for the Economic Mobility Fellowship are heavily subsidized. Companies will be required to pay \$15,000 to participate, as well as travel costs to/from the seminar locations.

# **PARTICIPATION DETAILS**





# NEXT STEPS

We're speaking with prospective companies as we establish the third cohort of the Aspen Institute Economic Mobility Fellowship.

Interested candidates will be required to complete an application form and will be selected through a competitive review process.

If you know someone who might be a great fit, or you are interested in participating yourself, please fill out this [nomination form](#) and we will be in touch shortly.

For more information, email Jaime Bettcher, Assistant Director, at [jaime.bettcher@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:jaime.bettcher@aspeninstitute.org).

**BUSINESS  
& SOCIETY**  
aspen institute

# TESTIMONIALS

---



**"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, Walgreens Boots Alliance (SVP, Global Talent Management & Team Member Experience)

**"This fellowship has provided me with invaluable perspective, inspiration and camaraderie as I embark on the slow, hard work of trying to move systems in favor of economic mobility."**

Jenny Calvert Rodriguez, Levi Strauss & Co. (Executive Director, Red Tab Foundation)



**"My experience as a Fellow has made an impact not only on a priority project for my company, but also on me as a leader, a wife, a daughter, sister, and citizen of the world and community member. This is not your ordinary seminar or conference. This is a life-changing moment that leaves you with knowledge and family."**

Christine Chen, McDonald's (Director of Restaurant Culture)

**"Rarely do professionals have the opportunity to develop a solid network outside of their organization or community that supports, as well as challenges them along their journey. The Economic Mobility Fellowship has been an incredible experience where I've grown professionally and personally. This incredible group of brilliant minds pushes me to dig deeper in the work I do, as well as uplifts and reminds me to remain present and focused in the now."**

Ashley Weaver, Adecco (Director, Strategic Sales Support)





# 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.