April 7, 2017

Dear Anti-Poverty Roundtable Participants:

On behalf of The ABA’s Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, welcome to Collaborate to Advocate: National, State and Local Partners Working to End Poverty through Interdisciplinary Innovations. I am thrilled that all of you are able to participate in this event aimed at fostering strategic, interdisciplinary collaboration among national, state and local organizations to amplify our collective efforts to end poverty.

This convening is part of a multi-year initiative—Collaborate to Advocate: Lawyers and Communities Working Together to End Poverty. In partnership with stakeholders from the service provider, religious, academic, education, health/mental health, political and legal communities, the Commission has hosted anti-poverty roundtables in a diverse set of communities—ranging from urban areas in large cities, smaller cities, suburban communities and counties, and rural areas—to reflect the broad range of geographies where poverty exists. The Collaborate to Advocate initiative is highlighted on the Commission’s site at www.ambar.org/homeless under the tab for Collaborate to Advocate: Lawyers and Communities Working to End Poverty, which links to an online Anti-Poverty Quilt summarizing each of our past roundtable convenings.

Building on the foundation of the local community roundtable approach, we will broaden the conversation on April 7th to include national stakeholders—from professional organizations as well as advocacy and provider organizations to determine how we might collaborate to amplify all of our efforts. Our preliminary task is to discuss the myriad of ongoing strategies and advocacy efforts to determine how new collaborations could improve outcomes of our various anti-poverty initiatives. The number of voices will grow as we proceed with what we hope will evolve into an ongoing dialogue, and we thank you for joining us to share your perspective.

To eliminate the need for introductions, participants were invited to complete templates highlighting their work and related efforts of their organizations. These templates were compiled in the enclosed briefing book and will be posted on the Commission’s site along with a summary of the convening.

We look forward to not only supporting your efforts as we continue the dialogue, but also sharing your success with other communities as we continue to implement this initiative.

Best regards,

Ted Small
Chair, American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
AGENDA

8:30 AM – Continental breakfast will be served during a casual networking opportunity

9:00 AM – Welcome and Introductions

Ted Small, Chair, ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty

9:15 AM – Overview: Poverty in America

Rebecca Vallas, Managing Director, Poverty to Prosperity Program, Center for American Progress

Data and statistics
Existing resources

9:30 AM – Advocacy, Campaigns and Strategies from National Partners

10:00 AM – How can interdisciplinary national, state and local organizations collaborate in new ways to address poverty?

Local partners will briefly discuss their experience in developing community consensus on the manifestation of poverty areas listed below—highlighting the collaborative approach they implemented or are currently implementing to address it, including any successes or obstacles. Partners will provide an introductory framing that will be followed by an interactive facilitated dialogue among all participants.

- Education and employment
- Health (mental and physical)
- Housing, homelessness and food insecurity

Link to Materials:
http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/events/homelessness_poverty/briefing_book.pdf
12:00 PM – Lunch

12:30 PM – How can interdisciplinary national, state and local organizations collaborate in new ways to address poverty? (Continued)

- Disproportionate involvement in the criminal and civil justice systems, and lack of personal and physical safety
- Isolation from community and political infrastructure

1:30 PM – Next Steps

- Of the ongoing or planned collaborative approaches discussed earlier, which has the potential for expansion to attract the most interdisciplinary coalition of local, state and national partners into a collaboration that amplifies all of our efforts to end poverty?
- What additional stakeholders should be engaged?

2:00 PM – Adjourn

American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
ambar.org/homeless • 202/662-1693 • homeless@americanbar.org
Background:
Nearly 50 million Americans now live below the federal poverty line. Recent societal, economic and political events (economic meltdown, mortgage foreclosure epidemic, Trayvon Martin, Hurricane Katrina, Ferguson, Missouri, Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow,” 9/11, the “school to prison pipeline,” unaccompanied minors coming across the border, etc.) have given rise to unprecedented public awareness of income inequality in America, the number of children living in poverty and the disparate treatment and impacts of the law and justice systems on communities of color and populations that face other barriers and obstacles to justice, such as disability, limited English proficiency, immigrant status and other factors.

Initiative Goal:
Identify, promote and implement best practices for eliminating legal and justice system-related policies, practices and procedures, including those tainted by structural racialization and other forms of bias, that perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty and discrimination on individuals, families and households, including barriers to individual and community well-being, personal and physical safety, food security, health care, education, employment at a living wage, safe, stable and affordable housing, meaningful political participation and access to justice.

Working Definition of Poverty:
Poverty is a state or lived experience caused and perpetuated by various, often compounded, factors such as:
• Inadequate economic resources and opportunity to build assets, including employment, adequate income and assets to meet basic human needs such as food, housing, clothing, etc.;
• Insufficient access to social resources such as healthcare, justice and education;
• Weak political standing and limited opportunity for meaningful association and engagement;
• Isolation and lack of cultural identity support;
• Inability to hold institutions and individuals accountable for fair and equitable behavior;
• Disparate treatment based on poverty compounded by other forms of structural unfairness and disparity based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, indigenous identity, national origin, etc.
Manifestations of Poverty:
1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness;
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems;
3. Food inadequacy;
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes;
5. Inadequate education outcomes;
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage;
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises;
8. Lack of personal and physical safety;
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity; and
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure.

Implementation: Anti-Poverty Roundtables, Toolkit for Communities Seeking to Develop and Operationalize Local Anti-Poverty Agendas, and the ABA Online Quilt of Community Anti-Poverty Discussions

The goal of each roundtable is to bring together 10-15 community stakeholders who are interested in identifying, promoting and implementing best practices for eliminating policies, practices and procedures that unfairly perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty on low-income people in that particular local community. To connect other communities with the national anti-poverty discussion, the Commission will encourage the designation of at least one panelist in each community who is willing to develop an edited summary of the ideas exchanged and proposed new programming for posting to a Commission-moderated online blog entitled, “Operationalizing A New Anti-Poverty Agenda: An Online Quilt of Community Discussions.” This online blog would allow each roundtable to share its diverse perspective on the most pressing manifestations of poverty within their community as well as its proposed solutions. With the addition of notes from each roundtable, the Commission would add a patch to the national Online Quilt in order to bring together diverse patterns of anti-poverty ideas. These shared ideas could be implemented by other communities who in turn share their own strategies for combatting poverty, creating a resource for all communities to use in removing the practices, policies and procedures that worsen or perpetuate poverty. Additionally, in furtherance of its goal of educating the bar and the general public about homelessness and poverty and the ways the legal community can collaborate with other stakeholders to assist those in need, the Commission developed a resource entitled: “Toolkit for Communities Seeking to Develop and Operationalize Local Anti-Poverty Agendas,” in which the Commission compiled a wealth of ABA policy and programming knowledge into a series of “blueprints for action” that are cross-disciplinary and specifically address each of the identified Manifestation of Poverty areas.

American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
ambar.org/homeless • 202/662-1693 • homeless@americanbar.org
**Get Involved**

Support the Commission by reaching out to judges and lawyers in your community to promote model programs and best practices and connect the legal community to the Commission for technical assistance.
Mission:
To help the United States achieve social arrangements that ensure that, when we must live with serious chronic illnesses associated with advancing age, we can count on living meaningfully and comfortably, at a sustainable cost to our families and society.

Summit Participant:
Anne Montgomery
Deputy Director
Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness (CECAI) Altarum Institute
2000 M St NW, suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
Anne.Montgomery@altarum.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

Across the U.S., our communities and our current health care system, which were developed to treat and cure acute illness and injury and to support working people, are completely unprepared for the “longevity boom, when 20% of the population will be 65 years and older. We face the challenge of supporting tens of millions of elders, many of whom are likely to experience ongoing, chronic diseases that lead to disabling illness, diminishing numbers of family caregivers who have limited resources, and a health services and delivery system that was not designed to meet ongoing needs. Yet the demographics of longevity are unstoppable, and ingenuity and resourcefulness are being challenged on multiple fronts. So far, instead of making continuity, comprehensiveness, and caregiver support a priority, the health care system has maintained a focus on short-term outcomes for elders, including costly and ineffective medical interventions. CECAI aims to change this by creating the fundamental changes needed to build a more compassionate, cost-effective, reliable system that is anchored in communities and deeply aware of their resources.

Among the 10 manifestations of poverty that the forum is focusing on, CECAI’s work on older adults focuses most on food inadequacy, inadequate health care and poor health outcomes, living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises, stigma (age discrimination) and lack of personal dignity, and isolation from community and political infrastructure.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

- CECAI designs and implements demonstration projects in communities nationwide, with a particular focus on creating reliable, community-based, integrated models of elder care that provide tailored, goal-oriented services, including the often-ignored, underfunded supportive services that are vital to the quality of life of older adults;
- CECAI aims to reshape the framework in which we consider, design, and deliver care for frail elders, recognizing that this aim requires changing how we organize services and prioritize individual goals and needs, along with a shift to making decisions that are tied to population health management, including elements of local control and monitoring;
- CECAI is working to develop and implement comprehensive care plans that are organized around the care of individuals and their particular circumstances and goals; and which connect medical care providers, social services providers, and family;
- CECAI is working to promote and inform public perspectives, policy and dialogue on specific, innovative approaches on long-term care, improvement and adaptation of services, and tools and protocols that reduce avoidable and unnecessary costs;
CECAI works to inform and guide leaders at various levels of government and in the health and social services sectors as they shape policies and programs.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

CECAI collaborates with many organizations in the health care and social services sectors. We are a member of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, for example, sit on the board of Caregiver Action Network and are very actively involved with the Health and Aging Policy Fellows program and the National Academy of Social Insurance. We work closely with the American Geriatrics Society, the College of American Physicians, C-TAC and the National PACE Association, and we are a founding supporter of the bipartisan, bicameral congressional caucus known as “Assisting Caregivers Today.” In 2015-2016, we launched two national advocacy initiatives. One aimed to seed policy issues that are of prime importance to family caregivers – many of which focus on a lack of affordable long-term care services that families can access in the home – as an organizing focus for the Family Caregiver Platform Project (FCPP). In this initiative, we developed issue advocacy on a website -- www.caregivercorps.org -- for volunteers to use (who were also supported with web-based discussion and training) in the context of submitting policy planks to state party platform committees, and legislative resolutions that state legislators could sponsor in state legislatures. The results were gratifying, with volunteers sponsoring language (or requesting state legislators to do this) in 29 states, and final approval gained in 11. This louder voice and focused advocacy at the state level then contributed to a successful push at the national level to include language supporting family caregivers and home care in both the Democratic and GOP national party platforms.

