Cash Assistance and Child Well-Being: Research and Policy Partnerships That Improve Children's Lives

Speaker Biographies

Opening Remarks

Sarah Rosen Wartell is the third president of the Urban Institute since it was founded in 1968. During her tenure, Urban celebrated a milestone anniversary by moving into a state-of-the-art research and convening facility and launched its Next50, a strategy to advance upward mobility, equity, and shared prosperity by bringing the power of knowledge to help changemakers accelerate solutions. Under Wartell's leadership, Urban aims to leverage cutting-edge technology and data science, understand and confront structural racism, and deliver timely, relevant, and actionable research to communities, capitals, board rooms, and wherever innovators are pursuing bold ideas. Previously, Wartell was deputy assistant to the president for economic policy and deputy director of the National Economic Council. She also worked in various roles at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. After government service, Wartell was the founding chief operating officer and then executive vice president of the Center for American Progress. Her work focused on the economy and housing markets, and she directed the Mortgage Finance Working Group and the Doing What Works government performance program. Before her tenure in government, she practiced law with the Washington, DC, firm Arnold & Porter. Wartell currently serves on the boards of Enterprise Community Partners and the Georgetown Day School, Bank of America's National Community Advisory Council, and the Sadie Collective's Advisory Board. She previously served on the boards of the Low-Income Investment Fund, the Center for Urban Science and Progress at New York University, and the Corporation for Enterprise Development (now known as Prosperity Now). Her areas of expertise include community development, consumer finance, asset building, and housing finance. Wartell has a bachelor's degree with honors in urban affairs from the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs. She has a law degree from Yale Law School.

JooYeun Chang is the program director for child well-being. In this capacity, she oversees the program's grantmaking to promote children's healthy development and protect them from abuse and neglect. Prior to joining the Doris Duke Foundation, Chang served as acting assistant secretary and principal deputy assistant secretary for the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), where she was the top federal official overseeing the implementation of national child welfare policy. She also led the State of Michigan's child welfare system as executive director of the state's Children's Services Agency, developing a new comprehensive child welfare technology system, anti-racism initiatives, place-based prevention pilots and a front-end redesign of the child protective service system to reduce racial bias in decision making. Prior to her work in the Michigan state government, Chang was a managing director at Casey Family Programs, where she spearheaded work to identify, develop and disseminate information about the most promising practices in child welfare. Chang earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from North Carolina State University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Miami School of Law.

Keynote

Michael Bennet has represented Colorado in the United States Senate since 2009. Recognized as a pragmatic and independent thinker, he is driven by an obligation to create more opportunity for the next generation. Michael has built a reputation of taking on Washington dysfunction and working with Republicans and Democrats to address our nation's greatest challenges—including education, climate change, immigration, health care, and national security. Before serving in the Senate, Michael worked to restructure failing businesses and helped create the world's largest movie theater chain. As superintendent of the Denver Public Schools, he led one of the most extensive reform efforts in the country, resulting in substantial, sustained academic improvement for Denver's children. He lives in Denver with his wife and three daughters.

Fireside Conversation

Jason DeParle covers poverty issues for *The New York Times*. He is the author of *American Dream: Three Women, Ten Kids, and a Nation's Drive to End Welfare* and *A Good Provider is One Who Leaves: One Family and Migration in the 21st Century*. He is a winner of the George Polk Award and a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Natalie Foster is a leading architect of the movement to build an inclusive and resilient economy that works for all. President and co-founder of Economic Security Project and Aspen Institute Fellow, her work and writing has appeared in The New York Times, USA Today, TIME, Business Insider, CNN, and The Guardian. Natalie speaks regularly on economic security, the future of work and the new political economy. An unstoppable builder, Natalie previously founded the sharing economy community Peers and co-founded Rebuild the Dream with Van Jones, and served as Digital Director for President Obama's Organizing for America - a leading partner in winning transformative healthcare reform. A daughter of a preacher from Kansas, Natalie draws on the values of community, dignity, and optimism to build a better America. She lives in Oakland, California with her husband and two kids. *The Guarantee* is her first book.

