

2011 US Microenterprise Census Fast Facts

Survey Description and Methodology

In the summer and early fall of 2011, the FIELD Program at the Aspen Institute identified 762 microenterprise programs that provide loans, training, technical assistance and other microenterprise services directly to microentrepreneurs.

Forty-eight percent, or 366, microenterprise programs completed a survey detailing FY2010 information on products and services, individuals served and size of the organization. The following highlights are drawn from these 366 detailed survey responses. With the exception of the overall program count of 762, these findings should be considered a conservative estimate of the size of the field and its outreach to individuals.

Microfinance and Business Development Services

- 762 microenterprise programs provided loans, training, technical assistance and other microenterprise services directly to entrepreneurs. 366 programs submitted a survey.
- 75 percent (276 microenterprise programs) provided a microfinancing product
- 97 percent (356 programs) provided some type of business development services

Microlending Volume

- 12,547 microloans disbursed (reported by 159 programs)
- \$104.2 million in microloans disbursed (reported by 155 programs)
- \$132.8 million in microloans outstanding (reported by 132 programs)
- 54 percent of total microloan capital was outstanding to borrowers (reported by 128 programs)

Table 1: Microloans Disbursed and Outstanding in FY2010

	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	n
Number of Microloans Disbursed	79	20	1	4153	159
Dollar Amount of Microloans Disbursed	\$672,311	\$230,000	\$500	\$22,481,156	155
Dollar Amount of Microloans Outstanding	\$1,006,300	\$545,683	\$800	\$7,441,799	132

Individuals and Businesses

- 163,565 individuals assisted (289 programs reporting)
- 67,127 businesses assisted (216 programs reporting)

Table 2: Number of Individuals and Businesses Assisted in FY2010

	Mean	Median	Minimum	Maximum	n
Number of Individuals Assisted	566	198	1	21,205	289
Number of Businesses Assisted	311	60	1	21,205	216

Industry Size Estimates

FIELD used survey data to extrapolate estimates for the entire field of 762 microenterprise programs nationwide; 403 of which provide microlending.¹

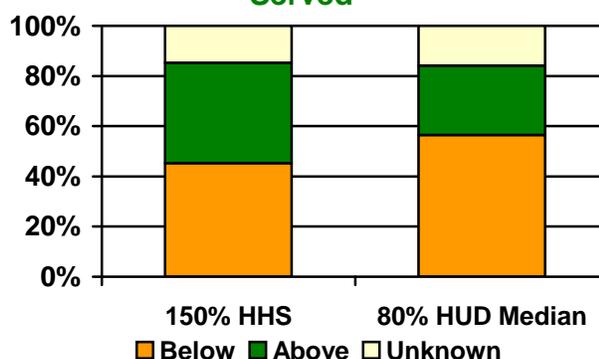
FIELD estimates that in FY2010:

- 762 microenterprise programs assisted:
 - 347,440 individuals;
- 403 microlenders:
 - made an estimated 17,623 microloans totaling \$164,555,021;
 - held an estimated \$241.6 million in outstanding microloans; and
 - held an estimated \$348.8 million in microloan capital pools.

Gender and Income Status of Individuals Served

- 59 percent were women (n=238)
- 53 percent were people of color or members of traditionally disadvantaged racial or ethnic groups (n=186)
- 56 percent had household incomes at or below 80 percent of the HUD median for their location (n=117)
- 49 percent were below 150 percent of the HHS poverty guidelines for the United States (n=1230)

Low-Income Status of Individuals Served



Microenterprise Development Programs

- 48 percent served rural markets
- 57 percent served urban markets
- 19 percent operated statewide
- 6 percent operated in multiple states

80 percent of microenterprise programs have five or fewer full-time equivalent staff members.

The median operating budget was \$280,000 and the mean was \$527,480 (n=217)

¹ To account for the 396 programs that did not respond to the survey, FIELD employed a traditional weighting class adjustment technique. Because of limited intake information, only two variables (the state where the program is located and whether the program offered microloans) are used to create the weighting cells. Programs in the weighting cells are assumed to be homogeneous. As this is a census and the base weights are one, final respondent weights are calculated by taking the inverse of the response rate within each cell. A weight of zero is assigned to nonrespondents. FIELD used Internet and other research efforts to determine whether each of the nonresponding programs engaged in microlending. Two programs were excluded from extrapolations and were attached a final weight of 1 because the programs' lending volume make them true outliers. It is believed that other programs are not close to these organizations in terms of loan volume.