In the immediate aftermath of the 2016 national elections, CECAI sponsored a forum, “America CARES,” which aimed to bring together the constituencies supporting family caregivers and care workers. Toward that end, we commissioned national polling on election eve and election day, which showed strong support for moving policy solutions forward for both family caregivers and care workers. Since then we have maintained, and hope to grow, a web-based resource page that can be used by family caregivers and care workers across the country -- http://altarum.org/our-work/america-cares-forum-digital-asset-page.

In general, our experience is that advocacy works – but currently there are too few organized efforts to craft broad consensus agendas that can “change the conversation” at a national level. Similarly, much more advocacy work is needed at the state level. There is a lack of close cooperation among organizations dedicated to health care and those dedicated to supportive services and social services, which arguably hinders effective advocacy to highlight issues around long-term care. Yet long-term care, which consists of a spectrum of services in both sectors, requires close coordination of services that is relatively rare today. Absent a strong, concerted effort to adapt current programs to be ready for the impact of the “age wave” in 2025 and beyond, the U.S. could see the emergence of widespread, chronic gaps in services that are essential to a long-lived society – and which might be substantially worsened by attempts to partially defund bedrock social insurance and social services programs (through budget caps and other mechanisms imposing stark fiscal constraints). In turn, this would result in severe harm to vulnerable populations, including the tens of millions of Americans who will survive into “old-old” age and who will mostly lack the private financial resources to support themselves.

CECAI would be very pleased to work actively with a broader array of organizations interested in pursuing a pace-setting agenda of both general issue advocacy and promulgation of evidence-informed models, which collectively aim to advance our current system of social insurance and appropriated programs in a framework that effectively tackles poverty among various vulnerable populations, including frail elders.
**Organization Mission:** APA's mission is to advance the creation, communication and application of psychological knowledge to benefit society and improve people's lives

**Summit Participant:**
Keyona King-Tsikata  
Director, Office on Socioeconomic Status  
The American Psychological Association  
Washington, DC  
kking-tsikata@apa.org

**Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.**
The American Psychological Association (APA) has a dedicated [Office and Committee on Socioeconomic Status](https://www.apa.org/about/committees-socioeconomic-status). While it looks at the full spectrum of SES as it contributes to health disparities, the lion’s share of its attention is focused on promoting psychology’s contribution to understanding psychological manifestations of poverty. The Office on SES is housed in APA’s [Public Interest Directorate](https://www.apa.org/about/directorates/pid) with a mission to apply psychology to the fundamental problems of human welfare and social justice and the promotion of equitable and just treatment of all segments of society. A sampling of activities to address poverty and homelessness include:

- **Report of the Presidential Task Force on Psychology's Contributions to Ending Homelessness** with a mission to identify and address the psychosocial factors and conditions associated with homelessness and defines the role of psychologists in ending homelessness.

- **Resources for the Inclusion of Social Class in Psychology Curricula** to encourage an increase in training and education in psychology related to socioeconomic status and social class.

- Since 2007, the APA has commissioned an annual nationwide survey to examine the state of stress across the country and understand its impact. Economic stress has consistently been reported as a top stressor. **The Stress in America™ survey** measures attitudes and perceptions of stress among the general public and identifies leading sources of stress, common behaviors used to manage stress and the impact of stress on our lives. The results of the survey draw attention to the serious physical and emotional implications of stress and the inextricable link between the mind and body.

- American Psychologist is the official peer-reviewed scholarly journal of the APA and has an active call for papers for a special issue on: [Psychology's Contributions to Understanding and Alleviating Poverty and Economic Inequality](https://www.apa.org/journals/americanpsychologist/issue).

- APA Monitor on Psychology, the official magazine of the APA, recently covered lead stories on psychology’s contributions to fighting poverty and eliminating class bias.

- As a means of strengthening clinical practice, APA recently appointed a Task Force for the Development of Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Low-Income and Economically Marginalized Clients.

- To improve the quality and impact of psychological research, [Stop Skipping Class Campaign](https://www.apa.org/pi/poverty/stop-skipping-class) is designed to increase the normative inclusion of information on the SES and social class of research participants within journal articles to facilitate proper contextualizing and interpretation of research findings.

- APA’s Government Relations Office advocates on poverty and SES related social policies that improve health and well-being across the socioeconomic spectrum and hosted Congressional Briefings on *Psychological Effects of Poverty (Scarcity and Decision Making)* and *Discrimination against the Unemployed*.

- APA’s [Psychology Benefits Society Blog](https://www.apa.org/blogs/psybenefit) published a series of blog posts on Poverty and SES related topics such as minimum wage, adjunct faculty, fighting poverty through collaboration, economic mobility and security, ending the criminalization of poverty, and how the mental drain of poverty undermines economic opportunity.
Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming. APA is most successful when its anti-poverty programming efforts offer a unique contribution from psychological research, practice, and/or education.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

APA affiliated collaborative organizations include

- **APA’s 54 Divisions** which are interest groups organized by members. Some represent sub-disciplines of psychology (e.g., experimental, social or clinical) while others focus on topical areas such as aging, ethnic minorities or trauma. APA members, and even nonmembers, can apply to join one or more divisions which have their own eligibility criteria and dues. In addition, each division has its own officers, website, publications, email list, awards, convention activities and meetings.

- **State, Provincial and Territorial Psychological Associations (SPTAs).** The APA Practice Organization works with its 60 affiliated state, provincial and territorial psychological associations (SPTAs) on a broad range of issues affecting the professional practice of psychology. This strong partnership allows the Practice Organization to have its ear to the ground and maintain a watchful eye in jurisdictions where psychologists practice. This focus improves decision making regarding resource allocation and prioritization of advocacy efforts.

Additionally, APA’s Public Interest Government Relations Office participates on the Coalition on Human Needs and the SAVE for All Coalition. They have also recently collaborated with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
Organization Mission: The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Summit Participant:
Name: T.J. Sutcliffe
Title: Director, Income & Housing Policy
Organization: The Arc of the United States
City/State: Washington, DC
Email Address: sutcliffe@thearc.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

The Arc’s national office and its over 650 chapters across the United States address the full range of manifestations of poverty areas for people with disabilities and their families through a range of policy and programmatic initiatives. Disability and poverty intersect in many ways: in the U.S., people are twice as likely to experience poverty if they have a disability, and people who live in poverty are more likely to experience a disability of their own or in their family. As a result, nearly all aspects of The Arc’s work advance efforts to reduce poverty and increase opportunity for people with disabilities and their families. In Washington, DC The Arc’s federal policy team seeks to advance federal legislation, regulation, and policy in accordance with our Public Policy Agenda (http://www.thearc.org/what-we-do/public-policy/legislative-agenda-full) and position statements (http://www.thearc.org/who-we-are/position-statements). The Arc’s chapters carry out similar advocacy at the state and local level, both to support the organization’s federal policy goals as well as state and local policy initiatives. In addition, The Arc’s national office and our state and local chapters carry out a wide range of case advocacy and service provision aimed at helping people with disabilities participate in all aspects of society, including the economy.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

The Arc conducts extensive federal policy work on a wide range of anti-poverty initiatives including housing, health care, employment, education and civil rights. Our national office also has targeted programming to promote best practices in the areas of inclusive employment and education for people with disabilities as well as criminal justice. Our network of chapters is actively engaged in a broad spectrum of programming and we can consider identifying best practice examples of interest to the summit on targeted issues. Barriers and challenges include sustainable funding to scale up best practices; lack of access to supports to meet individual’s basic needs; and myths, stereotypes and isolation of people with disabilities experiencing poverty.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

The Arc’s national office and its over 650 state and local chapters collaborate closely and extensively with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues. Those partners include peer disability groups; advocacy and community organizing groups representing a wide range of interests and issues; legal advocacy groups; employers; faith-based organizations; state, local and federal government agencies; and state, local and federal legislatures.
**Organization Mission:**
The Capital Area Muslim Bar Association's ("CAMBA") mission is to foster a sense of fellowship amongst diverse Muslim legal professionals and establish an institutional presence within the Capital Area legal community. CAMBA strives to elevate our members to prominence, develop future leaders, and amplify our collective voice to impact legal issues affecting the Muslim community.

**Summit Participant:**
Saleema Snow
CAMBA Liaison to the National Association of Muslim Lawyers/
Associate Professor of Law, University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law
Washington, D.C.
Vanita.snow@udc.edu

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

CAMBA strives to engage and educate its members about the need for, and opportunities to participate in, pro bono legal services for the poor. We regularly participate in the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center’s Advice and Referral Clinics. Additionally, we hold an event during National Pro Bono Week to address an unmet legal need in the Muslim community. In response to recent immigration actions that have affected scores of people, CAMBA co-sponsored a basic immigration training. In partnership with the Capital Area Immigrants' Rights (CAIR) Coalition, the training suggested ways lawyers can help protect immigrants' legal rights.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.
We are striving to create a culture of pro bono legal service by recognizing and honoring CAMBA members who exhibit outstanding commitment to pro bono representation. Although members express a desire to represent pro bono clients, it is often difficult to match attorneys’ expertise with legal service providers’ needs.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

CAMBA is a member of the National Association of Muslim Lawyers and co-sponsors a number of programs with other affinity bar associations.
**Organization Mission:** The mission of CHA is to advance the Catholic health ministry of the United States in caring for people and communities.

**Summit Participant:**
Julie Trocchio  
Sr. Director, Community Benefit & Continuing Care  
The Catholic Health Association of the United States  
1875 Eye St. NW, Ste. 1000  
Washington DC, 20006-5409  
Jtrocchio@chausa.org  
202-721-6320

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

CHA is dedicated to health care for all people.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

CHA is the leader in resources for hospital community benefit programs which are activities that address community health needs with a priority for persons who are low-income and for vulnerable communities. I also work in the areas of human trafficking and climate change, both particularly impacting persons living in poverty.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

CHA collaborates with partners in the health care, faith-based and public health sectors, with consumer groups and others who share our values and goals. Success factors include shared agenda and values and mission congruence.
Organization Mission:
CFED’s work makes it possible for millions of people to achieve financial security and contribute to an opportunity economy. We scale innovative practical solutions that empower low- and moderate-income people to build wealth. We drive responsive policy change at all levels of government. We support the efforts of community leaders across the country to advance economic opportunity for all.