Michael Tubbs is the Founder of Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI) and End Poverty in California (EPIC) and Special Advisor to California Governor Gavin Newsom for Economic Mobility and Opportunity. In 2016, he was elected Mayor of Stockton, California, and became the youngest Mayor of any major city at 26 years old and the city's first African-American Mayor. Under his leadership, the National Civic League named Stockton an "All-America City" in 2017 and 2018. Stockton was named the second most fiscally healthy city in California and recognized as one of the most fiscally healthy cities in the nation. Building off his first-of-its-kind guaranteed income pilot (SEED) and rooted in Dr. King's legacy, Mayor Tubbs and the Economic Security Project founded Mayors for a Guaranteed Income in June 2020. MGI brings Mayors together to advocate for a guaranteed income to ensure all Americans have an income floor.

New Findings on the Long-Term Welfare Effects of Cash Benefits

Lisa A. Gennetian is a professor of Public Policy and the Pritzker Professor of Early Leaning Policy Studies at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. Lisa is an applied economist whose research focuses on child development within the context of poverty, parent engagement and decision making, and policy and social investment considerations. She is a co-PI on the first multi-site multi-year randomized control study of a monthly unconditional cash transfer to low-income mothers of infants in the U.S. called Baby's First Years. Dr. Gennetian also has a body of research examining poverty among Hispanic children and families, serving as a PI on several grants and a co-PI directing work on poverty and economic self-sufficiency at the National Center for Research on Hispanic Families.

Katherine Rittenhouse is an Assistant Professor at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. She holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses on issues and policies related to child and family well-being, with a particular focus on the child protection system.

Kevin Werner is a non-resident fellow in the Income and Benefits Policy Center at the Urban Institute. He works with the center's TRIM3 and ATTIS models, microsimulation models that simulate major government tax and transfer programs and allows researchers to see the effects of various policy changes. He also works on the development and use of the Social Genome Model, a lifecycle microsimulation model. He has dual degrees in economics and political science from American University and a master's degree in applied economics from Georgetown University.

Hilary Hoynes is a Professor of Economics and Public Policy and holds the Haas Distinguished Chair in Economic Disparities at the University of California Berkeley where she also directs the Berkeley Opportunity Lab. She is an

economist who works on poverty, inequality, food and nutrition programs, and the impacts of government tax and transfer programs on low-income families. Her current research examines how access to the social safety net in early life affect's children's later life health and human capital outcomes. Professor Hoynes is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, American Academy of Art and Sciences, the National Academy of Social Insurance, and a Fellow of the Society of Labor Economists. She has served as Co-Editor of the *American Economic Review* and the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. She is currently a member of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on National Statistics and serves on California Governor Gavin Newsom's Council of Economic Advisors. Previously, she served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Building an Agenda to Reduce the Number of Children in Poverty by Half in 10 Years, the State of California Task Force on Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty, and the Federal Commission on Evidence-Based Policy Making. In 2014, she received the Carolyn Shaw Bell Award from the Committee on the Status of the Economics Profession of the American Economic Association. Dr. Hoynes received her PhD in Economics from Stanford University in 1992 and her undergraduate degree in Economics and Mathematics from Colby College in 1983.

Lessons from Research and Policy Partnerships

Margot Crandall-Hollick is a principal research associate at the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center. Her research focuses on tax policies that affect low-income individuals and families, including refundable tax credits such as the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit. Given the increasing importance of refundable credits as income supports for low- and middle-income working families, Crandall-Hollick's work also examines the administration of these programs, both for taxpayers and for the Internal Revenue Service. Before joining the Tax Policy Center, Crandall-Hollick spent 16 years working on Capitol Hill advising policymakers, most recently at the Congressional Research Service and before that for Senator Christopher J. Dodd. She holds a BA in mathematics from Smith College and an MSc in international political economy from the London School of Economics.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha is the Associate Dean for Public Health and C. S. Mott Endowed Professor of Public Health at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. She is the founding director of the Pediatric Public Health Initiative, an innovative partnership of MSU and Hurley Children's Hospital in Flint, Michigan. She is reimaging how society can come together to eliminate infant poverty with a first-in-the-nation program, Rx Kids. A pediatrician, scientist, activist, and author, Dr. Hanna-Attisha was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World and recognized as one of *USA Today's* Women of the Century for her role in uncovering the Flint water crisis and leading recovery efforts. Dr. Hanna-Attisha is the author of the widely acclaimed and *New York Times* 100 most notable book, *What the Eyes Don't See: A Story of Crisis, Resistance, and Hope in an American City*.

