



Association News

Administration Releases FY08 Budget: As in recent years, many programs that provide financial support to microenterprise development programs are slated for cuts or recommended for elimination. Here are the funding levels recommended in the President's budget for the most frequently accessed programs:

Table with 2 columns: Program Name and Funding Amount. Includes SBA Microloan Program, PRIME, Women's Business Centers, CDFI Fund, CDBG, Rural Business Opportunity Grants, etc.

Note: Loan capital would come from current loan repayments into the revolving loan fund and higher interest payments on future loans.

The FY07 appropriations legislation has been passed by the House of Representatives and is scheduled to be taken up later this week by the Senate. Currently microenterprise programs are set to receive funding at the same level as in FY06. As soon as the final version of the FY07 appropriations legislation has been passed by Congress, an update on the final funding levels will be provided.

"Building the Next Workforce" Citizen Discussion Forums: The Georgia Governor's Office of Workforce Development, State Workforce Investment Board, Georgia Department of Labor, local Workforce Investment Boards, University of Georgia's Fanning Institute, and Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute in partnership with Southern Growth Policies Board have launched an exciting new statewide effort to hold 12 regional community forums on Building the Next Workforce. The locations and dates of these forums are:

Table with 2 columns: Location and Date. Lists forums for Dalton, Albany, Macon, Athens, Thomson, Columbus, Lyons, Savannah, Clarkesville, Newnan, Atlanta, and Douglas.

The moderated discussions will explore strategies for building a competitive, entrepreneurial workforce in the state of Georgia. The feedback and findings from the forums will help shape policy recommendations. All interested citizens and organizations in Georgia are encouraged to participate in a forum in their area. Contact Joy Wilkins at joy.wilkins@innovate.gatech.edu or Mac Brown at macbrown@fanning.uga.edu.

Further documentation regarding these forums is attached for your information.

Georgia Consortium on Personal Financial Literacy: An excellent resource for GMEN members to partner with in providing financial literacy support to their small business development customers. The Consortium will be holding educational seminars in Atlanta in 2007, usually from 7:30 am - 9:00 am. For more information and to RSVP contact Nancy Schwartzmiller at 404-240-0790.

February 22	Budgeting & merging your life & your money
March 29	Georgia economic outlook & minority buying power
April 26	Financial literacy & workplace productivity
July 26	Financial DNA
August 30	Retirement issues

“Credit Path®” to Asset-building and Financial Security. A report recently completed by Alternatives Federal Credit Union and the Aspen Institute sheds new light on how people move toward greater financial security. The full report is available for download at:

<http://www.alternatives.org/CPRResearchOverView.pdf>

Upcoming Events:

March 15 – 16 **Community Planning and Development to Attract the 50 Plus Market** at the Georgia Mountain Center in Gainesville. For further information contact Rick Duke at rick.duke@innovate.gatech.edu

April 1 – 4 **National Business Incubation Association’s 2007 International Conference** in Seattle, Washington www.nbia.org

May 15 – 18 **AEO 2007 Annual Conference** in Kansas City, Missouri. [Register](#) now to get special early discounts

June 21 – 22 **GMEN 2007 Annual Conference & 10th Anniversary Celebration**

Member News

Goodwill Industries of North Georgia – BusinessNOW has opened their **IDA savings program** up to Micro Partners in the metropolitan Atlanta area. This is a great opportunity to add capital obtainment to the work plans of your TANF participants. Contact Yvonne Days-Cuffie at 404-728-8600.

Microenterprise Development Programs focus

NEW! For Executive Directors. Subscribe to ***Sustainability in Action***, a free national e-newsletter for EDs in microenterprise development. Each monthly edition will feature successful practices, highlight industry leaders and offer practical information to help you build a sustainable, high performance program. To subscribe click on <http://visitor.constantcontact.com/email.jsp?m=1101503208968> For more details on this and the one day workshop Contact Jason Friedman at jfriedman@webinc.org

NOMINATE YOUR ENTREPRENEUR! AEO 2007 First Annual Entrepreneur of the Year Award Competition The award will be given in two categories: **Best Community Business of the Year**, and **Best Product or Service-based Business Innovation of the Year**. Winners will be announced at the AEO 2007 Annual Conference. All nominations must be submitted by **February 23**. Nomination forms can be found on AEO’s website at www.microenterpriseworks.org/EntrepreneuroftheYear

Join the **Women’s Business Center in Mobile**, AL on **February 16** for the public dedication of the **Bizmobile**, a mobile project delivering services to entrepreneurs in the rural areas of seven counties of southern Alabama. For more information contact LaToya Brooks at 251-660-2725.

