

## **NEW PROGRAM ENGAGES COLLEGE STUDENTS IN JOB CREATION**

*~National Lend For America Initiative Kicks Off~*

**Philadelphia, PA**– December 11 2011 – Applications are now open for undergraduate students to join Lend for America, a competitive summer internship program hosted in partnership with the Aspen Institute for extraordinary young leaders interested in microfinance.

Selected applicants will spend the summer learning from one of three microfinance organizations in New Jersey, Rhode Island, and North Carolina. These are organizations that offer small loans, business training classes, and other financial services to low-income Americans. Interns receive a \$2500 stipend and all travel expenses are paid for by the program.

“Lend for America is unique because students have a chance to go into their communities and work with real people and real businesses. They’ll see first-hand how the recession has affected small businesses and how microfinance is creating jobs for Americans”, says Vanessa Carter, Director of Campus Microfinance Alliance.

Interns will review loan applications, co-teach classes on entrepreneurship and gain experience with fundraising, volunteer coordination and non-profit management. During the internship, participants travel for 3 days to visit a large-scale microfinance organization. After the summer, students receive intensive start-up support to create a new campus microfinance organization.

Applications for Lend for America will be accepted until February 28<sup>th</sup>. Applicants must be currently enrolled at a college in the United States and cannot be graduating seniors. Applications can be found online at [www.lendforamerica.org](http://www.lendforamerica.org).

### **About CMA**

Lend for America is a program of the Campus Microfinance Alliance (CMA). Since 2001, college students across the country have led the development of microfinance institutions to spur economic development in their campus communities. There are currently 12 members of the Campus Microfinance Alliance ([campusmfi.org](http://campusmfi.org)), a

collaborative effort started in 2009 to support the growth of the student-led microfinance movement.

This program is administered in partnership with FIELD (Fund for Innovation, Effectiveness, Learning and Dissemination) at the Aspen Institute, and financially supported by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. For more information about FIELD's work with student-run microenterprise organizations, visit

<http://fieldus.org/Projects/ScaleUniversityME.html>.

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