

Abigail Marquez

General Manager, City of Los Angeles Community Investment for Families Department
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Abigail Marquez has spent twenty years working for the City of Los Angeles advancing anti-poverty programs and policies. In 2021, she was appointed by the Mayor and the City Council to serve as the General Manager of the newly created Community Investment for Families Department (CIFD). As General Manager of CIFD, she is responsible for the planning and administration of the City's Consolidated Plan, which includes \$120 million in federal funds allocated annually to support capital projects and the department's social service delivery systems. This includes 19 FamilySource Centers operated by

contracted non-profit community organizations with the goal of serving over 50,000 low-income residents across the City and the Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking Shelter agencies which offer both emergency and transitional shelter services to survivors. In this role, she also leads a team of approximately 100 public servants and provides strategic direction to advance the department's vision, mission, and values. During her tenure, Mrs. Marquez has played a significant role in helping to increase funding for the City's Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking Shelters and the FamilySource Centers, led the implementation of several key COVID-response programs, and managed the allocation of increased federal funding allocated through the CARES ACT.

Marquez works closely with the Mayor and City Council to establish poverty-reduction goals for the City; plays an active role in implementing homelessness prevention programs; and led the implementation of L.A.'s Guaranteed Basic Income pilot, a \$38M investment and among the largest pilots in the nation, as well as the Children's Savings Account program, Opportunity LA, which has already reached over 100,000 first-graders across the region.

Mrs. Marquez is a transformational and visionary leader. She is committed to designing and implementing programs that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all Angelenos. She has served on various boards and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Community College Foundation and the Los Angeles County Children and Family First Commission, which oversees funding for First 5 LA.

Signe-Mary McKernan

Vice President, Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population, Urban Institute
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Signe-Mary McKernan is vice president of the Urban Institute's Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population. She is a national wealth and financial well-being expert with two decades of experience researching access to assets and credit and the impact of wealth-building programs and policies on family well-being. She coedited the book *Asset Building and Low-Income Families*, coauthored a chapter in the *Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Poverty*, and advised the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in setting up its research unit. Before joining the Urban Institute, she was lead economist on credit issues at the Federal Trade Commission.

Her research has been published in books, policy briefs, reports, and refereed journals including the *Journal of Public Economics*, *American Economic Review Papers* and *Proceedings, Demography, and Review of Economics and Statistics*. She has testified before Congress and the District of Columbia Council and been cited in media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, and *Time*.

Her consumer finance research includes credit and financial health, wealth-building policies and programs (matched savings accounts, baby bonds), financial products and services (including alternative financial sector), COVID-19 pandemic and Great Recession, and racial wealth inequities. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematical economics and Scandinavian literature from UC Berkeley and a PhD in economics from Brown University.

Benita Melton

Director of the Mott Foundation's Education Program

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Benita Melton, director of Mott's Education program, joined the Foundation in 1995 as an associate program officer. She was promoted to program officer in 2000 and program director in 2015. In that time, Melton has worked on a range of issues related to poverty and youth development, including grantmaking designed to help drive interest and investment in children's savings accounts. The resulting expansion of CSAs in the U.S. is enabling more families to raise their children's expectations for academic success and save for college or technical training.

Melton has been active with a number of grantmaker affinity groups and currently serves on the boards of Mizzen by Mott — an app that aims to deliver outstanding content to afterschool providers nationwide — Harlem Children's Zone and the Fair Food Network. Prior to joining Mott, she worked for the Pistons-Palace Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Detroit Pistons basketball franchise. A Michigan native

and graduate of Michigan State University, she holds a bachelor's degree in finance and accounting.

Madeline Neighly

Senior Strategist & Researcher, Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy at the New School
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Madeline Neighly is a Senior Strategist and Researcher at the Institute on Race, Power and Policy at The New School. She is also on detail as the Stakeholder Engagement Advisor to the Resilient Families Hub, an interagency project housed at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Families and Children.

