

# Partnering for Vaccine Equity

## Speaker Biographies

**Luis G. Espinoza** is the lead organizer at the Mississippi Immigrant Rights Alliance (MIRA). Where he hosts local meetings and workshops to engage with the Spanish-speaking immigrant community. Formerly the founder and President of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Mississippi, Espinoza sits on the board of the Mississippi Hispanic Association and the Institute for the Advancement of Minority Health. He has the distinction of having started the first Spanish language newspaper in Mississippi. Espinoza has a degree in business administration with a focus on sales and marketing.

**Karen Halfon** is the executive director of the Eden Youth and Family Center. Halfon is responsible for oversight of the day-to-day operations, administration, program planning, implementation, and strategic planning of Eden Youth and Family Center (EYFC), a non-profit organization that supports a comprehensive array of services for youth and families throughout Alameda County. Halfon is an experienced leader with over 20 years of experience in business operations and contract management, program implementation and fiscal management/oversight, reporting and analytics, community building, as well as youth development and program implementation. She has a proven record of solving difficult organizational challenges and producing efficiencies within various aspects of the organization. She has been the driving force behind a multitude of projects supporting the health and welfare of youth. Halfon has worked in the social services field for over 20 years. She currently manages the City of Hayward-owned facility housing the Eden Youth and Family Center family multiservice center. She has devoted herself to equity to youth and families in the underserved areas of Alameda County. Halfon received her certification in Advanced Project Management from Stanford University.

**Rayanne Hawkins** is a policy program manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on performance management, workforce development, upward mobility, and criminal justice. She provides training and technical assistance to employers looking to start apprenticeship programs. Hawkins received her MBA from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business, where she studied alternative financing for social programs.

**Annie Heinrichs** is a policy analyst in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute and works on a variety of projects. Before joining Urban, she worked with Public Strategies, providing training and technical assistance to workforce development and family strengthening programs. Before that, she was an elementary teacher with Teach for America in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Heinrichs received a bachelor's degree in communications with a minor in social innovation and social entrepreneurship from Tulane University as well as a master's degree in public administration from the University of Oklahoma.

**Amaya Taylor** is a policy assistant in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. She is passionate about improving the quality of life in urban environments through the development of inclusive and sustainable practices and policies. Before joining Urban, Taylor interned at the City of Pittsburgh's Department of Mobility and Infrastructure. Her past research focuses on economic development in disadvantaged communities and environmental policies and resiliency models to combat climate change and the effects of natural disasters. Taylor holds a Bachelor of Science in ethics, history, and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University.