Summit Participant:
Holden Weisman
State & Local Policy Manager
CFED
Washington, DC
hweisman@cfed.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
Our challenge in building an opportunity economy for all is ensuring that all households can achieve financial well-being, free to make financial choices for themselves without fear of the consequences of a sudden pitfall. CFED analyzes the core realities of asset poverty through our research and data collection initiatives, including the Assets & Opportunity Scorecard and the Racial Wealth Divide Initiative. These initiatives allow CFED to foster policy solutions at the federal, state and local levels that attempt to holistically address and break the continuous cycle of poverty many communities face, particularly within communities of color.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.
Core to the success of our policy priorities is a belief that opportunities for financial well-being should be made as accessible as possible within the communities that are most in need or historically deprived of full economic participation. Whether the goal is creating a universal children’s savings account program for all children born in a state, ensuring families seeking affording homeownership through manufactured housing have the same lending and titling rights as site-built homeowners or creating safe and simple pathways to retirement savings for all workers through automatic-enrollment Individual Retirement Account programs, we strive to develop solutions to the cycle of poverty at all stages of life. Among the key policies on which we currently advocate are the Earned Income Tax Credit, including its strengthening or expansion at the federal and state levels, and developing means for integrating savings and financial capability tools and resources into existing human service programs such as housing, early childhood education, community health centers and child welfare.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)
Our organization works closely with asset-building service provides and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance programs through our Assets & Opportunity Network and Taxpayer Opportunity Network. We also work closely with other national organizations with similar missions and others that represent policymakers at the various levels of government. An ongoing challenge we face across our partnerships is developing easily replicable policy solutions that could be enacted broadly but maintain the integrity of the desired goal. One-size-fits-all models, particularly at the state level, are often elusive within our current political climate.
Organization Mission: The missions of the Children’s Defense Fund is to Leave No Child Behind® and to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

Summit Participant:
Richard Hooks Wayman
National Executive Director
Children’s Defense Fund
Washington, DC
rhookswayman@childrensdefense.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
The Children’s Defense Fund conducts policy advocacy on a host of substantive areas outlined under the list of manifestations of poverty noted below. While CDF provides a voice for all the children in America we pay particular attention to the needs of poor children, children of color and those with disabilities. All of the different substantive areas of CDF’s policy advocacy are framed within our Cradle to Prison Pipeline® Campaign. Our goal is to substitute the cradle to prison pipeline at dangerous intersection between race and poverty that can lead children to marginalized lives, imprisonment and often premature death with a pipeline to success for every child. CDF believes children don’t come in pieces, and CDF’s policy priorities reflect our more than four decades of work to end child poverty and to level the playing field for all children.

1. **Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness:**
   CDF advocates for the ending of family, child, and youth homelessness and supports the expansion of federal funding to increase the supply of affordable housing, supportive housing, and supportive services to address the housing and basic needs of children and youth.

2. **Disproportionate involvement in juvenile and criminal and civil justice systems:**
   CDF’s Cradle to Prison Pipeline® campaign seeks to reduce detention and incarceration by increasing preventive supports and services children need, such as access to quality early childhood development and education services and accessible, comprehensive health and mental health coverage. Read the full report here: [http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/cradle-to-prison-pipeline-report-2007-full-lowres.pdf](http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/cradle-to-prison-pipeline-report-2007-full-lowres.pdf). Additionally, CDF has been very active in advocating for the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (overdue since 2007) to prevent youth from entering the system, strengthen core protections under law, supporting youth transition home to their communities, and reducing racial disparities.

3. **Food Inadequacy - Ensure no Child Goes Hungry and has Access to Good Nutrition:**
   Child hunger jeopardizes children’s health and ability to learn. Poor children are more likely to experience hunger. In 2015, 1 in 5 children in the U.S. - 13.1 million - lived in households that were food insecure, lacking consistent access to adequate food. Critical programs, including the Child Nutrition Programs and the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP) fall short of meeting the needs of all hungry children. Today, SNAP helps feed 19.9 million children – 1 in 4 in our nation. SNAP prevents children and families from going hungry, improves overall health, and reduces poverty among families that benefit from SNAP. In 2012, SNAP lifted 4.9 million children above the poverty line, and lifted 2.1 million children out of deep poverty, more than any other government support. In fiscal year 2015, there were 1.3 million households with children in which SNAP was the only source of income. However SNAP benefits now
average less than $1.41 a person per meal and in 2015, more than half of all families receiving SNAP were still food insecure. In CDF’s 2015 report Ending Child Poverty Now, CDF called upon Congress and the Administration to increase SNAP benefits to cover a larger portion of the nutrition needs of children. CDF proposed basing SNAP benefit levels on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Low-Cost Food Plan, which is approximately 30 percent higher in value than the Thrifty Food Plan, on which benefits are currently based.

4. **Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes:**
   Over the last fifty years, our country has made tremendous progress ensuring children have access to comprehensive, high quality, affordable health coverage. Thanks to Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and the Affordable Care Act (ACA), today ninety-five percent of children in the United States have health coverage – an historic high. Medicaid, CHIP and the ACA all play a critical role in improving health outcomes and access to care for children, reducing school absenteeism, and improving children’s readiness to learn. CDF advocates for a “do no harm” approach to preserve this progress and build on what is working for millions of children and their families. This includes preserving and protecting Medicaid’s funding structure and guarantee of coverage for 37 million low-income children and children with disabilities, quickly enacting at least a five year, clean extension of funding for CHIP, and preserving and strengthening the ACA. Learn more here: [http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/health/](http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/health/) and [http://www.insureallchildren.org/](http://www.insureallchildren.org/).

5. **Inadequate education outcomes:**
   More than 1 in 5 children under age six is poor during the years of greatest brain development and the negative impacts of poverty during the early years can damage children’s foundation for future learning and life outcomes. CDF is working to change the lack of high quality early learning opportunities for children by supporting policies that guarantee that all poor and vulnerable children have access to a high quality continuum of early childhood programs from birth through age 5 that can comprehensively address their needs and the needs of their families. By working to ensure access to quality home visiting, Early Head Start, Head Start, quality, affordable child care, preschool and full-day kindergarten, CDF is helping to ensure that all young children have a strong start to life. Learn more here: [http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/earlychildhood/](http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/earlychildhood/) and [http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/elementaryandsecondaryed/](http://www.childrensdefense.org/policy/elementaryandsecondaryed/).

6. **Lack of personal and physical safety:**
   Poverty is the single strongest predictor of child maltreatment, but often it is because they are more likely to come into contact with child protection agencies. CDF has been working to reform and strengthening the child welfare system to align federal funding that better supports families and keeps children safely out of foster care, because we know too well the poor child outcomes for children removed from their homes and placed in the system. Children who linger in foster care and “age out” without being connected to a permanent family are more likely to be poor, unemployed, homeless, and at risk of entering the criminal justice system. CDF has also worked for decades to protect children from gun violence. Gun violence saturates our children’s lives and remains the second leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19 and the leading cause of death for black children and teens. In 2015 a child or teen was killed by a gun every 3 hours and 8 minutes. The Children’s Defense Fund campaign, Protect Children, Not Guns, pushes for common sense gun safety and gun violence prevention measures to stop the senseless child deaths caused by guns. (Read the full report 2013 Protect Children, Not Guns report here: [http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/2015-protectchildrennotgunsfactsheet.pdf](http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/2015-protectchildrennotgunsfactsheet.pdf).

**Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.**

The Children’s Defense Fund published a report in 2015 *Ending Child Poverty Now* that shows how to reduce child poverty by 60 percent and Black child poverty by 72 percent by investing in existing programs that work like child care subsidies, raising the minimum wage, the EITC, subsidized jobs, housing subsidies, SNAP benefits, child tax credits and others. Currently, CDF is focusing our work along three strategic priorities: (a) protect the structures in federal law for major programs and regulations that benefit children (b) defend against enormous budget cuts to non-defense discretionary spending and seek expanded investments in children; and (c) build a movement of young people that will serve as the voice for child well-being and social justice in America in the 21st Century.
Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

The Children's Defense Fund collaborates and partners with national, state, and local organizations. CDF has six state offices that together account for more than a third of the country’s poor children. Our ability to influence and contribute to federal policy would not be successful without the partnerships and collaborative efforts undertaken with other national organizations. The barriers to collaboration include (a) differing opinions regarding priorities or solutions to propose in public policy, (b) time needed to effectively plan and process collaborative efforts, and (c) limited staff capacity to build relationships while conducting critical work assignments.
Organization Mission:
The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. The Coalition’s members include civil rights, religious, labor and professional organizations and those concerned with the well-being of children, women, the elderly and people with disabilities.

Summit Participant:
Joseph Battistelli
Outreach Manager
Coalition on Human Needs
Washington D.C.
JBattistelli@chn.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

- The Coalition serves as a clearinghouse of information on poverty and human needs issues for our members and the general public. CHN publishes a bi-monthly legislative newsletter, The Human Needs Report; legislative analyses, issue briefs, fact sheets, action alerts and other informational materials. We also sponsor educational seminars and briefings on issues of concern to the human needs community such as our annual Budget Briefing and a variety of issue specific briefings.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

- Anti-poverty work is not just one campaign, one effort, or one approach. The anti-poverty work is the most effective when groups which approach the issue in different ways still come together, collaborate, share resources, and support each other’s efforts.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

- **Coalition on Human Needs** itself is an alliance of over 110 national policy groups, service providers, religious orders, unions that share knowledge and resources to help push the federal government to address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations.
- **Strengthening America’s Values and Economy (SAVE) for All** is a campaign of national, state and local advocacy groups, service providers, faith-based organizations, policy experts, labor and civil rights groups working to protect important services from harmful federal budget cuts and to save the federal capacity to spur economic recovery and progress for the benefit of all.
Organization Mission: The mission of the DC Bar Foundation is to fund, support, and improve the civil legal aid network in the District of Columbia. For DC residents in poverty, we make strategic investments to strengthen and expand our civil legal aid network, addressing critical needs and improving our community. We provide 360 degrees of support to this network through grants, training and technical assistance, and loan repayment assistance for its attorneys.

Summit Participant:
Name: Kirra L. Jarratt
Title: Executive Director
Organization: DC Bar Foundation
City/State: Washington, DC
Email Address: jarratt@dcbarfoundation.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

As a funder and grant provider, the DC Bar Foundation funds free legal services for low-income DC residents, meeting the civil legal needs of those in poverty. By doing so, the Foundation seeks to close the gap in needs that can continue a cycle of poverty. The projects and organizations that the Foundation funds address all 10 of the Manifestations of Poverty. Examples of each of these are:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
   **Landlord-Tenant Court-Based Legal Services**
   Bread for the City and Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia partner in the Landlord-Tenant Court-Based Legal Services Project to provide legal aid to low-income tenants in DC through an “attorney-of-the-day” project. Tenants receive same-day representation in matters they have in court and long-term help on housing matters. By increasing representation of low-income tenants, attorneys help keep families in housing, address code violations, and keep housing affordable.

