

Joyce Klein
Senior Director, Business Ownership Initiative
The Aspen Institute

Biography

Joyce Klein is Senior Director of the Business Ownership Initiative (BOI) at the Aspen Institute. Part of the Aspen Institute's Economic Opportunities Program, BOI works to expand economic opportunity through business ownership. Ms. Klein assumed the leadership of the Initiative in 2012, after working as a senior consultant since the program's inception in 1998. She is recognized as a leading expert on the U.S. microenterprise field, speaking at national and regional industry conferences and being quoted in a variety of news media including the New York Times and National Public Radio's Marketplace. Joyce has more than 30 years of experience studying and supporting microenterprise and entrepreneurial development programs and Community Development Financial Institutions in the United States, and has authored or co-authored numerous publications, including funder brief and strategy guides, evaluation and research reports, case studies and policy briefs. She has also designed and managed grant programs aimed at supporting innovation in the practice of microenterprise development in the United States.

Under Ms. Klein's leadership BOI has launched the Microfinance Impact Collaborative, helped to create the Small Business Borrowers' Bill of Rights and the Responsible Business Lending Coalition and the Entrepreneur Backed Assets Fund. BOI has researched the role of technology and platforms in expanding the scale and impact of the US microenterprise field. BOI has also expanded its work in examining the potential role of business ownership and the microenterprise field in addressing the challenges of financial inclusion and the racial wealth gap.

Ms. Klein also has worked as a consultant in the microenterprise field, providing assistance to clients including the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund of the US Department of the Treasury, and Prosperity Now (formerly CFED). Prior to her work with FIELD, Ms. Klein led CFED's work in microenterprise development. She holds a master's degree in Public Policy from the University of California at Berkeley and a B.A. in Economics from Boston College. Ms. Klein chairs the executive committee of the Responsible Business Lending Coalition and the board of Entrepreneur Backed Assets Fund.