

Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network
Georgia Earned-Income Tax Credit/Asset-Building Statewide Coalition Meeting

Savannah, Georgia
June 28–30, 2010

Participant Web Site Links

The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta is part of the central bank of the United States. The Federal Reserve System consists of 12 Reserve Banks located around the country and the Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta plays important roles in monetary policy, bank supervision and regulation, and the operation of a nationwide payment system. Its Web site has a section for consumers that includes brochures and tips on financial topics (<http://www.frbatlanta.org/consumer/>) and a section on community development (<http://www.frbatlanta.org/commdev/>).

The Georgia Micro Enterprise Network (GMEN) is a nonprofit organization that started in 1997. According to its Web site, which is located at <http://www.georgiamicrobiz.com/>, the organization serves as a statewide industry resource providing training, technical assistance, regranting, and advocacy for the development of microenterprises in Georgia. GMEN's mission is to "create opportunities and support for microenterprise development as an avenue for economic self-sufficiency in Georgia." GMEN comprises 22 microenterprise development organizations and individual practitioners throughout the State. The organizations and practitioners provide microenterprise development services, including startup business services, business development, and business capital. GMEN uses Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program funds for their programming, and it has specific resources for microenterprise development in the TANF era, such as helping organizations market themselves to county departments of social services throughout Georgia.

Resources are also available on the Michigan Statewide EITC Coalition Web site, such as I-CAN E-file free online tax preparation; free tax preparation sites in Michigan; savings and asset-building information; reports, statistics, and research; resources and toolkits for organizations on promoting the earned-income tax credit (EITC); Michigan EITC community coalitions; and national EITC networks. Statewide coalition leaders might want to pay special attention to the section on reports, statistics, and research, as data are important and can be used as a fundraising tool. The Web site for the Michigan coalition is www.michiganeic.org.

Operation Hope expands economic opportunity in underserved communities and inner cities through financial education and empowerment. One of its initiatives, the Gallup-HOPE Financial Literacy Index, will be the first of its kind. The organization will create an index to assess youth on their financial responsibilities and opportunities, evaluate their financial literacy, and analyze how that relationship factors into their hope and well-being. The index will provide policymakers and community-based organizations with a tangible way to measure youth financial literacy and its impact on their communities and local economies. Operation Hope's Web site can be found at www.operationhope.org.