

## Speaker Pictures & Bios – Alphabetical Order

### Kevin Alvarez

Deputy Chief of Staff & Director of Policy, Connecticut Office of the Treasurer

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Kevin Alvarez is Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy for the Office of the State Treasurer where he is currently overseeing the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET) and ABLÉ program, as well as the implementation of the CT Baby Bonds Program. Previously, he served in the Office of Mayor Justin Elicker as Director of Legislative Affairs and Deputy Chief of Staff. In that role he led the city's state agenda advocating for increased housing opportunities for New Haven residents, and represented the city on the Board of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the Executive Committee of the South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG).

During his time in the Mayor's office, he played an active role in moving the Mayor's policy agenda forward. He led the city's push for an increase in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) that resulted in a more than doubling of state aid to the city of New Haven. In addition, he was a member of the negotiating team with state Department of Transportation that led to the Union Station Partnership, and with Yale University that resulted in the largest single year increase in their voluntary contribution to the city and the creation of the Center for Inclusive Growth. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he served as a member of the city's command staff leading research and planning, and assisted the Community Services Administration in the initial planning for Elm City Compass – an alternative, non-law enforcement public safety response for individuals in crisis.

Prior to his time in the Mayor's office, he served as a consultant to a number of state legislators, and within the office of Congressman Joe Courtney as a caseworker focused on housing, higher education, and workforce development. He resides in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven.

# Beth Angell

Dean and Phillip Fellin Collegiate professor of Social Work  
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Dr. Beth Angell is dean and professor of social work at the U-M School of Social Work. She began her appointment on July 1, 2022. Angell's research focuses on behavioral health, particularly on serious mental illness and its intersection with substance abuse and criminal justice involvement. Some of the topics of her research studies have related to treatment seeking, treatment engagement and adherence; consumer-provider interactions and relationships; sources and consequences of stigma; and mandated or involuntary treatment. Her projects have been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the NARSAD Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Mandated Community Treatment, the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Chicago Community Trust.

Angell was inducted as a Fellow in the Society for Social Work and Research and has served on a consensus study for the National Academies of Engineering, Science, and Medicine, entitled the Committee on the Science of Changing Behavioral Health Norms. Angell's work also has been published in a variety of journals in the fields of social work, psychiatry and the sociology of mental health.

Prior to joining the University of Michigan, Angell held faculty positions at the University of Chicago Crown School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice (2000-2008) and Rutgers University School of Social Work and the Institute for Health, Health Care Policy, and Aging Research (2008-2018). From 2018-2022, Angell served as dean and professor at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work.

Angell received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina. She earned a Master of Science degree in social work with a sub-concentration in severe and persistent mental illness, followed by a doctorate in social welfare, both from the University of Wisconsin. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Policy and Practice from 1999-2000

# Jacob Bastian

Assistant Professor of Economics at Rutgers University  
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Jacob Bastian is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Prior to moving to Rutgers University, Jacob completed a two-year postdoc at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy and a Ph.D. in Economics at the University of Michigan. Jacob's research focuses on how public policy can reduce poverty, increase economic opportunity, and affect social attitudes, while also identifying unintended consequences. Jacob spent 2022-2023 as a visiting professor at Princeton and 2023-2024 serving as a senior economist in the White House's Council of Economic Advisers.

# Sarah Berger Gonzalez

Policy Fellow at Chaplin Hall  
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Sarah Berger Gonzalez has worked on cash transfer programs and related policies aimed at providing stability and bolstering economic mobility for underserved and disadvantaged individuals, families and households for over 17 years. She is currently a Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall leading a body of work focused on building an evidence base and scalable solutions to address social disparities and inequities facing youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Berger Gonzalez works with multiple jurisdictions throughout the country on the co-design, implementation, and evaluation of a ‘cash plus’ model - unconditional direct cash transfers coupled with youth-directed supportive services - to reduce youth homelessness and support young adults’ paths to thriving.

She authored the first comprehensive [Policy Toolkit](#) that analyzes the impact of cash transfers on U.S. taxes and public benefits, resulting in the authoring of [guidance on the tax treatment](#) of direct cash transfers. She has also co-authored successful legislation in [New York](#) and [Minnesota](#) on benefits protection. Prior to joining Chapin Hall, Berger Gonzalez was at the Stanford Basic Income Lab where she led activities linking basic income pilots to policy; and a Social Protection Specialist at the World

Bank for more than a decade working in Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, and Central Asia. She is also a Fulbright Scholar and holds degrees from Georgetown University and Boston College.