2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
   **DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project**
   Disability Rights DC at University Legal Services (ULS) serves as DC’s federally mandated protection and advocacy organization charged with working for the rights of people with disabilities. ULS provides legal aid and direct advocacy for inmates in the DC Jail and other DC correctional facilities with mental disabilities. The staff attorneys work closely with the DC Department of Corrections, the DC Department of Mental Health, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons regarding DC prisoners.

3. Food inadequacy
   **Healthy Together Medical-Legal Partnership in Southeast DC**
   Children’s Law Center conducts its Healthy Together Project in Southeast DC. In this medical-legal collaboration, the lawyers provide services through the two Southeast clinics of the Children’s National Medical Center (CNMC). The lawyers work with families of CNMC patients to identify and resolve non-medical solutions to children’s health issues.

4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
   **Max Robinson Center Legal Services**
   Whitman-Walker Health (WWH) provides legal representation, counseling, and outreach to people living with HIV/AIDS and other low-income residents in Wards 7 and 8 through lawyers based at its Max Robinson Center in
Southeast DC. WWH offers its free legal aid to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in DC regardless of HIV status, and to health care patients at WWH regardless of sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity.

5. Inadequate education outcomes
   Direct Legal Representation & Advocacy Project
   The School Justice Project (SJP) protects and advocates for the special education rights of court-involved students, ages 17 to 22, during incarceration and throughout reintegration. SJP attorneys work to increase access to appropriate special education in order to improve educational, employment, and life outcomes for this traditionally excluded student population.

6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
   Latina Outreach Project
   First Shift Justice Project (FSJP) created its Latina Outreach Project to prevent unlawful job loss among low-income pregnant Latina women and new Latina mothers. FSJP works with Latina women and aims to prevent job loss rather than regain employment. FSJP proactively reaches out to pregnant women to request pregnancy accommodations at work before they lose their jobs.

7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
   Access to Identifying Documents (AID) Project
   Bread for the City focuses on eliminating the unnecessarily restrictive requirements of obtaining a government-issued ID, which is required for employment, housing, public resources, and many other opportunities available to low-income individuals. The project’s attorney not only provides legal assistance to low-income DC residents who are struggling to obtain identifying documents, but also supports efforts to expand accepted proofs to better reflect the circumstances of low-income DC residents.

8. Lack of personal and physical safety
   Domestic Violence Underserved Communities Representation Project
   Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia provides focused outreach and legal aid to domestic violence survivors in poor and underserved communities in DC. The project attorneys have also established an office at the Domestic Violence Intake Center located in DC Superior Court.

9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
   Empowerment Project
   The Amara Legal Center provides free legal aid to individuals whose rights have been violated by involvement in commercial sex, regardless of reason for entry into commercial sex. The project’s attorney provides legal assistance in the areas of child custody and support, civil protection orders, public benefits, crime victims’ compensation, and record sealing.

10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure
    Jenny Hatch Justice Project
    Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities provides representation for District residents with disabilities who are facing or suffering overbroad or undue guardianships. The project’s attorneys help those in this situation by teaching them about alternatives such as supported decision-making, powers of attorney, advance directives, and other supports and services designed to protect and increase individual independence and self-determination.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

Model Approaches

Court-based Projects. The DC Bar Foundation provides funding for three court-based projects focused on child support, housing, and consumer debt. Each project has an office located in DC Superior Court (the trial court of general jurisdiction for the District of Columbia) and is staffed by lawyers who provide same-day and extended representation to low-income DC residents.

Medical-Legal Partnerships. The DC Bar Foundation funds four medical-legal partnerships that serve the poorest wards of the city. These lawyers work side-by-side with doctors to fix the root causes of health problems for low-income individuals.
Community Legal Interpreter Bank. DCBF provides funding for a legal interpreter bank. The DC-based legal interpreter bank provides access to justice for low-income individuals who communicate in languages other than English by providing specially trained interpreters for attorney/client meetings. This bank breaks down barriers by training public interest attorneys on the importance of language access, by training interpreters on how to work with attorneys, and by providing attorneys with access to quality in-person interpretation, telephonic interpretation, and document translation services.

Neighborhood Law Offices. The DC Bar Foundation funds several neighborhood legal aid offices located in highly-concentrated areas of poverty in the District. By locating legal aid offices in these wards, low-income DC residents are able to easily access lawyers without barriers such as transportation.

Challenges

The DC Access to Justice Commission, in one of its studies, estimated that close to 90 percent of the legal needs of low-income DC residents go unmet. Though the DC Bar Foundation, the largest funder of civil legal aid in the District, awards over $6 million each year to legal aid service providers that provide free legal assistance to the District’s low-income residents, the need outpaces the available resources.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

National Partners. The DC Bar Foundation administers the District’s Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) Program, a program created by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in 1985. Through this program, the Foundation receives the interest from thousands of pooled bank accounts and distributes it within the community for legal aid. The DC Bar Foundation attends bi-annual meetings with other IOLTA programs from across the country to discuss funding for legal aid for low-income Americans.

Local Partners. The DC Bar Foundation meets with the DC Access to Justice Commission, the DC Bar Pro Bono Center, and the Consortium of Legal Services Providers on a regular basis to discuss access to justice issues for low-income DC residents.
Jean-Michel Giraud has worked in a variety of community-based settings including intellectual disabilities, autism, mental health, dual recovery and homeless services. During his tenure as President and CEO of Friendship Place, the organization has grown from a neighborhood association into a regional homeless services provider with a national reach through best-practices.

Jean-Michel holds a Master’s Degree and Doctoral Qualification in American Studies from Montpellier University in France, an MBA Certificate from Tulane University and undergraduate degrees from La Sorbonne Nouvelle and Paris X University. He is a Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner and holds a certification in dual recovery.

He is a member of the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association and of the National Association of Workforce Development Professionals. He serves on the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Jean-Michel has presented at national conferences on Employment First, Housing First, Rapid Rehousing, Veterans Services, Empowerment and Organizational Transformation. He is a recipient of the 2010 Meyer Foundation Exponent Award for Visionary Non-Profit Leadership and blogs on homelessness on The Huffington Post.
Organization Mission: Homeless Court Program (HCP) is a special Superior Court session for homeless defendants --- convened in a homeless shelter --- to resolve outstanding misdemeanor offenses and warrants. The HCP builds on partnerships between the court, local shelters and service agencies, and the prosecutor and public defender. It works to resolve the problems that homelessness represents with practical solutions. Initial referrals to Homeless Court originate in shelters and service agencies. The prosecution and defense review the cases before the court hearing. The court order for sentencing substitutes participation in agency programs for fines and custody.

Summit Participant:
Steve Binder
Deputy Public Defender; Co-Founder Homeless Court Program; Special Advisor, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty
Office of the Primary Public Defender, County of San Diego
San Diego, CA
steve.binder@sdcounty.ca.gov

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

The HCP learned that collaboration with homeless service agencies that provide tailored action plans for individuals to reclaim their lives is more constructive than convictions and incarceration, which give the appearance of promoting public safety but do so only on a short term basis. The HCP recognizes judicial orders complementing success in treatment are more effective for long-term public safety. The court order that provides “credit for time served” in program activities reinforces the providers’ value and effectiveness with the client and aids in building positive relationships, challenging participants to make the most of the opportunities afforded in their programs. At the same time, the participants come to greater understanding of the value of working in their program activities, are vested in their recovery, and develop strong support systems and healthy lives to continue traveling the road to success. Removing legal obstacles leads to housing, employment, services and people reclaiming fuller lives.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

HCP at Stand Down: The engagement court at Stand Down holds counseling and court hearings on site. It starts when homeless veterans voluntarily walk onto the site, entering the tent community to escape the struggle from living on the streets, to literally rest and access basic services. Once their basic needs are met, they begin to access services that will help find safety and approach the court. The services they access and engage with become the court's order for resolution of misdemeanor cases.

HCP Monthly Calendar: The monthly HCP recognizes the participant has already accomplished significant progress in program activities to reconcile their stability and movement against the transgressions of the offense. The resolution of these charges is critical to remove their obstacles cases present when seeking housing, employment, and services.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

The ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, the lead on replication of the HCP and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for technical assistance at Stand Down events.
Taking the Court to Stand Down: This “How To” manual describes how to build and hold court on site at veteran tent cities across the country. It explains the process, order and purpose for holding court outside the courthouse, case flow, a list of supplies and backup procedures and considerations for designing a courtroom and most important – how to work with the Stand Down event and planning committee, identifying and coordinating with services on site.

The San Diego Service Provider Toolkit: This manual describes purpose and process of the monthly HCP calendar, the contribution and effectiveness homeless service agencies provide to participant and the court. The providers describe the person standing before the court as more than an offender or case file, but an individual who confronted his/her needs and shortcomings through assessments and accomplishments in program activities. The providers understand the cultural competency of their clients. They are positioned to make the appropriate referrals for clients and write an advocacy letter on their behalf.
Organization Mission:

Summit Participant:
Renato L. Izquieta
Directing Attorney
Legal Aid Society of Orange County
Orange County, CA
rizquieta@legal-aid.com

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness: LASOC provides attorney representation in all housing matters, including HUD subsidized housing. LASOC is also involved with policy initiatives and impact/complex housing litigation to maintain and create affordable housing.

2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems: LASOC provided direct representation and advocacy in Housing, family law, consumer, public benefits, SSI, IRS tax, health care advocacy, immigration, and senior citizen advocacy.

3. Food inadequacy: LASOC provides direct representation in food stamps, general relief, and AFDC benefits. LASOC is also involved with policy initiatives and impact litigation in these matters.

4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes: LASOC has a specialized unit to provide representation access to health care, medical billing issues, and access to prescriptions and medication. LASOC is also involved with policy initiatives in these matters.

5. Inadequate education outcomes: LASOC has a specialized client, Justice in Education, to assist children/families obtaining Independent Education Plans (IEP).

6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage: LASOC has a specialized clinic for employee/employment rights to determine workplace issues and wages.

7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises: LASOC provides holistic services, legal education and strives to serves individuals and families from an early onset to provide preventative measures to future legal issues.

8. Lack of personal and physical safety: LAOC has a specialized domestic violence union; specialized victim of crimes unit; elder abuse clinic; assisting immigrant victims of domestic violence and human trafficking.

9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity: LASOC provided direct representation and advocacy in Housing, family law, consumer, public benefits, SSI, IRS tax, health care advocacy, immigration, and senior citizen advocacy. LASOC is also involved with policy initiatives and impact litigation in these matters.

