

Revitalizing and Reimagining the DMV after COVID-19 Event Series

Promoting Equitable COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in Greater DC

Speaker Biographies

Travis Gayles is the health officer and chief of public health services for Montgomery County, Maryland. Gayles completed his residency in pediatrics at Northwestern University and a National Institute of Health-supported fellowship in academic pediatrics with a focus in adolescent medicine at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Before beginning his current role in 2017, Gayles served as the chief medical officer for the DC Department of Health's HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD and Tuberculosis Administration. He currently holds faculty appointments at New York University, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Maryland. In addition to his academic work, he is a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Health Resources and Services Administration Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STD Prevention and Treatment, and he chairs the Maryland State Immunization Committee and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Health Officer Committee. A 1997 Ron Brown scholar, Gayles received his bachelor's degree in public policy studies and African American studies from Duke University and doctorate in community health (health policy) and doctorate of medicine from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Jennifer M. Haley is a research associate in the Urban Institute's Health Policy Center. Haley's current work includes assessing how states and communities can improve health equity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, barriers to enrollment in publicly subsidized health insurance coverage, coverage gaps for postpartum women, and challenges to accessing the safety net for children in immigrant families. She also conducts research on other issues related to Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and coverage and care for children and families. Haley holds a master's degree in sociology from Temple University.

George A. Jones has been chief executive officer of Bread for the City (BFC) since January 1996. BFC is a nonprofit that provides food, clothing, medical, legal, and social services to DC residents living on low incomes. Jones manages all of the agency's administrative, financial, and programmatic aspects and 110 full-time staff members. He has led BFC's growth from a \$1.2 million operation in 1996 to a \$15 million operation in 2021. He has also overseen the agency's development of a community center in Southeast DC in 2002, an expansion of BFC's Northwest Center, and the construction of BFC's new 27,000 sq. ft. Center on Good Hope Road in Southeast DC. Under Jones's leadership, BFC has attacked poverty through a racial equity lens. The agency is committed to embedding racial equity in all of its direct services and efforts to organize and advocate for affordable housing. BFC strives to be an anti-racist agency and one that helps lead the creation of a racially equitable DC. Jones serves on the boards of directors of the DC Primary Care Association, the DC Affordable Law Firm, and the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond. He is also a founding member of the DC Initiative on Racial Equity and Local Government. Jones holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia.

Monique King-Viehland is the director of state and local housing policy at the Urban Institute. She leads efforts to catalyze Urban’s vast housing policy expertise into actionable strategies for, and with, state and local housing leaders. Her portfolio extends across Urban, encompassing housing policy areas from homelessness and affordable housing to zoning reform, homeownership, and housing finance. King-Viehland previously served as executive director of the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), where she oversaw 580 employees and a \$600 million budget. The first woman and African American to take the helm of the 40-year-old agency, King-Viehland led the agency through significant transformation, including the merger of the Community Development Commission and housing authority into one unified agency. She enhanced LACDA’s efforts to fight the homelessness and affordability crises, including helping secure a 10-fold increase in the number of funded affordable and supportive units and increasing project-based rental voucher commitments by more than 100 percent while providing housing and housing assistance to hundreds of thousands annually. In 2019, she was recognized as an LA power woman by Bisnow. King-Viehland has 20 years of experience in housing, community, and economic development. She is a member of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness and a member of the policy advisory committee for the California Roadmap HOME 2030 initiative. She graduated with honors from Smith College and has a master’s degree in public policy from Carnegie Mellon University.