



Building on The American Rescue Plan: What's Next for Reducing Child Poverty

A CGLR Funder-to-Funder Conversation

April 20, 2021 | 12:30-2 pm ET/9:30-11 am PT

Panelist Bios

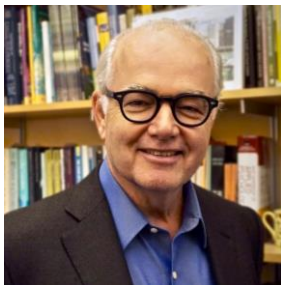
MODERATOR



Mayra E. Alvarez, MHA
President
The Children's Partnership
@mayraealvarez | @kidspartnership

Mayra E. Alvarez is President of The Children's Partnership, a California nonprofit advocacy organization working to ensure all children have the resources and opportunities they need to grow up healthy and lead productive lives. She serves as a Commissioner on the MHSOAC and First 5 CA Commission. Previously, she served at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the Obama administration, including positions at CMS, HHS Office of Minority Health, and HHS Office of Health Reform. She has also served as a Legislative Assistant in the US Senate and House of Representatives. She completed her graduate education at the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her undergraduate education at the University of California at Berkeley.

PRESENTERS



J. Lawrence Aber, Ph.D.
Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy and
University Professor
Co-Director, Global TIES for Children Center
New York University
@NYUGlobalTIES

J. Lawrence Aber is Willner Family Professor of Psychology and Public Policy at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, and University Professor at New York University, where he also serves as board chair of its Institute of Human Development and Social Change and co-director of the international research center "Global TIES for Children". He received his Ph.D. in Clinical-Community and Developmental Psychology from Yale University. His basic research examines the influence of poverty and violence, at the family and community levels, on the social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive and academic development of children and youth. From 1994-2004, he served as Director of the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University. Currently, he conducts

research on the impact of preschool teacher training quality and children’s learning and development in Ghana (in collaboration with Innovations for Poverty Action) and on school- and community-based interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Sierra Leone and Lebanon (in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee).



Adam Gamoran, Ph.D.

President

William T. Grant Foundation

@agamoran | @wtgrantfdn

Adam Gamoran is president of the William T. Grant Foundation, a charitable organization that supports research on programs, policies, and practices to reduce inequality in youth outcomes, and on ways to improve the use of research evidence in youth-related policies and practices. During 2019-2020, he led an organization-wide task force to take stock of the Foundation’s reducing inequality initiative, which he launched in 2014. Previously, he held the John D. MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he spent three decades engaged in research on educational inequality and school reform. Recent writing includes essays such as “The future of higher education is social impact” (*Stanford Social Innovation Review*, 2018) and research articles including “Does racial isolation in school lead to long-term disadvantages? Labor market consequences of high school racial composition” (*American Journal of Sociology*, 2016). He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Education, which he currently serves as vice president. He was also twice appointed by President Barack Obama to serve on the National Board for Education Sciences. His research contributions have been honored by the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, the American Educational Research Association, and the Sociology of Education Section of the American Sociological Association.



Terry Mazany

Network Director

Community Foundation Opportunity Network

Terry Mazany has enjoyed careers in archaeology, public education, and philanthropy. Constant throughout these roles is his commitment to improving educational opportunities for all children.

Terry currently serves as Senior Vice President for the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta following a distinguished career of 13 years as President and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust. While at the Trust he also served briefly as the interim chief executive officer of Chicago Public Schools serving 400,000 students.

Having worked for and with community foundations over the past twenty years, Terry currently leads the Community Foundation Opportunity Network committed to dramatically increasing social and economic mobility for residents in the communities they serve. Most recently a cohort of those community foundations launched NEON, the Nexus for Equity + Opportunity Nationwide, committed to dismantling structural and systemic racism that perpetuates inequity and disparities in opportunity.

He has graduate degrees in Anthropology, Business, and Education and has also been awarded Honorary Doctorate degrees from DePaul University, Lewis University, and Governors State University.



Sheila Smith, Ph.D.
Co-Director
National Center for Children in Poverty
@NCCP

Sheila Smith, Ph.D., Co-director of the National Center for Children in Poverty, Bank Street Graduate School of Education, conducts research on interventions and policies to promote the healthy development of young children in poverty. She leads NCCP projects that provide on-line tools tracking the status of young children in poverty and deep poverty, and state policies likely to benefit these and their families. Other current and recent projects include analysis of secondary data to examine the well-being of young children in deep poverty, a study of Arkansas' implementation of early care and education expulsion prevention policies, development of a database of research-informed early childhood mental health policies, ongoing assessments of family needs and family support programs in NH's PDG project, case studies of developmental supports for young children involved in Child Welfare, and technical assistance to states' strengthening their Part C Early Intervention program and policies that support infant-early childhood mental health in different systems and two-generation programs for families in deep poverty.

Before joining NCCP, Sheila directed the Forum on Children and Families which disseminated child and family research to city and state policymakers, and two Early Reading First initiatives at New York University's Child and Family Policy Center, and Director of Research at Foundation for Child Development.

She earned her doctorate in Educational Psychology at the University of Chicago, completed a fellowship in Child Development and Social Policy at the University of Michigan, and was a Society for Research in Child Development Congressional Science Fellow.



Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson
President and CEO
Children's Defense Fund
@RevDrStarsky | @ChildDefender

The Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson is the President and CEO of the Children's Defense Fund. Dr. Wilson is a pastor, philanthropist and activist pursuing God's vision of community marked by justice, peace and love. He is board chair for the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy (NCRP) and vice chair of the Forum for Theological Exploration (FTE).

Previously, Dr. Wilson served as president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, a faith-based grant making organization supporting a movement for child well-being in St. Louis through philanthropy, advocacy and organizing for racial equity and public policy change. Under Dr. Wilson's leadership, Deaconess constructed and established the Deaconess Center for Child Well-Being, a 21,000 square foot community action tank. Each year, more than 15,000 citizens engage the Center to build power for children and families. Alongside its capacity building support for non-profits, the Foundation sponsors a network of congregation-based Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools.

From 2008 through 2018, Dr. Wilson pastored Saint John's Church (The Beloved Community), an inter-racial, inner-city congregation related to the United Church of Christ. There he led activism on myriad

issues while more than quadrupling worship attendance and annual giving. To expand the church's witness, he established The Beloved Community Conference resourcing social justice ministries and Sojourner's Truth: Celebration of Preaching Women.

After the police killing of Michael Brown, Jr., with Dr. Wilson's leadership, the church hosted the #BlackLivesMatter Freedom Ride to Ferguson and served as the welcome center for the #FergusonOctober. In service of community healing, he co-chaired the Ferguson Commission. In 2015, they released the 'Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity' Report, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility. In addition to NCRP and FTE, Starsky serves on the boards for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Sojourners, Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, and St. Louis Children's Hospital. He is an advisor to the Democracy Fund.

Dr. Wilson earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Xavier University of Louisiana, Master of Divinity from Eden Theological Seminary and the Doctor of Ministry from Duke University. For his public theology, he was awarded Doctor of Public Service and Doctor of Divinity degrees honoris causa by Saint Louis University and Eden Theological Seminary. A member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Dr. Wilson is married to Dr. LaToya Smith Wilson, a dentist for St. Louis Children's Hospital. They are raising four children.