

Commentary/Op-Ed - June 2017

Op-Ed: Small Investment, Big Return: Federal Microlending Programs Under Threat

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by Matt Chaban

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In this op-ed for *City & State*, CUF Fisher Fellow and policy director Matt Chaban asserts that Washington should be investing in microlending, not bankrupting it. In New York City alone, more than 1,000 businesses benefited directly from microloans and business education made possible by the CDFI fund in 2016, as well as a smaller effort at the Small Business Administration. Overall, roughly 15,000 enterprises received federally supported microloans nationwide, as well as training and guidance to put that money to the best use.

Read the op-ed here.

This op-ed is a continuation of nearly two decades of research the Center for an Urban Future has done on small business and human capital. Most recently, CUF has produced a series of publications including *Scale Up New York: Creating Middle Class Jobs By Growing the City's Small Businesses*, *Breaking Through: Harnessing The Economic Potential of Women Entrepreneurs*, and *Small Business Success*.

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Class Jobs Project.

Center for an Urban Future (CUF) is an independent, nonprofit think tank that generates innovative policies to create jobs, reduce inequality and help lower income New Yorkers climb into the middle class. For 20 years, CUF has published accessible, data-driven reports on ways to grow and diversify the economy and expand opportunity that are anchored in rigorous research, not preconceived notions about outcome. Our work has been a powerful catalyst for policy change in New York City and serves as an invaluable resource for government officials, community groups, nonprofit practitioners and business leaders as they advocate for and implement policies to address some of New York's biggest challenges and opportunities.

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