Trained as a lawyer, Neighly has worked on economics, prisoners' rights, guaranteed income and at the intersection of employment and criminal justice, all with a focus on racial and gender equity. She excels at communicating complex ideas to a variety of audiences, building communities and networks and ensuring that justice and inclusion are centered.

Neighly has held positions at Columbia University, Economic Security Project, Roosevelt Institute, Council of State Governments Justice Center, National Employment Law Center and more. She holds a J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Law, and a B.A. in Gender Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Henal Patel

Law and Policy Director, Economic Justice Program, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
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Henal Patel is the Law & Policy Director at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. She leads the Institute's body of policy work, which includes the economic justice program, focused on closing New Jersey's vast racial wealth gap; the criminal justice reform program, focused on closing youth prisons and police accountability; and the democracy & justice program, which is committed to making democracy real for everyone in the state - particularly the most marginalized.

Before joining the Institute, Henal was an associate at McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter. Previously, Henal had the honor of serving as a law clerk to Chief Justice Stuart Rabner on the New Jersey Supreme Court. While in law school, Henal was an Eagleton Institute of Politics fellow and served as an assistant to the Chairman of the New Jersey Redistricting Commission. Henal received her J.D. from the Rutgers University School of Law – Newark and B.A. from Rutgers University. Henal serves on the Board of Directors at the League of Women Voters of New Jersey.

Julie Peachey

Deputy State Treasurer for Consumer Programs, Pennsylvania Treasury Department
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As the Deputy State Treasurer for Consumer Programs, Julie leads Pennsylvania Treasury's Bureaus of Savings Programs and Unclaimed Property. Savings programs include PA ABLE, PA 529 College and Career Savings Program, and Keystone Scholars, a leading state-wide children's savings account (CSA) program which automatically invests \$100 at birth for every Pennsylvania child's postsecondary education. Julie also serves as an advisor to the State Treasurer on financial wellness and inclusion.

Prior to her current role, Julie spent more than 15 years in international development, focused on financial inclusion and impact measurement. She is passionate about building financial security and economic opportunity, believing that appropriately designed financial services have the ability to change lives by

providing dignity, opportunity and financial empowerment. After receiving her bachelor's degree in accounting from Southern Methodist University, Julie started her career as a CPA at KPMG in Chicago, IL and subsequently received her MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. Connect with her on LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/juliepeachey/>

Ayanna Pressley

Congresswoman (MA-07)



Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) is an activist, a legislator, a survivor, and the first woman of color to be elected to Congress from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Throughout her career, Congresswoman Pressley has fought to ensure that those closest to the pain are closest to the power - driving and informing policymaking. As Congresswoman for Massachusetts' 7th Congressional District, she has been a champion for justice and healing: reproductive justice, justice for immigrants, consumer justice, justice for seniors, justice for workers, justice for survivors of sexual violence, justice for formerly and currently incarcerated individuals, and healing for those who have experienced trauma. She has also turned her experience living with alopecia into action, becoming a leading voice fighting to raise awareness and support for the alopecia community across the nation. Congresswoman Pressley currently serves on the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Prior to being elected to Congress, she

served on the Boston City Council for eight years and was the first woman of color elected to the council in its 100-year history.

Colleen J. Quint

President & CEO, Alford Scholarship Foundation
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Colleen Quint is the President & CEO of the Alford Scholarship Foundation, which awards a \$500 grant at birth to every Maine resident baby for their future education after high school. By the beginning of 2024 the program had invested over \$75 million for more than 150,000 Maine children. ASF works with families and partners across the state to increase student aspirations and outcomes through educational messaging and by encouraging family savings for college. She is a frequent speaker at state, regional and national forums on topics related to educational aspirations, student outcomes and the link between education and workforce development. Prior to her tenure at ASF, Colleen was the founding

Executive Director of the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute. Her earlier career included serving as an Assistant Attorney General and running her own education law practice. Colleen holds a B.A. from Bates College and a J.D. from University of Maine School of Law. She serves as Chair of the Maine Children's Cabinet Early Childhood Advisory Council and is on the Steering Committee for Maine Spark, a statewide business/education roundtable with a goal of boosting the state's educational attainment to 60% by 2025. Colleen also sits on the Steering Committee of the New England Consortium of Children's Savings Accounts, on the Board of Directors of the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, and on the Tree Street Youth Advisory Council. She recently concluded a term on the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's Community Development Advisory Committee. Colleen is past chair of the Board of Promise Early Education (Androscoggin Head Start) and formerly served on the School Board in what is now RSU16 and on the Budget Committee for the Town of Minot. Colleen lives in Minot, Maine.

