State of the Safety Net

Speaker Biographies

Mary K. Cunningham is senior vice president for research management and programs at the Urban Institute, overseeing Urban's research and policy divisions. 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.

Indivar Dutta-Gupta is the Founder and CEO of Blue Lotus Strategies and a Visiting Researcher at the McCourt School of Public Policy at Georgetown University. He is also a Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the National Academy of Social Insurance, a Fellow at the Roosevelt Institute, Advisor at Community Change, and Senior Advisor at The Policy Academies. His work has included a focus on the role of the social protection system to support both basic needs and economic mobility, and he is a leading voice in research and policy related to reducing poverty and inequality while expanding economic opportunity.

Linda Giannarelli is a senior fellow in the Tax and Income Supports Division at the Urban Institute, where her work focuses on the operation of the US social safety net and the potential for improving the economic well-being of low-income families. Her research career has included analyses of the full range of US safety net programs giving her a deep understanding of the individual programs and their interactions. Much of her work involves microsimulation modeling. She coleads the work to maintain and develop the Transfer Income Model, version 3 (TRIM3), and she leads work on a new state-level model—Analysis of Transfers, Taxes, and Income Security (ATTIS). Since 2007, Giannarelli has led or coled a series of projects using TRIM3 and ATTIS to examine how various policy changes—including changes in government benefit programs, minimum wage increases, and transitional jobs programs—could reduce poverty at the national level and in specific states. A nationally recognized expert in microsimulation modeling, Giannarelli has contributed her expertise to government panels and other research groups. Giannarelli also leads the development of the Net Income Change Calculator, an online tool that explores the impact of increased earnings on family economic well-being, taking into account the impact of both benefits and taxes. She was instrumental in the creation of both the Welfare Rules Database and the Child Care and Development Fund Policies Database, and she continues to provide senior guidance for those projects. Giannarelli holds an MA in economics from the George Washington University.

Sarah Minton is a senior fellow in the Tax and Income Supports Division at the Urban Institute, where her work focuses on social safety net programs and poverty reduction. Minton is codirector for the Urban Institute's Analysis of Transfers, Taxes, and Income Security (ATTIS) microsimulation model and a lead analyst for the Transfer Income Model (TRIM3). She coleads various projects that model how different policies and programs reduce child poverty, and she leads work to produce annual estimates of eligibility for the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program. Minton is the project director for the CCDF Policies Database, leading work to track states' child care subsidy policies. She is also a senior adviser and former codirector for the Welfare Rules Database project, which tracks states' Temporary Assistance for Needy Families policies. Minton has also worked on research related to other policies and programs affecting families with low incomes, including strategies for serving people living in deep poverty, health and human services integration under the Affordable Care Act, and early awareness of college financial aid. She earned an MPA from the Harry S. Truman School of Public Affairs at the University of Missouri.