Rural Places, Rural Spaces Policy Forum
Mississippi Valley State University in Itta Bena, Mississippi
Tuesday, February 12, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker: Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome H. Powell
Jerome H. Powell took office as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System on February 5, 2018. Mr. Powell also serves as Chairman of the Federal Open Market Committee, the System’s principal monetary policymaking body. Mr. Powell has served as a member of the Board of Governors since May 25, 2012.

CDFIs, CRA & Persistent Poverty – The Path to Greater Impact
Community development financial institutions have a demonstrated track record of braiding public and private resources to deliver mobility-enhancing financial services in low-income and distressed communities. These services range from deposit accounts and mortgages, to loans for small businesses and essential community infrastructure, such as schools, grocery stores and affordable housing. CRA-motivated bank investments are a primary funding source for CDFIs.
A panel of community development experts will examine strategies for increasing the scale and impact of CDFIs in persistent poverty areas.

Igniting the Flame: Philanthropic Investment in Persistent Poverty Areas
From seeding the CDFI sector to developing innovative models for financing entrepreneurs, housing and community facilities, philanthropy has played a catalytic role in driving investment to underserved people and places. However, the National Committee on Responsible Philanthropy found significant disparities in the rate of philanthropic funding in places like the Mississippi Delta.
On this panel, philanthropic leaders will share insights on how philanthropy and impact investors can ignite increased investment in persistent poverty areas.

Stimulating Economic Mobility through Rural Housing
Many people in rural areas of concentrated poverty live in housing that is dilapidated, unhealthy and expensive due to high energy costs associated with old, poor construction and due to significant levels of deferred maintenance. For these and other reasons, traditional approaches to housing and homeownership do not readily apply. This panel of experts will share lessons from their efforts to develop and finance quality, affordable housing in rural America.
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Announcement: HBCU-CDFI Economic Mobility Strategy Guide
The HBCU-CDFI Economic Mobility Strategy Guide details lessons, best practices, and resources identified through a research process undertaken by HOPE, Mississippi Valley State University, Jackson State University, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta and the HBCU Community Development Action Coalition that can be used by other HBCUs and CDFIs seeking to foster upward economic mobility for HBCU communities and stakeholders.