

# The Cost of Residents' Financial Insecurity to City Budgets: What Do We Know, and What Can Cities Do?

## *Speaker Biographies*



**Alexandra Bastien** is a senior associate at PolicyLink, a national research and action institute dedicated to advancing social and economic equity. She works to lift up policy solutions pertaining to wealth inequality across the nation. She conducts research, provides technical assistance, and helps lead program strategy related to asset building and equitable economic development. Before joining PolicyLink, Bastien was a 2012–13 cohort member of the Proteus Fund Fellowship for Diversity in Philanthropy and was co-executive director of the

National Black Women's Society Inc. Bastien earned a BA in communications from Boston College and an MPP from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University.



**Colleen Briggs** is executive director of community innovation within the Office of Corporate Responsibility and Global Philanthropy at JPMorgan Chase & Co., a global leader in corporate philanthropy with \$200 million invested in communities annually. She is responsible for helping establish and execute the firm's global philanthropic and corporate responsibility financial capability, including the Financial Solutions Lab, and community development strategies, including PRO Neighborhoods. Briggs also manages numerous programs designed to highlight new, innovative approaches to community challenges and explore global cross-

cutting themes, such as peer learning, evaluation, and attracting additional investment in JPMorgan Chase's projects. Briggs was previously the economic policy adviser to Senator Debbie Stabenow, managing the senator's economic portfolio, including policy related to financial services, tax, small business, job creation, community development, manufacturing, and housing. Briggs managed the Dodd-Frank market reforms for the Senate Agriculture Committee and helped draft the Recovery Act, the Troubled Asset Relief Program, the Dodd-Frank Act, and health care reform. Briggs is a member of the Asset Funders Network Steering Committee and the Innovations for Poverty Action Policy Advisory Group. She earned a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an MBA from the Yale School of Management.



**Diana Elliott** is a senior research associate in the Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population at the Urban Institute, where she studies families' financial security, economic mobility, and asset building and debt. She was previously research manager of the Pew Charitable Trusts' work on financial security and economic mobility, where she was instrumental in fielding a major national survey on American family finances and publishing numerous reports and briefs about the state of financial well-being and economic mobility in the United

States. Before joining Pew, Elliott was a family demographer in the fertility and family statistics branch in the Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division at the US Census Bureau. She has an extensive background in survey and qualitative research methods. She has been interviewed and quoted by numerous major print, radio, and television outlets, including the *Washington Post*, AP, *Forbes*, Bloomberg, NPR, and MSNBC. Elliott holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Maryland, College Park.



**Heidi Goldberg** is director for economic opportunity and financial empowerment at the National League of Cities' (NLC) Institute for Youth, Education, and Families. Since 2005, she has led the institute's efforts to strengthen municipal leaders' capacity to help families move toward economic stability. Her work has included a pilot project to connect residents with utility debt to financial empowerment services, a grant project to help cities build health insurance enrollment campaigns, and the NLC's "Bank On Cities" campaign, helping local leaders connect residents to safe financial services. She also leads NLC's task force

of local elected officials on economic mobility and opportunity. Before joining the NLC, Goldberg directed local initiatives at Wider Opportunities for Women; was a policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, specializing in state and federal welfare policy; and managed a residence for formerly homeless women in Boston. Goldberg received her BA from Vassar College and holds an MPP and an MSW from the University of Michigan.



**Tamara Lindsay** is a principal at the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund, where she oversees its financial counseling initiative, the Financial Empowerment Centers, and provides technical assistance to local governments looking to launch and implement financial empowerment programs for residents with low incomes. Before this role, Lindsay was director of programs at the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs' Office of Financial Empowerment. Lindsay holds a bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, a master of science degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a master of public

administration degree from Baruch University, City University of New York.