David Radcliffe

Director, Local & State Policy, Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy
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David Radcliffe, the State and Local Policy Director for the Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, grew up in a small factory town of the Appalachian foothills in western Pennsylvania. He has a strong passion for working with people to build places and economies where everyone can live happy, fulfilling, prosperous, and productive lives.

Previously, David served as policy director for the Office of CT State Treasurer, where he championed implementation of the first-in-the-country “Baby Bonds” wealth building initiative. His tenure as Director of the Working Cities Challenge CT (WCC), an initiative of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and leadership with the Meriden Children First Initiative (CFI) underscore his relentless pursuit of equitable solutions. Successful campaigns include creating a universal school breakfast program and full-day

kindergarten for all Meriden children. CFI's Meriden's Family Zone (MFZ) project was one of 15 communities nationally awarded a U.S. Department of Education Promise Neighborhood planning grant.

A season community organizer with Hartford Areas Rally Together (HART), David worked with neighborhood leaders to successfully tackle issues related to property taxes, public safety, housing, and park improvements.

Beyond his professional pursuits, David is an accomplished writer, adventurer and family man, having penned two insightful books (*People's History: The Story of Hartford Areas Rally Together*, and *Charter Oak: The Life, Death and Rebirth of a Low Income Public Housing Project*) and embarked on epic journeys like hiking the length of the Appalachian Trail and cycling across the country – twice.

In his cherished role as a father to three young adults and partner to his amazing wife, Chaucey, David finds joy in life's simple pleasures, even boasting a quirky Guinness World Record for simultaneous potato chip eating at a NY Mets game (along with 35,000 others) – a testament to his zest for life and community spirit.

Stephen Roll

Assistant Professor, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis
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Dr. Roll's (he/him) is an assistant professor in the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis, and the Co-Director of the Social Policy Institute. His work focuses on promoting asset building, debt management, and economic security in lower-income populations. Most recently, his work has examined the role of cash transfer programs in improving household balance sheets and economic mobility outcomes, including studies of the Expanded Child Tax Credit and several Guaranteed Income experiments. He is also leading the new

Workforce Economic Inclusion and Mobility Project, which examines how low-wage workers navigate public and private benefits programs to achieve financial security.

His work has been featured in numerous media outlets including *The Atlantic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *NPR*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*, and he has briefed the White House Domestic Policy Council, the Senate Joint Economic Committee, and the United States Supreme Court on the results of his research.

Dr. Roll received his PhD in Public Policy & Management from The Ohio State University.

Sukhi Samara

Director of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income
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Sukhi Samra is the Executive Director of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI). In this role, she has led the expansion of a national network that in less than two years grew from 11 members to 63, launched 24 guaranteed income pilots, and raised more than \$30M. She also developed a pilot technical assistance infrastructure, which includes a multi-site research and evaluation partnership, and administered a \$15M grant program to support emerging pilots. Previously, she was the Director of the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED), the nation's first mayor-led guaranteed income demonstration. As SEED's director, Sukhi led the design and implementation of the program, including developing a recipient recruitment, notification, and onboarding process and developing a multi-pronged public benefits preservation strategy that is now being adopted by pilots nationwide. Sukhi

graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and is originally from Fresno, CA.

Trina Shanks

Director, School of Social Work Community Engagement, Harold R. Johnson Collegiate Professor of Social Work & founding director of the Center for Equitable Family & Community Well-Being at the University of Michigan
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Trina Shanks is currently Harold R Johnson Collegiate Professor and Director of Community Engagement at the University of Michigan School of Social Work as well as Founding Director of the Center for Equitable Family & Community Well-Being.