H. Luke Shaefer, Ph.D. is the Hermann and Amalie Kohn Professor of Social Justice and Social Policy and Professor of Public Policy at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. At U-M, he is also the inaugural director of Poverty Solutions, an interdisciplinary, presidential initiative that partners with communities and policymakers to find new ways to prevent and alleviate poverty. Through Poverty Solutions, Shaefer acted as a special counselor on anti-poverty policy to the director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services from 2019-2021. Shaefer's research has been published in top peer-reviewed academic journals in the fields of public policy, public health, health services research, sociology, social work, and history, and his work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and U.S. Census Bureau among other sources. He has presented his research at the White House, has testified before the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, and has advised a number of the nation's largest human service providers. His work has been cited in media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Economist*, and *The Atlantic*, and he has been featured on such programs as PBS *NewsHour*, *Marketplace, All Things Considered*, and CNBC's *Nightly Business Report*. His book with Kathryn Edin, *$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America*, was named one of the 100 Notable Books of 2015 by the *New York Times Book Review*, and won the Hillman Prize for Book Journalism among other awards. Shaefer's new co-authored book, *The Injustice of Place: Uncovering the Legacy of Poverty in America*, has been featured on *MSNBC*, *The Atlantic*, *TIME*, and the *LA Times*, among other outlets. He is the co-director of Rx Kids, the nation's first citywide maternal and infant health cash prescription program launched in Flint, Michigan in January

2024. Shaefer received his B.A. in politics from Oberlin College and A.M. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration. He is the recipient of an Andrew Carnegie Fellowship.

Aparna Ramesh is the Chief of the Research and Data Insights Branch within the Research and Automation Data Division at the California Department of Social Services. She leads a team of 50 researchers who centralize and mobilize departmental and cross-departmental data to answer key policy and research questions. Their work includes using data to measure cross-enrollment in safety net programs, measuring the impacts of CDSS programs on the lives of Californians, collating evidence on what works and how to improve programs, developing dashboards to support data driven program implementation, leading state and federal reporting on program progress, linking and managing data assets and the flow of data in and out of the department, and performance measurement and management. Aparna has over a decade of experience working with federal, state, and local government to build evidence feedback loops, break down data silos, and foster data-driven decision making on anti-poverty policy. Prior to CDSS, Aparna led research and data projects at the California Policy Lab at UC Berkeley, NORC at the University of Chicago, and Deloitte Consulting's federal practice. She has an MPA from Princeton University.

Jesse Rothstein holds the Carmel P. Friesen Chair in Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley, where he is also Professor of Economics. He is the co-director of the California Policy Lab, which he co-founded (with Till von Wachter) in 2017. He previously served as Chief Economist at the U.S. Department of Labor and as Senior Economist with the Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President. From 2015-2020, he served as director of the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE) at UC Berkeley. Rothstein received a Ph.D. in economics and a Masters in Public Policy, both from the University of California, Berkeley, and an A.B. from Harvard. He is a member of the editorial boards of *Industrial Relations*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Education Finance and Policy*, and the National Education Policy Center, and of the executive board of the Society of Labor Economists. He was named the John T. Dunlop Outstanding Scholar by the Labor and Employment Relations Association in 2011. He is a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research and a fellow of the National Education Policy Center, the CESifo Research Network, the IZA, and the Learning Policy Institute.