# Ray Boshara

Former Legislative Fellow with the Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey and Senior Policy Advisor at the Center for Social Development at Washington University  
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From November 2022 until June 2024, Ray was a Legislative Fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Bob Casey, where he focused on Senator Casey's 401Kids proposal. Prior to this, he served over 11 years at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, where he was the Founding Director of a research center focused on wealth inequality. Before moving to St. Louis in 2009, Ray was Vice President of New America, a DC-based think tank. Prior to New America, he worked in the U.S. Congress, Prosperity Now, the United Nations in Rome, and Ernst & Whinney (now EY). Ray also serves on many local and national boards.

In the fall of 2021, Ray published *The Future of Building Wealth* in partnership with the Aspen Institute and previously published *The Next Progressive Era* with Phillip Longman. He has written for the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and *Atlantic Monthly*

Raised in Akron, Ohio, Ray is a first-gen graduate of The Ohio State University. He also holds master's degrees from Yale Divinity School and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

# Madeline Brown

Senior Policy Associate, Urban Institute  
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**Madeline Brown** is a senior policy associate in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute, where she works on a range of projects aimed at promoting racial equity and inclusion in local, state, and federal policy. Brown currently leads Urban's community of learning for states proposing, drafting, and implementing baby bonds legislation. She develops research and policy products to inform policymakers and supports technical assistance engagements that help local governments and organizations with policy generation and evaluation, administrative data capacity, and community engagement. Brown graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in political science and Spanish from Emory University and received a master's degree in public administration and policy from the School of Public Affairs at American University.

# Melvin Carter

46th, and first African American Mayor of the City of Saint Paul, Minnesota's Capital City  
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# Amy Castro

Associate Professor & Co-Founder Center for Guaranteed Income, University of Pennsylvania  
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Amy Castro, PhD, MSW is an Associate Professor at the University of Pennsylvania in the School of Social Policy & Practice and is the Co-Founder and faculty director of the Center for Guaranteed Income Research. Her work explores economic mobility, guaranteed income, innovation, and disparities in housing and lending. She served as the Co-PI of the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration under former Mayor Michael Tubbs which, lead to a proliferation of experimentation with unconditional cash across the U.S. Dr. Castro is the Co-PI of 30 applied cash-transfer studies housed at CGIR where she currently advises more than 20 Mayoral teams, state, and county legislators on unconditional cash research.

Her work on guaranteed income has been funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Hilton Foundation, the Monarch Foundation, the City of Los Angeles, LA County, the City of Newark, the Yellow Chair Foundation, the City of Oakland, the Social Impact Fund, and the Economic Security Project. Dr. Castro's research is featured often in the popular press including the NY Times, the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the New Yorker, the Nation, the Economist, the LA Times, CNN, NBC, PBS, and National Public Radio.

Dr. Castro is also known for her work on women and risky lending during the foreclosure crisis. She was awarded the GADE research award, the Society for Social Work and Research Outstanding Dissertation Award, and the Nina Fortin Award for her work on the gender and racial contours of predatory lending. She was the 2017 recipient of the SP2 teaching award, was a Distinguished Visiting Professor at Penn's School of Nursing (AY 19/20), is an affiliated faculty member of the Alice Paul Center and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, and is a member of the LGBTQ faculty working group.

Prior to her time at Penn, she spent more than a decade working with non-profits and community-based agencies in Philadelphia and New York City. Her research has been published by *Social Service Review*, *The Gerontologist*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Social Work*, *The American Journal of Public Health* and *JPAM*.

She earned a PhD in Social Welfare and a Master of Philosophy from the City University of New York, a Master of Social Work from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Social Work from Cairn University.



# William Darity

Samuel DuBois Cook Distinguished Professor of Public Policy at Duke University  
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**William A. (“Sandy”) Darity Jr.** is the Samuel DuBois Cook Professor of Public Policy, African and African American Studies, Economics, and Business and the director of the Samuel DuBois Cook Center on Social Equity at Duke University. Darity’s research focuses on inequality by race, class and ethnicity, schooling and the racial achievement gap, North-South theories of trade and development, skin shade and labor market outcomes, and the economics of reparations. In 2005, he launched the subspecialty of stratification economics. Darity is a 2024 Distinguished Fellow of the American Economic Association, a 2023 Radcliffe Fellow at Harvard University, a 2023 Distinguished Fellow of the Southern Economic

Association, the 2022 W.E.B. Du Bois Fellow of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and he became a Fellow of the National Academy of Social Insurance in 2021. He received the Samuel Z. Westerfield Award from the National Economic Association in 2012. He and A. Kirsten Mullen are coauthors of award-winning *From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century* (2020) and co-editors with Lucas Hubbard of *The Black Reparations Project: A Handbook for Racial Justice* (2023).

