

MICROENTERPRISE JOBS BY THE NUMBERS

This fact sheet was prepared with data from MicroTracker, a project of FIELD at the Aspen Institute. It also highlights findings from a set of in-depth interviews with workers from clients of Accion East.

Our national survey of business owners served by microenterprise programs gives us a broad numeric picture of microenterprise jobs. In-depth interviews with 27 microenterprise workers help us get a more detailed picture of what those jobs are like. Is a median wage of \$10 an hour enough? Does having a stable or flexible schedule provide sufficient balance to the lack of benefits? What do workers think about their opportunities for growth, their working environment, and other elements that make a job good? Are investments into microenterprise programs to support these jobs a good investment of philanthropic and public money? Take a look at the numbers ...

A BROADER LOOK

with 1,103 business owners served by microenterprise programs show:

43% of microenterprises had paid workers, a mean of 1.9 paid workers per business.

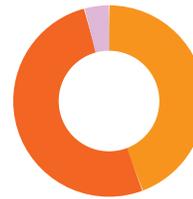
\$10 median and **\$14** mean hourly wage for paid workers.

44% made wages above the

52% made wages greater than

56% of paid workers worked part time, or fewer than 35 hours a week.

HOURLY WAGES



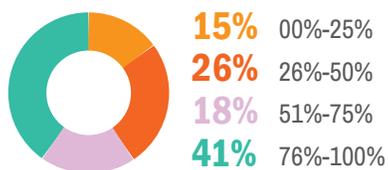
45% Above low-wage threshold (\$11.73)
51% Minimum wage to low-wage threshold
04% Below minimum wage (\$7.25)

WHAT WORKERS SAID

Highlights from 27 in-depth interviews:

THESE JOBS ARE IMPORTANT TO ECONOMIC SECURITY. 60% of workers noted that their salaries contributed more than 50% of total household income.

Contribution of Job to Household Income



52% made wages at or above Pres. Obama's proposed increase to the minimum wage.

52% > \$10.10/hour

1/3 of the workers reported hourly wages that exceeded the \$11.73 low-wage threshold.

HOURLY WAGES



*base wage for restaurant worker.

ANNUAL JOB COMPENSATION



HOURLY WAGE*



48% of workers said that they were mostly or fully satisfied with their wages.

*All 2013 hourly wages were converted to 2010 dollars before comparing to the 2010 low-wage threshold of \$11.73.

WHAT WORKERS SAID *(continued)*

relatively few of those interviewed received benefits such as paid vacation, sick leave and health insurance. However, all of the workers in this study noted that they had the flexibility to take off days for personal reasons or due to illness,

PAID VACATION?



59% No
41% Yes

HEALTH INSURANCE?



85% No
15% Yes

PAID SICK LEAVE?



89% No
11% Yes

OTHER BENEFITS?



96% No
04% Yes

MANY WORKERS EXPLICITLY STATED A WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE LEVEL OF WAGES AND BENEFITS IN RETURN FOR OTHER JOB ATTRIBUTES THEY FOUND IMPORTANT.

100% of workers say they have stable schedules and **81%** say their schedules are flexible

1/3 of workers cite their work environment and co-workers as the best part of their job

52% see opportunities for growth at the microenterprise

90% of workers 20-45 years old said they were interested in starting their own business

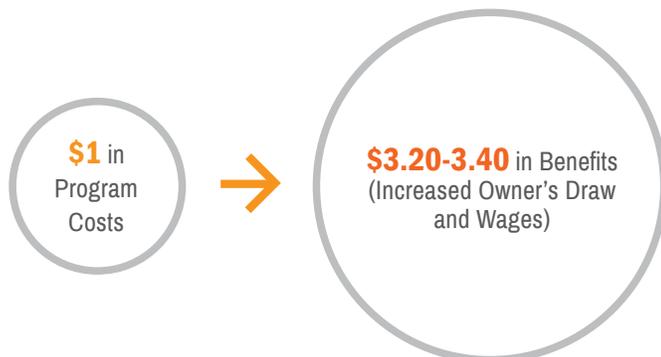
19% work more than one job

52% indicated they found meaning and purpose in their work

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

RETURN ON INVESTMENT IN MICROENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IS POSITIVE — A 3-TO-1 RETURN.

We calculate return on investment figures for microenterprise programs based on: the change in business owner draw and wages paid to workers, compared to microenterprise program expenses.



Our analysis of 689 businesses revealed these returns:

1.9 mean jobs per business, excluding the owner

104% increase in net new jobs from intake to survey

\$2,112 to \$2,226 the cost of supporting a job for owners and workers