10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure: LASOC is also involved with policy initiatives and impact litigation in these matters at local, state, and at the national level.
Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

Collaboration with all types and levels of community agencies, stakeholders, Department of Child Support, city and state leaderships, courts, judiciary, political leaders, Mexican Consul’s office, churches, and schools.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

Yes, see above. There can be turf wars and the fear of funding being shifted to competing organizations. The critical success is based on trust, learning the services what each organization provides, where there are duplication of services, gaps and how each organization completes other collaborative partners in the work provided to the low-income community.
Organization Mission: The Native American Bar Association of Washington, D.C. (“Association”) is established to promote the educational and professional advancement of Native American attorneys and Indian country. The Association is committed to promoting the sovereignty of Native American tribes and their communities; protecting the legal rights of individual Native Americans, their communities, and their tribes; providing community outreach and education about legal issues that affect Native Americans; and promoting the cultural heritage of Native Americans, their communities, and their tribes.

Summit Participant:
Xavier A Barraza
Social Committee
Native American Bar Association of DC
Washington, DC
xavierbarraza@gmail.com

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

The Native American Bar Association of DC (NABADC) services to promote and educate the public of Native American/Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian issues and support its members and future members. One of the biggest dilemmas of our culture is our stigmata; for example, we live in a city where our ethnicity and culture is paraded as a mascot for a professional team. NABADC is here to show our youth that through education and dedication we can make leaders for our next generation.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

Helping to educate our Native American youth is one of the largest barriers to our community considering we have the lowest high school graduation rate of any ethnicity and even lower college graduation rate. We hold year round luncheons and meet and greets for Native Students especially in the summer. We help build students dignity by introducing them to the professional world, building confidence in their education and community by pairing them with mentors.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

We currently do not have any partners we are working with.
Organization Mission: The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) is a professional association that represents more than 25,000 school psychologists, graduate students, and related professionals throughout the United States and 25 other countries. The world's largest organization of school psychologists, NASP works to advance effective practices to improve students' learning, behavior, and mental health. Our vision is that all children and youth thrive in school, at home, and throughout life.

Summit Participant:
Celeste Malone, PhD, MS
Member, Board of Directors (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020)
National Association of School Psychologists
Bethesda, MD
celeste.m.malone@gmail.com

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
NASP’s work primarily addresses inadequate education outcomes. As an organization, NASP is committed to ensuring that all children receive an appropriate public education, irrespective of race, culture and background, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or educational need. Our position statements and resolutions reflect the official policy of NASP and provide guidance to school psychologists as they work with schools and communities to promote equitable education for all children.

- Position Statement – Child’s Rights - https://www.nasponline.org/x26813.xml
- Resolution Affirming the Rights to Safe and Supportive Schools and Communities for All Students - http://www.nasponline.org/x37560.xml

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.
Confronting Inequity in Special Education, Part I: Understanding the Problem of Disproportionality

Confronting Inequity in Special Education, Part II: Promising Practices in Addressing Disproportionality

RTI and SWPBIS: Confronting the Problem of Disproportionality

Creating Trauma Sensitive Schools

Learning and Social-Emotional Supports for Students Experiencing Family Transitions
Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

NASP has several coalition partnerships with other organizations whose missions and work are aligned with ours. A full list of our organizational partners can be found here: http://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/partnerships.
www.realeconomicimpact.org

Organization Mission:
The mission of National Disability Institute is to drive social impact to build a better economic future for people with disabilities and their families.

Summit Participant:
Michael Morris, Executive Director
National Disability Institute, Washington, DC
mmorris@ndi-inc.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
National Disability Institute (NDI), since its establishment 12 years ago, has emerged as the leading national nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing financial inclusion and economic self-sufficiency for individuals across the spectrum of disabilities and their families (www.realeconomicimpact.org). The majority of NDI staff and Board of Directors have personal experience with disabilities as individuals, siblings, and parents. With public funders (US Departments of Labor, Education, Health and Human Services, and Social Security Administration) and private support (JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citibank, TD Bank, Walmart Foundation), NDI is implementing over 20 projects at national, state, and local levels that are improving financial capability and independence with partnerships between the disability and financial communities. NDI, in collaboration with the IRS, has assisted over 2.3 million low income taxpayers with disabilities access EITC and receive over 2 billion dollars in tax refunds. NDI's Real Economic Impact Network includes over 4,400 community partners in 50 states, who benefit from a monthly enewsletter and a webinar that features subject matter experts to improve outreach to the disability community and availability of financial education and coaching. NDI's groundbreaking research reports, in cooperation with FDIC and FINRA Investor Education Foundation, have provided critical baseline information on the financial behavior of working-age adults with disabilities.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.
National Disability Institute has convened over 50 asset development summits in cities across the country. The purpose of the summits is bringing together the financial and disability communities to develop action strategies for collaboration to improve financial capability and inclusion. As a result of the summits, work groups have been formed that continue to work on implementing priority recommendations. A second promising strategy that NDI has developed in collaboration with the IRS SPEC division is the Real Economic Impact Tour to expand the VITA community's outreach strategies to low income tax payers with disabilities. The result has been increased access and use of the EITC by over 2 million individuals with disabilities and their families. A third strategy has been the collaboration of NDI with state ABLE programs to expand opportunities for people with disabilities to become savers and investors. The first 10,000 ABLE accounts have been opened nationwide, which provides new pathways to financial inclusion and stability. NDI created the ABLE National Resource Center (www.ablenrc.org), in collaboration with over 20 of the largest national disability organizations, for education and outreach activities.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)
NDI has built important bridges between the financial and disability communities. With projects touching people with disabilities and their families in all 50 states, a key ingredient of our efforts has been to tap the power of collaboration, with public and private for profit and not for profit entities. At a national level, NDI works with over a dozen federal agencies, as well as major national and regional financial institutions. Through NDI’s Real Economic Impact Network, collaborations have been built with over 4,000 community agency partners across the country. A critical element of successful collaboration has been identifying common goals and mission to advance people with disabilities out of poverty. NDI has been able to offer strong
subject matter expertise, as well as training and technical assistance activities that offer capacity building and leadership development outcomes for nonprofit agencies, government, and financial institutions across the country. NDI began last year a social media campaign called “Disable Poverty” (www.disablepoverty.org). The campaign asks individuals and organizations to take the pledge and commit to action to reduce poverty by 50% over the next ten years for people with disabilities. People with disabilities are two times more likely to be living in poverty than their nondisabled peers. Poverty denies an individual dignity and self-respect and results in stigma and isolation from active community participation.

NDI works with the legal community to protect individuals with disabilities against discrimination in employment, housing, and access to healthcare. With the passage of the ABLE Act, we are helping educate attorneys on the possibilities of an ABLE account to complement special needs trusts or to offer ABLE accounts as an alternative to special needs trusts.

Other Resources
https://americandreamen.org/about-aden
Organization Mission:
The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address the immediate and long-term needs of people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.

Summit Participant:
Michael Santos
Attorney
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
Washington, D.C.
msantos@nlchp.org

The Law Center is committed to solutions that address the symptoms and causes of homelessness and works to place and address homelessness in the larger context of poverty. Partnering with pro bono attorneys, we bring high impact litigation, lead and support federal, state and local advocacy campaigns, and educate providers, advocates and the public. Our work creates homes and communities for families, children, veterans, elderly and disabled people experiencing homelessness using surplus government property, improves access to housing for domestic violence survivors and their children, secures education rights for children experiencing homelessness, and protects human rights and dignity by striking down laws that prevent people experiencing homelessness from voting and that punish them for their homelessness.

HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS CAMPAIGN

Across the country, cities are criminalizing homelessness, making it illegal for people to sit, sleep, or even eat in public places—despite the absence of housing or even shelter, and other basic resources. These laws and policies violate constitutional rights, create arrest records and fines and fees that stand in the way of homeless people getting jobs or housing, are expensive, and don’t work. The evidence is clear that homelessness is reduced in communities that focus on housing, and not those that focus on handcuffs. The criminalization of homelessness costs more money than simply solving the problem by ensuring access to adequate housing. There is a growing awareness among the general public that our criminal justice system is not the solution to social problems. To stop the criminalization of homelessness—and to push for effective housing policies that end homelessness—the Law Center and other partners launched a campaign called Housing Not Handcuffs. We invite individuals and organizations to join and/or endorse this national campaign. More information available at http://housingnothandcuffs.org/.

LAWYERS’ EDUCATION ACCESS RESOURCE NETWORK

Central to breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty is ensuring that homeless children and youth have access to stable education. The Law Center created the Lawyers’ Education Access Resource Network (“Project LEARN”) to protect the education rights of every child or youth experiencing homelessness in the United States. Project LEARN is a peer-to-peer network of legal providers working on access-to-education issues for students experiencing homelessness. The goal is to collaborate on developing legal resources, to coordinate strategic litigation and advocacy efforts across the country, and to provide legal guidance on issues related to the education of homeless children and youth. Project LEARN aims to protect the education rights of every child or youth experiencing homelessness in the United States.
**Organization Mission:** The National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA), founded in 1911, is America’s oldest and largest nonprofit association devoted to excellence in the delivery of legal services to those who cannot afford counsel.

**Summit Participant:**
David Miller  
Manager, Policy Initiatives  
National Legal Aid & Defender Association  
Washington, DC  
d.miller@nlada.org

**Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.**

NLADA provides training and technical assistance to providers of civil legal aid and public defense, and advocacy on their behalf. Through training conferences offering substantive, peer-led instruction on legal services for low-income people in matters pertaining to basic human needs including shelter, safety, and economic security, and through guidance from in-house experts, NLADA strengthens the ability of its member programs to address the manifestations of poverty. NLADA members work to keep people in their homes by fighting eviction and foreclosure, just as assistance in matters related to employment, healthcare, and reentry can mitigate the drivers of homelessness.

NLADA also advocates directly at the national level on law and policy germane to homelessness, including before Congress on legislation including the HEARTH Act, and with federal agencies directly.

**Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)**

NLADA facilitates collaboration between its member organizations both in person and virtually, with programming aimed at building awareness of different approaches to homelessness advocacy among providers. NLADA aims to focus in particular on the intersection of civil and defender legal services, whose client populations are overlapping but who are often unaware of one another’s work.
The mission of the National Network is to mobilize the collective power and expertise of our national community to influence public policy and strengthen effective responses to youth homelessness.

**Summit Participant:**
Darla Bardine  
Executive Director  
National Network for Youth  
Washington, DC  
darla.bardine@nn4youth.org

**Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.**

The National Network for Youth’s (NN4Y) policy and advocacy work focuses on preventing and effectively addressing youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness in America. As the largest and most diverse network of its kind, NN4Y mobilizes more than 300 members and affiliates – organizations that work on the front lines every day with young people and their families to prevent and respond to youth homelessness.

Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home where they can grow into productive adults, attain self-sufficiency and achieve social and economic upward mobility.