# Willie Elliott

Professor & Founding Director of the Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion (AEDI), University of Michigan, School of Social Work  
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Professor William Elliott is a leading researcher in the fields of college savings accounts, college debt, and wealth inequality. Shaped by his personal roots in poverty, in a small steel mill city in Pennsylvania, he challenges individual beliefs and cultural values that surround funding for college, student debt, inequality, systemic patterns of poverty, and educational justice.

Some of the college savings account programs he is currently conducting research on are *CollegeBound* Boost in St. Paul, MN, K2C in California, and the Early Awards Scholarship Program in Wabash County, IN. He's published in journals such as [Economics and Education Review](#), [Journal of Poverty, Race and Social Problems](#), [Educational Policy](#), and his most recent book is, "[Making Education Work for the Poor: The Potential of Children's Savings Accounts](#)". His research adds fuel to debates about how to imagine ways of financing college other than by student debt. He believes that there are real possibilities and his research bears this out. He asks if college education can truly be the great equalizer it is meant to be when

wealth inequality remains the defining feature of America. He calls for the next great wealth transfer in America. The seemingly naive premise behind his research is there are better, more effective, and more just ways of financing college and delivering on the promise of the American dream. He suggests people must just be shown once again that more is possible.

# Debra-Ellen Glickstein

Founding Executive Director of NYC Kids RISE  
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Debra-Ellen has spent more than 25 years working with communities to measurably expand economic opportunities. Debra-Ellen currently serves as the Founding Executive Director of NYC Kids RISE where she is leading the effort to build a first of its kind universal community-driven wealth building platform for New York City neighborhoods. Through her leadership, NYC public school students have a financial asset for their educational futures, starting in kindergarten, and communities have an additional tool to support their children’s economic success.

A serial social-entrepreneur, community wealth builder and organizer, Debra-Ellen has dedicated her career to supporting economic prosperity at the neighborhood level, collaborating with the public, private and community spheres. Previously, Debra-Ellen served as the Executive Director of New York City’s Office of Financial Empowerment, the first municipal office in the country focused on creating innovative financial products, programs and services to enable asset building and wealth creation for low income New Yorkers and neighborhoods. She has served as the Vice President of Strategy & Program Development at the New

York City Housing Authority, where she led efforts to create and implement NYCHA’s neighborhood and partnership-based resident services strategy. She is a co-founder and served as the founding Executive Director of Urban Upbound, a non-profit organization that supports public housing residents to achieve economic success through college counseling, financial planning, career training and job placement assistance. She is also a co-founder of the Urban Upbound Federal Credit Union – a community-owned financial institution providing access to affordable and relevant financial services.

She earned a B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University, an M.B.A. from the NYU Stern School of Business, and an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Named a “40 Under 40 Rising Star” in New York City government and politics by City and State, Debra-Ellen is a proud City Year alumna and recipient of the Comcast Alumni Leadership Award - City Year’s highest alumni honor. Debra-Ellen is a Sterling Network Fellow, a 2016 BALLE Local Economy Fellow and the recipient of other honors, including the United Way of New York City’s Power of Women to Make a Difference Award, the New York Mets & Fidelity Investments’ Inspire the Future Award, Outstanding Community Contribution Award from the Long Island City YMCA, Outstanding Contribution to Woodside Houses, Outstanding Community Service Award to Queensbridge Houses, recognition for distinguished leadership by the Lawyers Alliance for New York, and selection as a Resident at the Harvard Innovation Lab, New York City Government Scholar and an Investors’ Circle Venture Fellow.

# Fred Goldberg

Former IRS chief counsel, IRS commissioner and Department of the Treasury Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy

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Mr. Goldberg's government service has included service as IRS Chief Counsel (1984-1986), IRS Commissioner (1989-1991), and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy (1992). From 1992 through 2017 he was a tax partner in the Skadden, Arps Washington, DC Office. Since that time he has been Of Counsel at Skadden, where he is presently Co-chair *emeritus* of the Firm's Diversity and Pro Bono Committees. In addition to his ongoing work on tax controversy and tax policy matters, he currently devotes much of his time to diversity, attorney mentoring, and pro bono matters on behalf of the Firm. At present his primary pro bono and public service work includes substantial transactional, legislative and regulatory guidance matters on (i) all manner of nonprofit and governmental entity direct cash transfer (DCT) programs, (ii) environmental justice programs addressing the adverse impact of substandard housing on the environment, health and safety, and family wellness; and (iii) enactment of enhanced and reformed child tax credit programs. Mr. Goldberg is also co-chair of the tax working group committee of the Law Firm Anti-Racism Alliance (LFAA), a coalition of more

than 300 law firms around the country donating pro bono time to matters addressing racial justice issues.