She has a BSBA, MSW and Ph.D. from Washington University and a Masters in Comparative Social Research from the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. Her research interests include the impact of poverty and wealth on child well-being; asset-building policy and practice across the life cycle; and community and economic development. Trina Shanks has been active in Detroit, conducting multiple evaluations of its summer

youth employment program—Grow Detroit’s Young Talent, and convening an employment equity learning and action collaborative. Dr. Shanks is currently a AASWSW (American Academy of Social Work & Social Welfare) fellow, a non-resident fellow at Urban Institute, and a national network co-lead for the Social Work Grand Challenge: Reversing Extreme Economic Inequality.

Tom Shapiro

Research Professor, Institute for Economic and Racial Equity, Brandeis University
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Tom Shapiro is a Research Professor at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University. Professor Shapiro has engaged in policy and social movements advocating race and wealth equity over several decades. His current research project focuses on race, wealth extraction, and land dispossession. Collaborating with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, they are evaluating the Pigford Class Action Lawsuit for advocacy and policy lessons. He advises on the Wealth Survey Research Advisory Board for the Federal Reserve Bank, Boston, and the Massachusetts Baby Bonds Task Force

Dr. Melvin Oliver and Shapiro wrote the award-winning **Black Wealth/ White Wealth**, recipient of the 1997 Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award from the American Sociological Association, as well as the 1996 C. Wright Mills Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems.

Supreme Court Justice Jackson quoted and cited **Black Wealth/White Wealth** numerous times in her erudite and passionate Dissent in the Harvard/UNC affirmative action case.

His other books include **The Hidden Cost of Being African American: How Wealth Perpetuates Inequality** and **Toxic Inequality**.

Michael Sherraden

Director of the Center for Social Development and the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor
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MICHAEL SHERRADEN is the George Warren Brown Distinguished University Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Social Development at Washington University in St. Louis, where he has worked from 1979 to the present. The focus of his applied research is on building institutions and policies for positive change. His research on the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s and international examples of non-military service contributed to the creation of AmeriCorps in the United States, and Sherraden was at the White House for the signing of the legislation. Later he defined the concept and theoretical foundation for universal, progressive, and lifelong asset building; and initiated a program of rigorous research, with evidence leading to asset-

building policy innovations. As a result of this work, millions of children in the U.S. and millions more abroad have an asset-building account opened automatically at birth, and discussion of “asset-based policy”, a term Sherraden introduced, is now commonplace. Among other honors, Sherraden was in the inaugural class of the Academy for Social Work and Social Welfare, has received the Distinguished Career Award from the Society for Social Work and Research, and was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Nick Sorensen

Nicholas Sorensen, PhD
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Dr. Nicholas Sorensen is Chief Executive Officer of Summitlab and Senior Director at the American Institutes for Research. Dr. Sorensen's research uses rigorous methodology to examine preventive interventions designed to prevent dropout and prepare students for success in high school and college. He has extensive experience and training in analyzing complex data as well as experimental and quasi-experimental study design. He has successfully led and executed numerous, large-scale, multi-year projects sponsored by more than \$35M in federal, state and local public sector funders. Dr. Sorensen is currently co-leading or has previously co-led multiple studies of CSA programs with Dr. Elliott, including an impact evaluation CollegeBound Saint Paul's CollegeBound Boost program testing the impact of guaranteed income and high-dollar deposits; a quasi-experimental study of the impact of the San Francisco's

Kindergarten to College program on postsecondary enrollment and high school outcomes; a quasi-experimental evaluation of early outcomes for Boston Saves, a quasi-experimental analysis of the impact of Washtenaw County's CSA program; a quasi-experimental study of the impact of Community Foundation of Wabash County's Early Award Scholars program on postsecondary enrollment and high school outcomes; and two randomized trials (Promise Indiana, St. Louis College Kids) assessing the impact of rewards cards on CSA financial outcomes. Dr. Sorensen earned his doctorate in social psychology and his master's degree in social work (with a focus on social policy evaluation) from the University of Michigan.