This requires a multi-prong, collaborative approach among government agencies, community organizations, the private sector and, perhaps most importantly, young people themselves. NN4Y’s work is grounded in fostering and strengthening these partnerships to create a seamless, effective and comprehensive systematic response to YYA homelessness.

For young people to succeed and move up the social and economic scale, they need more than a roof over their heads. They need healthcare, case management, education and career support as well as other supportive services to address the trauma that most young people who experience homelessness have suffered. Specifically, we work on federal policies as it relates to:

- Housing and homelessness for youth and young adults
- Criminalizing homelessness among young people
- Access to basic life needs, services, education and employment for young people experiencing homelessness
- Safety for young people at-risk of and experiencing homelessness

**Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.**

One of our primary functions is to identify innovative and effective strategies to combat youth and young adult homelessness through our connections to organizations and young leaders. We study, document and elevate these approaches so that other communities may achieve comparably favorable outcomes. For instance, we learn about successful state and local initiatives from members of our Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), made up of leaders from across the U.S. working directly with youth experiencing homelessness and National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC), comprised of formerly homeless young people. We document these best practices in the form of publications, such as *What Works to End Youth Homelessness: What We Know Now.* Additionally, because we know that a systems approach to addressing youth and young adult (YYA) homelessness in America is critical, over the past three years we have developed this *Proposed System to End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness.* This one-of-a-kind resource is designed to provide a practical vision for both local planning and collaboration as well as guide federal policymakers.
All of our work is to ensure that young people are able to access safety, housing and the services they need in order to achieve their fullest potential in life.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

Our expert partners (members and Youth Advisors) help NN4Y develop policy priorities and craft innovative solutions. We have strong partnerships with:

**Youth experiencing homelessness:** Since 2014, NN4Y has convened a National Youth Advisory Council (NYAC) comprised of young people who have endured and overcome homelessness. This committee supports our longstanding belief that young people who have experienced homelessness are best able to identify what led to their homelessness, what barriers they encountered while homeless and what helped them exit homelessness and achieve safety and stability. We partner with young people to develop our policy agenda and advocate for its adoption.

**Communities serving youth:** Through our network we partner with over 300 organizations across the United States of America. These connections allow us to educate lawmakers alongside local advocates who understand the issues in their own backyards, making policymakers better equipped to draft, amend and enact effective legislation to alleviate youth and young adult homelessness. Also, we encourage communities to implement best practices and collaborative approaches to addressing YYA homelessness through our partnerships with our members.

**Advocacy organizations:** We partner with state and national policy advocacy organizations to promote the exchange of ideas, priorities and policy agendas. As a member of the Alliance to End Slavery and Trafficking (ATEST) coalition we have close partnerships with all of the members. Moreover, we partner with the True Colors Fund to organize and administer the National Coalition for Homeless Youth as well as participate in national coalitions focused on juvenile justice, homelessness and child welfare systems reform. We also participate in the work of A Way Home America (AWHA) as a co-chair of the policy committee and are members of the Practice, Steering and Executive Committees. Finally, we work closely with a handful of national organizations on specific federal policy advocacy campaigns related to youth and young adult homelessness.
Organization Mission: One80 Place provides food, shelter and hope to end homelessness and hunger one person at a time, one family at a time.

Summit Participant:
Jeff Yungman, LISW-CP, Esq,
Director
One80 Place Homeless Justice Project
Charleston, South Carolina
jyungman@one80place.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

The Homeless Justice Project is designed to help persons who are homeless by removing obstacles, both legal and social, which prevent them from becoming self-sufficient. This goal is accomplished through holistic advocacy, which provides direct civil legal services and representation to individuals and families, connects clients with needed social services, and works towards positive community changes that address the needs of the homeless population. The manifestations of poverty that One80 Place and the Homeless Justice Project addresses include:

- Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness—case management services to facilitate rapid reentry of individuals who are homeless using the housing first model.
- Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems—two full-time attorneys and a paralegal to provide free civil legal services to any individual who is homeless and to coordinate the Charleston Homeless Court.
- Food inadequacy—three meals a day to all residents of One80 Place and lunch to anyone in the Charleston area who needs a free meal.
- Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes—an on-site health clinic for residents of One80 Place staffed by two full-time nurses and augmented by volunteer doctors and residents of the Medical University of South Carolina.
- Inadequate education outcomes—provide, in partnership with the Charleston County School District, educational opportunities for residents such as GED classes, work keys, and computer skills.
- Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage—case manager who works with residents on job skills and job placement as well as a culinary training course to prepare individuals to work in the food and beverage industry.
- Lack of personal and physical safety—a nightly shelter for 160 men, women, and children individuals so that they are off the street and in a safe environment

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

Starting in September 2015 a “tent city” sprang up in downtown Charleston. At its height approximately 120 individuals resided there. While small encampments have previously existed in the Charleston area, the community had never experienced something like the size of “tent city.”

As the encampment grew, so did the call for some entity to address the problem. One80 Place, in partnership with the City of Charleston, the Charleston Police Department, and other local agencies, led the effort to resolve the issue in a humane manner. By March 2016, of the 120 “tent city” residents, 22 moved into One80 Place, 23 moved into permanent supportive housing, 40 moved into a specially created transitional housing center, and the remainder moved in with family or to other encampments. More important, there were no arrests and no personal property was destroyed.
As a result of One80 Place’s efforts, a law student from the Charleston School of Law, supervised by the Homeless Justice Project and a staff member from the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty is currently working on a case study that the NLCHP will feature as a “best practices” model for other communities dealing with homeless encampments.

**Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)**

The One80 Place Homeless Justice Project collaborates with partners on the national (ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty, National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty), state (South Carolina Access to Justice Commission, South Carolina Appleseed), and local (Lowcountry Homeless Coalition, other Charleston roundtable participants) level to address poverty-related issues.

All these collaborative efforts are directed towards enhancing or increasing civil legal services to individuals who are experiencing homelessness and educating the community regarding homelessness and poverty issues.

The primary difficulties with these efforts are not in identifying the poverty issues, but in agreeing how those issues are to be addressed and by who as well as the always present logistical issues of determining where and when the participants will meet.

The critical components of successful collaboration include: a willingness to recognize the view of all parties and a willingness to forgo “turf” concerns in order to accomplish the greater good.
Organization Mission:

Summit Participant:
Ashley Burnside
RESULTS 2017 Emerson Fellow of the Congressional Hunger Center
RESULTS
Washington, DC
aburnside@results.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
RESULTS uses advocacy for practical solutions to poverty. We have a grassroots network around the country that focuses on influencing members of Congress on issues of U.S. and global poverty. We do this through lobby meetings in home districts and Washington, DC; developing relationships with congressional aides; e-mails, letters, and phone calls; generating media; and organizing others into action in local communities. On the U.S. side, we have been active on the following issues:

- Protecting SNAP and Medicaid from cuts and attempts to block grant the program
- Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit so more people can claim them
- Educating lawmakers on wealth inequality and the racial wealth gap
- Protecting and expanding access to Head Start, Early Head Start, and child care assistance
- Expanding Medicaid eligibility and access to health care for low-income populations

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.
RESULTS’s model is focused on helping people take effective and consistent action. We have over 100 chapters around the country of everyday people wanting to make a difference on poverty. They monthly get educated on the issues, get trained on being an effective advocate, and to take some kind of action. The goal is to develop relationships with their members of Congress through these actions to build credibility, trust, and influence. Our number one best practice is ongoing support. Through weekly or monthly calls, emails, and webinars, our volunteers are getting support from staff or grassroots leaders for taking action. The challenge, as almost every other volunteer organization faces, is recruiting and keeping volunteers. People live busy lives and their schedules, along with fears about advocacy in general, keep them skeptical of this type of work. Fortunately, we have been able to move past those barriers to a good extent and have found that once people understand the why and how of advocacy, they are much more likely to stay involved.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)
RESULTS recognizes that anti-poverty advocacy must be a team effort. We partner with numerous organizations at both the federal and state level (the latter connections are often facilitated by our volunteers), including Bread for the World, Coalition on Human Needs, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, National Women’s Law Center, Americans for Tax Fairness, among others.
These efforts often include collaborating on advocacy activities, such as lobby meetings, call-in days, petitions, advocacy and policy presentations (both online and at organizational conferences), sharing of information, and collaboration on messaging.

The biggest challenge in our collaborations, as with most collaborations, is priorities. Each group comes with a certain set of priorities and messages that are not all shared by the other groups. RESULTS prides itself on trying to find common ground to move forward with a united front on these issues with which we can agree.
Organization Mission: Rise Together’s mission is to build the power of a 9-county regional coalition in the Bay Area to advocate for change in employment, education, housing and safety net services in order to cut poverty and create shared prosperity.

Summit Participant: Megan Joseph Executive Director Rise Together San Francisco, CA mjoseph@risetogetherbayarea.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

Rise Together focuses on the greater Bay Area region, where 1 in 4 families struggle to make ends meet next door to some of the wealthiest industries in the nation. Rise Together is the only regional effort of its kind, recognizing that many of the key drivers of poverty cannot be solved at the local level alone. Rise Together helped create the Roadmap to Cut Poverty, informed by a broad coalition of over 200 partners across the Bay Area.

Our strategies are co-designed by our Power of 9 Committee made up of 5 representatives from each of the 9 Bay Area Counties. This committee includes representation from County Government, Community Initiatives, Community Based Organizations/Service Providers, Education and Community Members.

Together we have zeroed in on 3 outcome areas for cross-jurisdictional focus and action over the next 3 years:
1. Increased access to quality affordable early childhood education and care
2. Increased access to affordable housing
3. Reduced systemic barriers to livable wage employment.

Rise Together works through four main strategies: data, policy advocacy, strategic communications and leadership development/capacity building. These strategies help us:

- Strengthen our network’s infrastructure for monitoring poverty and developing & evaluating data driven policy.
- Educate, inform and activate our network to advocate for policies that will help create sustainable systems change.
- Create a new narrative that promotes equity and economic opportunity as imperative for the collective success of our region.
- Build a network of partners that are media savvy, effective and results oriented with the connectivity to each other to leverage resources, scale what works and speak a collective voice for change.

Best Practices and Model Approaches:

- Collective Impact and Results Based Accountability – We use these frameworks to help plan and move forward strategically together.

- Leadership for Equity & Opportunity – Facilitated by Dr. Monica Sharma, former Director of Leadership and Capacity Development for the U.N., this is our core leadership development strategy. We engage 50-75 leaders per year in an intensive leadership cohort to learn how to simultaneously solve problems, shift systems and integrate equity into their anti-poverty work.
• *Shining a light on bright spots* – We regularly host capacity building opportunities for our partners to learn more about models that are working to address the issues they are focused on – from landlord engagement to the future of the minimum wage movement.