# Devon Gray

President of End Poverty in California  
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Devon Gray is the president of End Poverty in California (EPIC), an advocacy organization founded by former Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs. At EPIC, Devon aligns the organization's priorities, both advancing a statewide policy agenda focused on equal opportunity for all and changing narratives around poverty away from ones based in outdated stereotypes to ones that better reflect the lived experiences of individuals and communities.

Devon joined EPIC in 2022 as Mayor Tubbs' chief of staff and was named the organization's first president the following year. He previously served in the administration of Governor Gavin Newsom as Special Advisor to the Governor's Chief of Staff, and was also a policy advisor for Beto O'Rourke's presidential campaign, where he led the campaign's gun safety and criminal justice reform strategies. Prior to joining EPIC, he was a director with Evergreen Strategy Group, where he advised gun violence prevention organizations on policy and communications.

Devon is a graduate of Stanford Law School and the Stanford Graduate School of Education, and his writings have been featured in CalMatters, Newsweek, The Hill, and other publications.

# Jin Huang

Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis  
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Jin Huang, Ph.D., MSW, is the William and Helen Reichmann Research Professor at Saint Louis University School of Social Work and the Research Director and Research Professor at the Center for Social Development, Washington University in St. Louis. His research focuses on global social policies, with a particular emphasis on structural and institutional strategies to enhance financial capability and asset accumulation for all families. This work is centered on achieving financial inclusion and wealth equity. Dr. Huang is a co-lead of the network dedicated to “Building Financial Capability and Assets

for All,” one of the 13 Grand Challenges for Social Work. Renowned for his expertise in asset-based social policy, global asset building, Child Development Accounts (CDAs), and financial capability programs for disadvantaged populations, he is a key member of the Saving for Education, Entrepreneurship, and Downpayment (SEED OK) CDA policy experiment—the world’s largest and longest-running CDA policy study. With over 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals such as *JAMA Pediatrics*, *American Journal of Public Health*, and *Social Science & Medicine*, Dr. Huang has collaborated on numerous international financial capability and asset-building projects, including CDA projects in mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, and Israel. He is a co-editor of the book “Inclusive Child Development Accounts: Toward Universality and Progressivity” (2020, Routledge).

# David Johnson

Committee on National Statistics, The National Academies of Sciences Engineering & Medicine  
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David S. Johnson is a Senior Program Officer at the Committee of National Statistics in the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM), where he is the study director for a panel developing an integrated system of income, consumption, and wealth. Prior to NASEM, he was Director of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics and a research professor in the Survey Research Center. He also served for 25 years in the federal statistical system; where he was the only senior executive to have leadership roles at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the U.S. Census Bureau. At the Census Bureau he led the implementation of the Supplemental Poverty Measure, and the re-engineering of the Survey of Income and Program Participation. His

current research projects are evaluating inequality and mobility in income, consumption and wealth and developing price and quantity indexes using transactions data. He currently serves on the Research Advisory Board of the Washington Center for Equitable Growth and as adjunct faculty at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown.

# Martha Kanter

Ed.D., CEO, College Promise; Senior Fellow, New York University; U.S. Under Secretary of Education (2009-2013)

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Dr. Martha Kanter is the CEO Emerita and Board President of College Promise, a national initiative to increase college access, affordability, quality, and completion in American higher education, starting in America's community colleges. From 2009-2013, Dr. Kanter served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education, overseeing all federal postsecondary statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies and programs, including the \$175B annual federal student aid programs, higher education, adult education, career-technical education, international education, and 6 White House Initiatives. From 1993-2009, she was president of De Anza College and then chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District in Silicon Valley, California. She began her career as an alternative high school teacher in Lexington, MA. Dr. Kanter holds a B.A. degree in Sociology from Brandeis University, an M.Ed. from Harvard University, and an Ed.D. from the University of San Francisco.



# Melinda Lewis

Professor of Practice, University of Kansas; Director of the Center for Community Engagement and Collaboration  
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Melinda Lewis is a Professor of Practice in the School of Social Welfare at the University of Kansas, where she teaches macro social work and policy courses. She is also Director of the School's Center on Community Engagement and Collaboration, where she leads the School's efforts in public scholarship and support for community-engaged research. This role builds on Melinda's decades of work with nonprofit organizations to enhance their strategic communications, advocacy strategy development and execution, and evaluation of social change efforts, focused in the substantive domains of economic justice, family support, and human rights. For five years, Ms. Lewis was Assistant Director of the Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion, now based at the University of Michigan. At AEDI, she co-authored three books about wealth inequality, student debt, and policies to make education an equitable ladder of upward mobility, as well as peer-reviewed scholarship about asset development approaches.