



Advancing Worker Equity



New Growth
Innovation Network
POWERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES



WorkRise

Centering workers – their needs, desires, and aspirations – is an essential pillar of inclusive development. **Advancing Worker Equity (AWE) is a learning and collaboration initiative focused on improving outcomes for low-wage workers, especially black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), by supporting economic development and workforce development professionals through research, guidance, and peer-to-peer learning.** AWE aims to break down silos between workforce development and economic development by creating opportunities for practitioners to learn and innovate together to advance inclusive economic growth approaches, especially worker equity.

AWE is a collaborative space for workforce and economic development leaders at the local and regional level to learn and innovate together, identify barriers to economic mobility among low-wage workers, and design solutions that can help address issues in their communities. Participants will gain the following:

- Increased knowledge on equitable models to drive change in their region on topics focused on low-wage workers such as worker voice, employer practices, training, and upskilling, etc.
- Strengthened cross-sectoral relationships between workforce and economic development practitioners to improve outcomes for low-wage workers locally and regionally.
- Ability to develop and implement innovative solutions to advance worker equity.

The initiative is a partnership between [New Growth Innovation Network \(NGIN\)](#), a network of economic development professionals focused on inclusive economic growth strategies and [WorkRise](#), a research-to-action network with a focus on labor markets hosted by Urban Institute. The project will leverage support from the [Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity](#) at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta on insights from worker perspectives and community-based research approaches. AWE includes participation from a wide range of practitioners, scholars, and researchers.

AWE aims to create a cross-sectoral Community of Practice (CoP) comprised of workforce and economic development practitioners that are interested in addressing gaps and challenges to drive equity and inclusion, especially by centering worker voices. The CoP will offer a space and platform for knowledge exchange among research scholars and CoP participants; host cross-sectoral convenings; and generate interim insights (“field notes”) to share learnings with the broader field.

Timeline and Expected Outcomes

AWE will take place from April to December 2023. The desired outcomes are:

- Landscape paper with collective learnings that break down silos between workforce, economic development, and community development professionals
- Series of four convenings that enhance collaboration at the local level among practitioners while learning together on how to advance worker equity

- Innovative solutions to local/regional inclusive workforce and economic development challenges
- Support for leaders at the forefront of driving equitable outcomes for low-wage workers

Criteria for Participation

AWE is designed to encourage and support cross-sectoral partnerships between workforce and economic development practitioners and policy advocates at the local and regional level to advance worker equity. **Each community must, therefore, have leaders from BOTH workforce and economic development participating in the CoP.** This can include economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, workforce boards, training providers, economic development and workforce intermediaries, etc.

Participants will be asked to commit to the following. Total time commitment is expected to be 16-18 hours during the 9-month period.

- Participate in four convenings (up to 90 mins each). All convenings will be held virtually.
- Collaborate with your local/regional partner(s) to engage community stakeholders (such as low-wage workers, employers, training providers, policy advocates, elected leaders, etc.) based on guidance provided during one of the convenings (anticipated 10-12 hours).

The following is a broad timeline:

- Convening #1 – April 21, 2023 at 1:00 – 2:30 PM ET (preliminary review of research on inclusive workforce and economic development approaches)
- Convening # 2 – May 11, 2023 at 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET (Discussion of research on worker voice)
- Local/regional stakeholder engagement – Summer 2023
- Convening # 3 – September 2023 (Share insights from stakeholder engagement, review preliminary draft of inclusive models)
- Convening # 4 – November 2023 (Launch of research report, call to action for workforce and economic development practitioners)

About AWE Partners

New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN) is a 501(c)3 focused on helping practitioners in cities and regions rebuild a more equitable and inclusive economy and tackle the deep inequality that holds back inclusive growth. It also serves as a thought center to help leadership implement this new approach to driving economic growth.

WorkRise, hosted by the Urban Institute, is a national platform for identifying, testing, and sharing bold ideas for transforming the labor market. It funds research on promising practices, policies, and programs underway across the country as well as foundational research on labor market trends.

The Center for Workforce and Economic Opportunity (CWEO) at the Atlanta Fed bridges research and practice related to labor market trends, economic and employment policies that affect low- and moderate-income individuals.

Questions?

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