**Barriers & Challenges:**

• Scarcity mindset that leads to competition for resources between community based organizations and services rather than collaboration and aligning resources for impact
• Diversity of data collection systems and methods
• Lack of existing infrastructure for cross-jurisdictional communication, information sharing and collaboration
• Lack of funders willing to fund intermediary work to build the infrastructure to work together and the capacity to work together differently to overcome barriers
• Connecting local work to regional scale in meaningful ways that add value, not extra work.

**Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)**

Our organization’s purpose is to increase and strengthen collaboration at the local, regional and state level to address key drivers of poverty. Please see above.
Organization Mission:
SchoolHouse Connection is a national organization promoting success for children and youth experiencing homelessness, from birth through higher education. We engage in strategic advocacy and provide technical assistance in partnership with early care and education professionals (including school district homeless liaisons and state homeless education coordinators), young people, service providers, advocates, and local communities.

Summit Participant:
Amy Bradley (bringing student)
Director of Youth Leadership and Scholarships
SchoolHouse Connection
Washington D.C.
amy@schoolhouseconnection

Trista Smith (student)
Senior at Virginia Commonwealth University

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
The primary focus of SchoolHouse Connection (SHC) is promoting the educational success of children and youth experiencing homelessness. We know that access to education, from early childhood through post-secondary, gives children and youth the tools to end their homelessness and achieve their dreams.

Our work addresses the following manifestations of poverty:
- Inadequate education outcomes
- Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
- Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
- Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
- Isolation from community and political infrastructure

The lack of housing, good nutrition, health care and other basic needs damages childhood development and has lifelong impacts on health and well-being. The developmental needs of children and youth are central to our advocacy, program design, outcome measures, and policy. Prevention must be a priority. We will not solve adult homelessness until the complex realities and comprehensive needs of children and youth take a front seat in federal, state, and local homelessness policy. Intervening early is a key to better life outcomes and preventing future homelessness.

In addition to advocacy, SHC operates a scholarship program to assist students experiencing homelessness. The program provides financial assistance, a long-term network of support and community, and opportunities for civic engagement on education and homelessness policy.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.
We have learned that it is not enough to advocate successfully for the passage of good policies; policy victories must be made real through technical assistance and intensive work on implementation. We also have found synergy between our local, state, and national-level policy and technical assistance work, whereby the experiences of those at the local level inform and shape state and national work, which in turn supports local efforts.

Substantively, we have seen public schools act as an epicenter to focus community attention on, and generate community action to address, homelessness. In addition to providing the education that is necessary to escape poverty, schools are a hub for meeting basic needs and organizing community efforts. This is particularly true for youth who experience homelessness on their own.

We continue to witness challenges that are created when federal policy efforts are disconnected from local realities in local communities. This is especially true in the arena of HUD homeless assistance, which has forced communities to prioritize certain populations and program models, regardless of their local needs and experiences.

**Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)**

Our collaborations are our strength; they are an essential method by which we obtain success in our policy, program, and public education efforts.

At the local level, we collaborate through a robust network of school district liaisons, family and youth service providers, advocates, early childhood programs, legal services, and institutions of higher education.

At the state level, we collaborate with state education, housing, health, and early care agencies, as well as state advocacy organizations, and state legislators.

At the national level, we collaborate with other national advocacy organizations in homelessness, education, youth, children, family, early education, and higher education. In addition, we collaborate with Congressional offices, federal agencies, and philanthropic organizations.

Critical components for successful collaboration include a shared sense of mission, a willingness to learn new “languages,” policy alignment, and an ability to see issues from a different perspective. Barriers to collaboration that we have experienced include policies that are not aligned, including eligibility for services, and competing or conflicting agency priorities.
Organization Mission:
The mission of the Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth, & Reconciliation is to partner with institutions to promote love, the establishment of justice and build the Beloved Community. The Center is committed to transforming and healing the root causes of physical, political, psychological, environmental, economic and racial violence at personal, family, community and systemic levels.

Summit Participant:
Attorney Ainka Jackson
Executive Director of the Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth & Reconciliation
Selma, AL
AJackson@selmacenterfornonviolence.org
615.479.1901

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)
Yes. We facilitate the Selma Anti-Poverty Roundtable, which begin as a result of the ABA Commission on Homeless and Poverty Collaborate to Advocate Initiative. We are currently collaborating to start a homeless shelter in Selma as well as faith-based organizing and community policing. The Selma Center also partners with other local, state and national entities like the Kellogg Foundation’s Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Enterprise, Center for Community Change, SCLC, etc.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Part of the Center’s mission is to work on all 10 of the manifestations of poverty. However, we are currently engaged in work on the following manifestations:

Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
Inadequate education outcomes
Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
Lack of personal and physical safety
Stigma and lack of personal dignity
Isolation from community and political infrastructure

The Center works in nine sectors, partnering in institutional contexts to address the root causes of physical, mental, emotional, economic, political and racial violence—including racial profiling—with the two-pronged goal of implementing long-range solutions to systemic violence and building the Beloved Community. The implementation of the programs in each sector will occur according to our strategic plan timeline.

These nine sectors are:
Family - To create a culture of harmony through nonviolent conflict resolution in families—helping families to develop new traditions and practices and to deescalate conflict rather than escalate conflict within and between
families. Families are a major pillar of the Beloved Community and therefore families must also develop just and loving relationships, foundational to just systems for generations to come.

Education - To partner with schools and colleges to develop curriculum as well as model classrooms where there are peer-to-peer conflict resolution processes, and Beloved Community World History, as well as to support the development of parent/student advocacy centers and adult learning forums that promote the values of the Beloved Community.

Law/Justice Systems - To use a restorative justice model in the development of community courts and mediation centers by partnering with families, the judicial system, schools, and other agencies to address the unresolved complaints of citizens, especially youth, which can lead to violence or unfair outcomes. To focus on reconciliation amongst community members from different factions and groups. To help develop models, such as the Due Process Committee and the Criminal Retainer Program, that allow everyday citizens to influence and enhance the justice system where it lacks support in order to help eliminate mass incarceration and the school to prison pipeline.

Governance - To work with a Council of Elders in each community to help solve community problems and build community social infrastructure. This council will help develop community patrols to reduce police intervention and racial profiling, allowing police to focus on more severe threats to the community. This will also allow community members to participate in governance in a way that will inspire them to be more participatory as citizens as they have personal experiences with the fruitfulness of self-governance. To advocate for policies that encourage the community to participate in government and to vote, including voter restoration for people convicted of felonies, automatic voter registration and prohibiting purging of inactive voters.

Community, Social, and Cultural Institutions - To encourage the use of the arts and artistic venues, such as community choirs and theater, as well as, social contexts such as neighborhood homes, community centers, and the NeighborCircles program to promote racial healing and understanding through dialogue and cultural education. To use our planned community restaurant, stage, and local vegetable garden to build meaningful relationships between people from different backgrounds, in part by providing a physical space, basic facilitation, and food to help people engage in the age-old practice of breaking bread together.

Health Care and Well Being - To holistically address internal violence birthed from health-related issues, such as lack of nutrition, exercise, and stability. Additionally, numerous studies have shown that racism, isolation and loneliness all negatively impact health. Therefore, to deal with traumatic effects of our collective history, the Center also facilitates therapeutic opportunities like counseling and Sister Circle in order to encourage healing.

Economic - To support the development of local economies by supporting unemployed and underemployed people in developing their own businesses and reaching their dreams, with a particular focus on promoting worker-owned and community-owned cooperatives. To convene community members and business leaders to promote a spirit of cooperation and develop a plan to bolster local economies. To use nonviolence and conflict resolution training to help prevent and resolve customer service and employee Human Resource issues in existing businesses.

Faith Communities - To help faith communities focus on those principles of their belief systems that deal with conflict resolution. To help communities come together in order to build relationships and collectively solve problems in their communities.

Media - To promote communication, culture and related images and sharing of information that enhance the building of the Beloved Community.

The Center will help create new relationships across race, class, religion, and other common divides using practices of popular education, institutional and community trainings, and community organizing. We will also work in solidarity with civic and social organizations, businesses, police departments and other government agencies, so that the Beloved Community becomes our new reality.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
We have a two-part strategy. The first major part of the strategy is sharing a vision of how life in a Beloved Community can make us all healthier, more fulfilled and prosperous. Through partnering with institutions and street
organizing, we will build awareness that the current culture and systems are not working for the whole community, including people of color and impoverished communities. The present culture creates dysfunction and makes us all feel more desperate and unsafe. Helping people to see that the Beloved Community is based on win/wins for all community members is key to breaking down the divisions that prevent lasting change which only exacerbates violence and poverty in our nation. It is critical that people understand that issues we face are based on both people’s collective and individual challenges but all have community wide impact.

We believe that changing the cultural, political (i.e., policies) and institutional fabric of society (in Selma and beyond) is key to transforming violence and poverty. Therefore, we see the action-oriented building of the Kingian concept of the Beloved Community across race and income barriers, and in targeted sectors of the Selma region (economic, legal, cultural, etc.), as the second major part of our strategy. This second component includes shifting institutional cultures toward cooperation through teaching Nonviolence and conflict resolution. Additionally, it includes identifying alternative best practices, rooted in the principles of nonviolence and cooperation that will help the Selma region become the Beloved Community by decreasing violence and giving people tools they need to have healthy lives and to prosper financially. Our constituency involves people from different backgrounds such as race, socioeconomic status and gender in Selma, AL and the Black Belt with the goal of being one model of the Beloved Community for the nation.

As a part of the second strategy, the Center enacts and facilitates change in nine sectors, partnering in institutional contexts to address the root causes of physical, mental, emotional, economic, political and racial violence—including racial profiling. These nine sectors are: Family; Education; Law/Justice Systems; Governance; Community, Social & Cultural Institutions; Health and Wellbeing; Economics; Faith Communities; and Media.

**Barriers and Challenges:**

Physical, emotional, economic, racial and political violence have historically impacted the development of Selma, the Alabama Black Belt, and the South. Centuries of unaddressed racial violence still define attitudes and customs that, if genuinely addressed, could unleash the potential of the area in ways that could impact the Nation. Selma has emerged as a symbol of human conquest over violence. Yet it remains one of the most violent cities of its size in the country. According to the U.S. Census and the FBI Uniform Crime Report in 2012, Selma had the third highest number of murders per capita in the state, and the fourth highest number of property crimes, making it the fourth highest area for crimes overall.

