AGENDA
THIS WAY UP
ECONOMIC MOBILITY FOR POOR & WORKING-CLASS AMERICANS

In December 2016, Opportunity America organized a coalition of center-right think tanks and business groups to host a two-day conference showcasing new conservative thinking on poverty and opportunity. Participants included Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, best-selling author J.D. Vance, American Enterprise Institute scholar Charles Murray and William Kristol, editor of the Weekly Standard, as well as some four dozen researchers and policy experts on topics ranging from single-parent families to college affordability.

DECEMBER 14

5 p.m.  
**Keynote** Arthur C. BROOKS, AEI

5:30 p.m.  
**The way out of poverty**
Jimmy KEMP, Jack Kemp Foundation
Heather REYNOLDS, Catholic Charities Fort Worth
Scott WINSHIP, Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity

Moderated by Adam MEYERSON, Philanthropy Roundtable

DECEMBER 15

**Plenary sessions**

8:30 a.m.  
**Keynote** Paul RYAN, Speaker, US House of Representatives
Introduced by Tom DONOHUE, US Chamber of Commerce
Conversation with Gerald SEIB, The Wall Street Journal
9:15 a.m.  **Reform conservatism**  
Alex BRILL, AEI  
Veronique de RUGY, Mercatus  
Ramesh PONNURU, *National Review*, AEI  
Moderated by Michael BARONE, AEI

9:55 a.m.  **The limits of policy**  
John ENGLER, Business Roundtable  
Howard HUSOCK, Manhattan Institute  
Peter WEHNER, Ethics & Public Policy Center  
Moderated by Robert DOAR, AEI

10:45 a.m.  **Q&A: Two kinds of poverty?**  
Charles MURRAY, AEI  
Moderated by Tamar JACOBY, Opportunity America

**Breakout sessions**

11:55 a.m.  **Family matters**  
Ron HASKINS, Brookings Institution  
Wade HORN, Deloitte Consulting  
Kay HYMOWITZ, Manhattan Institute  
Angela RACHIDI, AEI  
Moderated by Mark RODGERS, Clapham Group

**A 21st century workforce**  
George ARRANTS, Automotive Service Excellence  
Joseph FULLER, Harvard Business School  
Mike PETTERS, Huntington Ingalls Industries  
Nicole SMITH, Georgetown, Center on Education and the Workforce  
Moderated by Dane LINN, Business Roundtable

12:55 p.m.  **The social safety net**  
Grant COLLINS, Fedcap Rehabilitation Services  
Lawrence M. MEAD, New York University, AEI  
Robert RECTOR, Heritage Foundation  
Jason TURNER, Secretaries’ Innovation Group  
Moderated by Michael FRANC, Hoover Institution

**Making college work**  
Kevin JAMES, Jain Family Institute  
Andrew KELLY, University of North Carolina  
Robert MENDENHALL, Western Governors University  
Eduardo PADRON, Miami Dade College  
Moderated by Jason TYSZKO, US Chamber of Commerce
Opportunity America is a Washington-based nonprofit promoting economic mobility – work, skills, careers, ownership and entrepreneurship for poor and working Americans. The organization’s principal activities are research, policy development, dissemination of policy ideas and working to build consensus around policy proposals.