

Combating Rising Evictions in the District of Columbia with Housing Subsidies

Speaker Biographies

Elizabeth Burton is a research analyst in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Her research interests include affordable housing, with a focus on eviction prevention and decommodified housing, and neighborhood change. She also provides technical assistance to Promise Neighborhood grantees and helps manage the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. Burton graduated from Macalester College with a BA in political science, minors in statistics and psychology, and a concentration in urban studies. Her honors thesis analyzed local housing and economic development policies to examine the 1921 Tulsa race massacre's effects on current wealth disparities.

Kate Coventry is Deputy Director of Legislative Strategy at the DC Fiscal Policy Institute. She joined the DC Fiscal Policy Institute as a Policy Analyst in 2011, focusing on a range of issues affecting low-income residents of DC. She is a voting member of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness, the body of representatives from DC government, nonprofit providers, advocates, homeless, and formerly homeless. Kate's professional background is rooted in working with community-based organizations in the Washington area. Kate holds an undergraduate degree in sociology from Randolph-Macon Woman's College and a Master's in public policy from George Washington University.

Mary K. Cunningham is senior vice president for research management and program development at the Urban Institute, overseeing Urban's research and policy centers. Previously, she was Urban's vice president for metropolitan housing and communities policy, where researchers and policy experts work to bolster affordable housing, eradicate homelessness, facilitate land-use and zoning reform for equitable development, improve transportation access, foster opportunity-rich neighborhoods and cities, and fortify communities against the challenges of climate change. As a researcher, she studied housing and homelessness for more than 25 years. Cunningham launched and directed the Homelessness Research Institute, the research and education arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. She also cochaired a research council on homelessness composed of nationally recognized academics and policy researchers. Cunningham has been cited in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*. She has been a guest on *The Weeds* podcast, *News Hour*, and *CBS Morning News*. She started her career as a caseworker for families with housing vouchers at Metro Housing|Boston (formerly, the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership) and has an MPP from Georgetown University.

Leah Hendey is a principal research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute, where her research focuses on policy to improve urban neighborhoods. She is experienced in transforming national and local administrative datasets to create neighborhood indicators and study neighborhood conditions. Since 2007, Hendey has been involved in Urban's work with the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) and serves as its codirector. She provides strategic direction to the network, led an effort to provide technical assistance to build local data intermediary capacity in two sites, and managed NNIP's work on using Integrated Data Systems to address neighborhood policy problems. In addition to research on neighborhoods across the country, Hendey is a key member of the Urban-Greater DC team, an Urban program that seeks to inform policy debate and decisionmaking to address persistent inequalities and improve economic mobility and access to opportunity in the DC region. She has led several projects on the greater DC area, including a survey on residents' perceptions and attitudes and studies on foreclosure, affordable housing needs, and racial inequities. Hendey holds a master of public policy degree from the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University.

KellyAnn Kirkpatrick currently serves as the Grants and Partnerships lead for the Amazon Housing Equity Fund, where she supports affordable housing focused grant making and strategic collaboration as a part of the Amazon Community Impact team. With an unwavering passion for diversity and inclusion, KellyAnn has seamlessly merged her dedication to economic empowerment with her expertise in grant-making and strategic partnerships in her current role. She also currently oversees the Housing Equity Fund's Accelerator Program for Diverse Developers.

Prior to her current position, she was a part of the Amazon Black Business Accelerator team, where she supported Black-owned sellers in their Amazon seller journey. Additionally, KellyAnn previously served as a Senior Program Associate at JPMorgan Chase & Co. within Global Philanthropy, where she concentrated on philanthropic investments aimed at supporting and empowering small businesses on a global scale. KellyAnn's experience spans the private and public sector as she also previously served as a Program Manager at the District of Columbia's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, where her efforts were concentrated on supporting community conscious development and brick and mortar retail in the District with programs like Great Streets and the Neighborhood Prosperity Fund.

Rebecca Lindhurst has worked to advance housing justice for residents living with low incomes for more than 25 years. During her 20-year career at Bread for the City, she has fought to prevent displacement, improve housing quality and pass tenant protection laws, in D.C. Superior Court, administrative hearings and at the DC City Council. Rebecca was instrumental in establishing the Landlord/Tenant Court-Based Legal Services Project, the Housing Right to Counsel Project and the Landlord Tenant Legal Assistance Network. She serves on various committees and coalitions working to secure the right decent, safe and sanitary housing. Rebecca received her JD from CUNY School of Law and is licensed to practice in NY and DC.

Daniel del Pielago was born in Peru and immigrated to the DC metro area in 1980. For the past 15 years he has been organizing with communities of color in the District around the issues of preserving and improving affordable housing and traditional public education. In his role as Housing Director at Empower DC, Daniel hopes to support staff organizers in pushing their campaigns and the organization forward as a whole. Daniel is also a husband, father of two, and lover of music of all types; he has collected music in the vinyl format for over 20 years.

Marian Siegel is the Executive Director of Housing Counseling Services, Inc. (HCS). Founded in 1972, HCS provides comprehensive housing counseling, training, advocacy, and technical assistance for low and moderate-income homebuyers, homeowners, tenants and the homeless; to help them achieve successful living in healthy, safe and affordable homes. HCS's goal is to prevent homelessness, help individuals to access and retain housing that shapes equitable communities and support and increase access to sustainable housing. At HCS since 1987, Marian started her HCS career working with tenant groups and cooperatives. Growing HCS into a comprehensive direct service organization, Marian has developed and implemented creative programs that respond to changing markets, supporting access to affordable and enduring housing for low and moderate-income households. Over the years she has forged strong partnerships with area non-profits, business leaders, developers, lenders, legal service providers, religious organizations, other professional partners, and government agencies to create, implement and evaluate programs, policies and procedures that are focused on access to sustainable housing opportunities. She has accomplished this by ensuring that HCS's direct services remain focused on the empowerment of low and moderate-income households by helping them to develop essential skills, advocate for opportunities and to access secure, affordable, appropriate and enduring housing that meets their personal needs. Marian graduated with a BA from Hampshire College in Housing Policy in 1979. She completed her coursework for an MS in Housing Economics at Cornell University which she attended from 1984-1986. Marian's Master Thesis on Limited Equity Housing Models was completed in 1987, all but for writing the conclusion....Marian started working at HCS in 1987 with the goal of completing her thesis' conclusion and submitting a final product....but to date she is still searching for appropriate answers.

Peter A. Tatian is a senior fellow at the Urban Institute and research director for Urban-Greater DC. He is an expert on US housing policy, particularly in the areas of housing assistance and affordable housing preservation. He advises nonprofits on performance management and evaluation and heads Urban's work providing technical assistance on data collection and use to grantees of the US Department of Education's Promise Neighborhoods initiative. Tatian directed the evaluation of the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program, which has provided counseling services to more than 1 million troubled homeowners. He has also studied the impacts of public and supportive housing on neighborhoods and has worked on housing policy reform in eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Tatian is a member of the DC Local Initiatives Support Corporation advisory committee, the Park Morton New Communities steering committee, and the United Planning Organization community reinvestment advisory council.