

About Robert Friedman

Areas of Expertise: Assets & Opportunity Scorecard, Children's Savings Accounts, Enterprise & Economic Development, Federal Assets Budgets, Federal Policy, IDAs, Local Policy, Microenterprise, Public Sector, Savings & Financial Security, State Policy

[Robert \(Bob\) Friedman](#) is the Founder, Chair of the Board and General Counsel for CFED. A recognized pioneer in the asset-building and economic development movement, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Microenterprise Development from President Bill Clinton in 1999. He helped create the U.S. microenterprise, savings and asset-building fields and the international economic development and child savings fields. Currently, he is focused on economic development strategies that ensure an inclusive economy where all children and adults have a reasonable opportunity to save, go to college, start a business, buy a home and otherwise build an economic future for themselves, their families and the country as a whole. Bob is based in San Francisco (too far from his granddaughter) and serves on a number of Boards including Ecotrust, Child and Youth Finance International, the Rosenberg Foundation, Friedman Family Foundation and the Family Independence Initiative. He is a past board member of Levi Strauss & Co., a graduate of Harvard College and Yale Law School, and author of *The Safety Net as Ladder: Transfer Payments and Economic Development*.

About CFED

The Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED) envisions an opportunity economy where we are all empowered to build more prosperous futures for our families, our communities and our country. Founded in 1979, CFED is a multi-faceted organization working at the local, state and federal levels to create economic opportunity that alleviates poverty. As a national nonprofit based in Washington, DC, CFED uses an approach grounded in community practice, public policy and private markets. CFED publishes research, partners with local practitioners to carry out demonstration projects, and engages in policy advocacy work at the local, state and national levels.