In 2015, Selma was named the Most Dangerous Place to Live in Alabama. Selma remains engulfed with racial and class divisions that hinder the city’s progress. Selma, like most of the South, has never confronted years of racial violence and prejudice that keeps the city from a healing path forward. The overwhelming majority of white students attend segregated private schools. The country club remains all white. After the first black Mayor was elected in 2000, most white citizens left the city, many helping to incorporate an adjacent town named Valley Grande.

Poverty grips the city and economic justice is far from secure. The unemployment rate is almost twice the national average. With more than 36 percent of residents and 60 percent of children living at or below the poverty line, the county was the poorest in the state of Alabama in 2014, and one of the poorest in the country. Violence threatens the safety, health, and economic potential of the area and beyond. Physical, emotional, economic, racial and political violence must be overcome and addressed to allow Selma and the Nation to grow.

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**

Absolutely! Many of our board members are lawyers. Additionally, in collaboration with the Due Process Committee, the Selma Center for Nonviolence has accomplished the following in relationship to the criminal justice system, which can perpetuate a cycle of poverty.
Organization Mission:
Led by the Sonoma County Human Services Department, the mission of Upstream Investments is to facilitate the implementation of prevention-focused policies and interventions that increase equality and reduce monetary and societal costs for all residents of Sonoma County.

Summit Participant:
Oscar Chavez
Assistant Director
Sonoma County Human Services Department
Santa Rosa CA
ochavez@schsd.org

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

The Upstream Investments Policy Initiative is a collective impact initiative chartered by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors in response to concerns over escalating costs in the local criminal justice system. The initiative seeks to reduce downstream criminal justice costs and enhance community outcomes by shifting the focus of policies, funding, and programming toward upstream investments in evidence-based and evidence-informed prevention and early intervention programs and services. This initiative provides an infrastructure to respond to and address the 10 manifestations of poverty. By strengthening organizational capacity to improve client outcomes and by supporting prevention focused policies and investments, we can expect to see a multiplied return in the future: a stronger local economy and re-capture of dollars saved by reducing the need for services and safety-net programs.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

The initiative supports the shift toward upstream investments through three strategies:

INVEST EARLY
Whenever possible, local investors should prioritize funding and other resources to prevention focused policies and interventions.

INVEST WISELY
Ensure that upstream policies and interventions have the highest likelihood of success by investing in those that are backed by sound evidence.

INVEST TOGETHER
Work collaboratively across sectors and initiatives to scale upstream policies and interventions in areas of highest need to achieve measurable change in targeted indicators.

These strategies are supported through:

- Upstream Portfolio of Model Programs: a set of evidence-informed and prevention-focused programs that have met rigorous requirements to be included on one of the Portfolio’s three tiers: evidence-based practices, promising practices, and innovative practices. Currently there are over 100 unique programs on the Upstream portfolio serving
an estimated 20,000 Sonoma County residents annually, addressing a broad range of needs including early literacy,
parenting skills, school readiness, healthy eating, gang prevention and injury-prevention for older adults.

- Technical Assistance and training for community-based organizations (CBOs) focused on how to effectively use
evidence and data to enhance a program model, and also for continuous quality improvement purposes.
- Targeted outreach and education to funders regarding the importance of investing in programs on the Portfolio; and
- Facilitating cross-sector collaboration to improve community outcomes on long-term indicators of success.

**Barriers and Challenges:**

The Upstream initiative requires commitment to a long term public/private partnership to shift investments toward
prevention. Greater investments and support needs to be made in funding capacity building, robust data collections systems,
and program evaluation.

**Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues?**
If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has
experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

Our organization is working with Ascend at the Aspen institute as one of several counties seeking to address generational
poverty by implementing two-generational strategies that support both children and parents. We are also part of Rise
Together, a nine-county regional effort in the bay area working to end poverty through policy advocacy, capacity building and
regional collaboration.

Our organization currently contracts with Legal Aid Sonoma County to support clients with a variety of legal related issues
around housing, employment, elder abuse and guardianship. As a government entity we see the need and opportunity to
deepen our working relationship with the legal community to address the larger structural challenges and problems that
hinder low-income people from fully participation in society and the economy.
Organization Mission: Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need live healthy, safe and productive lives. Since 1896, our ministry of service has supported and empowered America’s most vulnerable groups, including veterans, seniors, people with disabilities, at-risk youth, men and women returning from prison, homeless individuals and families, those recovering from addictions and many others. Through hundreds of human service programs, including housing and health care, Volunteers of America helps almost 2 million people in over 400 communities. We offer a variety of services for older Americans, in particular, that allow them to maintain their independence and quality of life – everything from an occasional helping hand to full-time care. Our work touches the mind, body, heart and ultimately the spirit of those we serve, integrating our deep compassion with highly effective programs and services. Learn more at www.volunteersofamerica.org.

Summit Participant: Jatrice Martel Gaiter Executive Vice President, External Affairs Volunteers of America Alexandria, VA jmgaiter@voa.org @Ms_Nonprofit

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.

**Housing** -- As one of the nation’s largest nonprofit providers of quality, affordable housing for low and moderate-income households, we create and manage housing for the homeless, families with children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, including physical and mental disabilities and veterans and their families.

**Homeless People** -- Volunteers of America works to prevent and end homelessness through a range of support services including eviction prevention, emergency services, transitional housing and permanent affordable housing. Once we engage homeless individuals, including youth and families with children, we stay with them for as long as it takes to return them to self-sufficiency.

**Assistance with Basic Needs** -- We help individuals and families overcome personal challenges to lead productive, healthy lives. Our approaches to intervention, rehabilitation and prevention work ensure that people in crisis don’t stay that way. During personal hardships and emergencies, we address immediate needs, offer long-term support when necessary and educate with prevention outreach programs.

**Veterans** -- Since World War I, Volunteers of America has provided direct services to veterans and their families and we work collaboratively with community partners to provide additional supports to help veteran reintegration. Our highly regarded veteran programs helps veterans to overcome the barriers that stand between them and a stable, secure life. We provide housing, employment training, emergency shelter and much more.

**Children, Youth and Families** -- Volunteers of America provides high quality, innovative services for disadvantaged and disconnected children and youth. Through our dedicated staff and caring volunteers we ensure the social, emotional and
academic development of young children, and empower older youth to be physically, emotionally and mentally healthy and ready to enter adulthood.

**Community Outreach** -- Every day, individuals and families who are at risk of homelessness, hunger and other life crises in our communities often go unnoticed by society at large. But we notice. And we offer a variety of community programs including information and referral, food and prepared meals, thrift stores and collaborations with the faith community.

**Substance Abuse** - We help people with chronic or severe substance abuse successfully manage their lives through crisis counseling and "hotline" programs, case management, day programs and drop-in centers, transitional housing, and sobering housing. We work to prevent and eliminate substance abuse from prevention to treatment to long-term support.

**Older Adults** -- Our services and programs promote health and independence for the elderly. We encourage seniors to be active and healthy through a host of support services. We provide senior centers and day programs, home repair and homemaker services, information and referral, Meals On Wheels and group meal programs. We also provide transportation, companion services, protection against abuse and neglect, and case management services.

**People with Behavioral Health Issues** -- For 118 years, we have pioneered community-based high-quality, integrated models of care and services that strive to meet the needs of the whole person, family and community. We provide innovative, results-driven Behavioral Health Services to assist those with mental health issues, substance abuse issues and those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

**People with Disabilities** -- We serve thousands of individuals with disabilities across the nation with specialized programs for autism, age-related problems and other challenges. Our services include in-home support, case management, day programs and supportive employment, specialized residential services, host homes or foster care, and supported living.

**Senior Living and Care** -- We are a major provider of professional long-term nursing care for seniors and others coping with illness or injury. We offer a continuum of services that extends to the elderly and disabled people requiring long-term health support, including nursing care, assisted living, memory care, home health care, rehabilitation and much more.

**Formerly Incarcerated** -- We provide services to help ex-offenders successfully transition from prison to a productive life in the community and we help rehabilitate adult ex-offenders and steer youth to set new, positive directions for their lives. Our services include halfway houses, work-release programs, day reporting, diversion and pre-trial services, residential treatment, family supports, dispute resolution, and mediation services.

**Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.**

Volunteers of America is the largest nonprofit owner/operator of affordable housing units in the country. We provide service enriched housing. Our best practice is to provide services for the families, elderly, veterans and the residents in our housing.

An example of a best practice we have developed a program called Safe Haven. This is a low barrier, harm reduction model that allows people to work on their sobriety while they are residents. We believe that homeless people with substance abuse disorders can best focus on their recovery when they have a safe place to sleep every night. We provide behavioral health services to those who wish to participate.

Many of the barriers our consumers face are regulatory and legal. The transferability of military skills to civilian work is often deterred by regulations that do not consider military experiences.

The barriers Volunteers of America face include NIMBY for our residences and a dependence on government grants and contracts. The government sets the rates which are substantially less than the cost to treat and house clients. As an example, the VA grant per diem program for veterans which provides transitional housing pays approximately $47.00 a day while the average cost for us to house and support these clients runs on average $75.00 a day.

Another less obvious barrier is the loss of documents that verify social security, identification often are barriers to our ability to provide supportive services and enroll clients into appropriate federal and state assistance programs.
Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)

Volunteers of America considers collaboration as a requisite of program services and public policy initiatives. Most of our collaboration is in the area of family housing, senior housing, veterans housing and public policy. We provide service enriched housing for which we partner with local resources such as nursing schools, churches, youth serving agencies, and CVS to provide health, after school programs and nutrition.

We work closely and collaborate with the National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Low Income Housing Coalition, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Stewards for Affordable Housing, and the National Coalition for homeless veterans just to name a few of the organizations we partner with on the national level.

We work with countless agencies and organizations to refer clients to Volunteers of America programs and vice versa.

Some of our difficulties are reemerging attitudes that blame and disparage the poor. The new filters for those who deserves help and those who do not, sometimes impedes collaboration. This circles back to the former “deserving poor”

The critical component of a successful collaboration is to have the same goals for the project or service clients.
Organization Mission: Law Firm

Summit Participant:
Pamela C. Enslen
Senior Partner
Warner Norcross & Judd, LLC
Grand Rapids, Michigan
penslen@wnj.com

Describe the work of your organization or entity to address (one of more of) the manifestations of poverty areas or poverty generally.
I work in a law firm. Any such activities are performed by me on a volunteer basis outside of the work on my law firm.

Describe any best practices, model approaches, barriers or challenges derived from your anti-poverty programming.

Does your organization collaborate with partners on the national, state and local levels to address poverty-related issues? If so, please describe existing collaborative efforts. (What are some of the difficulties that your organization has experienced in trying to collaborate with others? What are the critical components for successful collaboration?)