Now Available! AEO Entrepreneur Spotlight Event Toolkit. This toolkit includes talking points, a sample press release and a sample media advisory that you can customize to promote your organization’s Entrepreneur Spotlight event during **EntrepreneurshipWeek USA**. Learn more - visit <http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/EntrepreneurSpotlightToolkit>

AEO’s Lets Talk Microenterprise Teleconference Series featuring three hot topics:

Health Insurance Challenges for Entrepreneurs – February 27

Creating an Entrepreneurial Community – March 1

Microenterprise and Big Business - TBA

AEO members can register for the teleconference series at:

<http://www.microenterpriseworks.org/Let'sTalkMicroenterprise>

Core Four® Business Planning Course Instructor Training: [Sign up now](#) for upcoming instructor trainings!

May 14 & 15 Kansas City (prior to AEO Conference)

August 13 & 14 Minneapolis, MN

Upcoming Events:

February 24 – March 3 – [Celebrate EntrepreneurshipWeek USA](#)

March 29 – 30 **The Federal Reserve System's Fifth Community Affairs Research Conference** at the Capital Hilton in Washington DC. For more information visit <http://www.federalreserve.gov/communityaffairs/national/2007researchconf/default.htm>

April 17 – 19 **8th Gathering of the Social Enterprise Alliance** in Long Beach, CA. Scholarships will be awarded to fully-eligible applicants on a first-come first-serve basis. Apply at <https://map.se-alliance.org/events/EV10Register1.aspx?eventID=2499>

Nominate a SEA member for the **Social Enterprise Leadership** or **Social Enterprise Innovation** awards to be presented at the conference. Deadline for submissions is **February 28th**. For more details, go to http://www.se-alliance.org/events_gathering8_awards.cfm

Sept 10 -11 **Youth Microenterprise Conference 2007** in Washington DC. To register and learn more visit <http://www.ymeconference.org/>

Fundraising

The **OneGeorgia Authority**, created by the Governor and the Legislature, utilizes one third of the state's tobacco settlement to assist the state's most economically challenged areas. \$1.6 billion is anticipated to be available over the 25-year term of the settlement. OneGeorgia investments will be targeted towards rural communities. For eligibility check out the attached **2007 Eligible Counties Map** and for more information go to their website <http://www.onegeorgia.org>

Microenterprise Opportunities

Reynoldstown Revitalization Corporation provides regular financial education workshops through its **HomeOwnership Center** for adults, youth and senior citizens. Adult workshops are on the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 7:00 pm at the Lang Carson Community Center, 100 Flat Shoals Avenue, Atlanta 30316. Email rrcjennifer@reynoldstown.org to register.

Register now for **Direct Marketing of Livestock Workshops** in Tifton (February 28) and Statesboro (March 14). Contact Joy Schomberg at 706-542-8083 or joys@engr.uga.edu. To learn more www.agp2.org/sust_ag/

U.S. Army Day Women-Owned Business Summit. The U.S. Army is looking for women-owned small business contractors to connect with the U.S. Army for future small business contracting -- March 20 in Washington DC. Registration is now open at <http://www.uswcc.org/html/nwosb.aspx>

Special Invitation for Entrepreneurs - Investor event in New York, March 7th -from LAUNCHfn. For more details, go to <http://www.launchfn.com/id246.html>

The **U.S. Small Business Administration** announced the launch of a Web site that will serve as the business gateway for U.S. businesses to connect with federal agencies, providing specific business tools and resources. Currently in its initial phase, Business.gov is a powerful Web site that will provide one-stop, online federal government information and services that businesses need and can access in one easy-to-find location. www.business.gov

Do you have news about your program that you would like to share with other members? If so email pcwill@bellsouth.net by the last calendar day of each month.

GMEN's Mission

To create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia. To learn more about microenterprise or GMEN and the benefits of membership, please visit our website at <http://www.georgiamicroenterprise.org>.