

DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative: Supporting Cradle-to-College Success

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Michael McAfee is the director of the Promise Neighborhoods Institute at PolicyLink, where he partners with more than 38 communities to improve the educational and developmental outcomes of children. McAfee has spent more than 20 years as a leader in the government, philanthropic, and human-service sectors. Before coming to PolicyLink, he was a senior community planning and development representative in the Chicago regional office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He also served as director of community leadership for the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation and president of YouthNet of Greater Kansas City. He is also a children and family fellow at the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Susan Popkin, an expert on assisted housing and mobility, is a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and the director of its Program on Neighborhoods and Youth Development. Her research includes the HOPE VI Panel Study, the first large-scale, systematic look at families involuntarily relocated from public housing; the Chicago Family Case Management Demonstration, a partnership testing the impact and cost-effectiveness of intensive services for the most troubled public housing residents; and the only national study of public housing desegregation. She is a coauthor of *Public Housing Transformation: The Legacy of Segregation*.

Alice M. Rivlin is a senior fellow in the Economic Studies Program at Brookings and a visiting professor at the Public Policy Institute of Georgetown University. In 2010, Rivlin was named by President Obama to the Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform (The Simpson-Bowles Commission). She also co-chaired, with former Senator Pete Domenici, the Bipartisan Policy Center's Task Force on Debt Reduction. Rivlin served as vice chair of the Federal Reserve Board (1996–99), was the director of the White House Office of Management and Budget in the first Clinton administration, chaired the District of Columbia Financial Management Assistance Authority (1998–2001), and was the founding director of the Congressional Budget Office (1975–83).

Irasema Salcido is the president of the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative and the chief executive officer of the César Chávez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy, which includes two middle schools and two high schools. Previously, she worked for nine years in the D.C. public school system, serving for six years as an assistant principal at Bell Multicultural High School. She is a nationally recognized expert and advocate for charter schools and underserved students. Recognizing that the problems challenging the families of many students attending the Chávez-Parkside campus were preventing them from achieving success, Salcido convened a group of community residents to discuss ways to promote academic achievement and college access. In 2010, the César Chávez Public Charter Schools received a federal Promise Neighborhood planning grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Sharita Slayton is the director for resident engagement for the DC Promise Neighborhood Initiative, where she ensures that neighborhood residents are included on advisory boards and that residents' interest and concerns are included in the initiative and considered by local and federal government officials. Before coming to DCPNI, Slayton was the director of operations for a D.C. charter high school, executive assistant to the vice president for corporate accounts at Verizon, and special assistant to the director of operations at the U.S. Department of Treasury. As president of Rent-A-Teen Foundation in D.C., she linked public and private resources to develop full-time and part-time employment for youth 14 to 22 in the metropolitan area.