Pete Subkoviak

Executive director, Resilient Families Hub, U.S. Department of Health and Human Service

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Pete Subkoviak is the Executive Director of the Resilient Families Hub, a new center of direct cash expertise within the federal government. Prior to his current position Pete was the Director of Guaranteed Income and Economic Mobility at the Cook County Government, where he led the nation's largest publicly funded guaranteed income pilot.

A strong advocate for the rights and inherent value of working people, Pete is proud of his service to SEIU 775 in Seattle, where he directed a successful campaign to design and pass into law the WA Cares Fund. The bi-partisan legislation created the nation's first public benefit for long-term care needs, which will cover Washington state's worker and retiree populations beginning in 2025.

Pete earned a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public

Health, specializing in health economics and insurance systems. During graduate school, he spent a summer working for the White House Domestic Policy Council and was also named a national Point Foundation scholarship recipient. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Prior to graduate school, Pete worked for health and LGBTQ advocacy organizations in Chicago, where he co-created TransLife Care, a pioneering housing and employment program for transgender individuals. Pete was born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, and lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Christian Weller

Senior fellow at American Progress and a professor of public policy at the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston

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Christian Weller is a professor of public policy at the University of Massachusetts Boston and a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. His research focuses on wealth inequality, especially by race and ethnicity, retirement income and economic policy.

Professor Weller regularly publishes in academic journals and non-academic outlets. He also writes for Forbes as a senior contributor. His work is frequently cited in the media. Professor Weller maintains several affiliations. He serves on the editorial boards of the

Journal of Aging and Social Policy, Research on Aging and

the Journal of Retirement. Professor Weller is also a research associate of the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, an institute fellow at the Gerontology Institute of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, an advisory board member of the National Institute on Retirement and an advisory board member for the Pension Action Center. He received a PhD in economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Tonia Wellons

President & CEO of the Greater Washington Community Foundation
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Tonia Wellons is the President & CEO of the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the largest public foundation in the region with over \$460 million in assets and \$70 million in annual grants. Under her leadership, The Community Foundation developed a bold 10-year strategic vision that will leverage our resources and expertise to lead our community in addressing the most catalytic opportunity of our lifetimes: closing our community's racial wealth gap.

Tonia has over 20 years of experience in public and private partnerships, financial access and inclusion, and international development. Prior to her role at The Community Foundation, Tonia served as a political appointee for the Obama Administration as head of global partnerships at the Peace Corps and a fund manager at the World Bank Group.

Tonia serves on the board of Leadership Greater Washington, Philanthropy DMV, and Bishop McNamara High School. She is a member of the Federal City Council, and The Economic Club of

Washington, DC. She was recently named to the Washington Business Journal's 'Women Who Mean Business' Class of 2023 and named one of Washington's Most Powerful Women' by Washingtonian Magazine. In 2020, she was named a Hero of the Crisis by Washingtonian Magazine, Nonprofit Leader of the Year by the Washington Business Journal, and the 2020 Philanthropist of the Year by the AFP DC chapter.

Tonia is a 20+ year resident of Prince George's County and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has a master's degree in Public Administration and International Development Policy from the University of Delaware and a bachelor's in Political Science from North Carolina A&T State University.

Stacia West

Founding Director, The Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania

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Stacia West is an Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee's College of Social Work and the co-Founder and Director of the Center for Guaranteed Income Research at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. West holds a BA in Women's Studies and Philosophy and a Masters of Science in Social Work from the University of Tennessee. She holds a PhD in Social Welfare from the University of Kansas. She was the co-PI of the Stockton Economic Empowerment Demonstration (SEED), the first city-led guaranteed income experiment in the US. Her research focuses on universal basic income, unconditional cash-transfers, women's poverty and wealth inequality, and the affordable housing crisis. Her research portfolio includes a multi-site experiment of guaranteed income totalling over 20,000 participants at 35 sites across the US, and her work is regularly featured in mainstream media and published in leading scientific journals.