

*If one in three
microenterprises in the
United States hired an
additional employee, the
US would be at full
employment.*

~ AEO 1 in 3 Campaign



BUSINESS ♦ JOBS ♦ ECONOMY ♦ ASSETS ♦ OPPORTUNITY

On October 25 and 26, 2012, the Washington State Microenterprise Association (WSMA) and its partners will convene community-minded service providers, entrepreneurs and thought leaders to share, learn and discuss the role of small business in economic recovery and our combined capacity to serve entrepreneurs across Washington. With a focus on innovative approaches this symposium will address methods and resources to start, grow and expand business to create jobs and promote economic independence for underserved individuals and disadvantaged communities.

SIZE MATTERS

- 86% of all businesses (over 580,000) in Washington are micro-businesses- having 5 or fewer employees
- They are responsible for approximately 18% of all private sector employment – as much as 20% in some rural communities
- This equates to over 568,500 urban and 80,200 rural jobs.
- On average, one year old businesses create nearly one million new jobs a year (nationally) – The Kauffman Foundation

These data warrant the inclusion of small scale enterprise in our development and investment strategies.

OPPORTUNITY

High unemployment is problematic with some sectors being more affected than others. Self-employment is a viable alternative; an ultimate economic empowerment tool moving individuals from financial dependence to independence.

Many communities continue to struggle with property vacancies and lost tax revenue due to business closures. Building the local business base contributes to community vitality. Bringing access to markets and capital to small businesses helps strengthen and grow this base.

By bringing key stakeholders together along with business assistance providers and entrepreneurs we hope to bring greater awareness to these and other issues. Creating a stronger voice for advocacy will improve investment, resources and access. It takes a village to be a village.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND AND WHY

This symposium is designed to convene stakeholders around a common theme . . .

entrepreneurship = economic empowerment for individuals and communities

Small business advocates	Economic development practitioners
Educators	Bank and non-bank lenders
Community developers	Non-profit service providers
Funders and investors	Elected officials
Workforce groups	Local/state government representatives
Entrepreneurs	

Join us to expand your network, share lessons learned and new methods, access information that improves business success, connect with resource providers and add your voice to the discussion. *Be a part of the entrepreneurial movement!*