

Philanthropic Support for Direct Cash Assistance during the COVID-19 Crisis: What Have We Learned?

Speaker Biographies

Shena Ashley, a vice president at the Urban Institute, has expanded the Center on Nonprofit and Philanthropy's policy research and programmatic initiatives through visionary leadership and strong financial management while maintaining an active portfolio of rigorous academic scholarship. For more than 20 years, the center has been a critical resource for credible, nonpartisan, and accessible data and insights on nonprofit and philanthropic activity. In addition to policy research, the center provides technical assistance and philanthropic advisory services to advance more effective and equitable nonprofit and philanthropic practice. Before joining Urban, Ashley held academic positions in the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, where she taught courses on the nonprofit sector and quantitative research methods and advanced a research agenda focused on grantmaking effectiveness and nonprofit management. At the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Atlanta Civic Site, Ashley was director of research and policy and developed innovative tools for community engagement in performance measurement.

Mary Bogle is a principal research associate in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. She conducts formative and summative research on policies and place-conscious interventions that help parents with low incomes surmount the economic, equity, and mental health challenges that often interfere with their efforts to create healthy, productive, and protective environments for their children. Bogle's work often sits at the intersection of whole-family support, social networks, and neighborhood-level economic development. She is a nationally recognized thought leader on two-generation policy and practice and an expert on cash-based social policies and highly effective program models for moving Americans out of poverty. During her career, Bogle has worked extensively with and for community-based organizations, government agencies, and foundations to plan, implement, and evaluate programs and policies aimed at creating more prosperous futures for children and families with low incomes.

Kevin Callaghan is Newark philanthropic liaison at the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers. The Office of the Newark Philanthropic Liaison is an innovative collaboration between the Council of New Jersey Grantmakers and the City of Newark. Having taken on this role in 2016, Callaghan works directly with the mayor and his senior cabinet to leverage private and government assets to support the mayor's agenda in areas such as public safety, summer youth employment, and workforce development. Callaghan has created a strategic framework for the mayor's philanthropic priorities, including establishing a broad-based, cross-sector coalition to scale the city's Summer Youth Employment Program and doubling the number of funding partners while working with community providers to facilitate continuous program improvements. He also created a Community Impact Fund, which allows for more nimble and effective deployment of philanthropic dollars for pressing needs. He has also helped usher in two new funding relationships with state and national initiatives and supported Mayor Baraka's economic development

initiative, the Hire.Buy.Live.Newark. Previously, Callaghan held roles including project lead on Newark's 2016 Summer Youth Employment Program, program officer at the Foundation for Newark's Future, special assistant for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation in Washington, DC, and middle school social studies teacher in Philadelphia. Callaghan holds a bachelor's degree in political science and history from Saint Peter's University and a master's degree in urban education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Nisha G. Patel is a national expert on social and economic mobility and philanthropy in the United States. Her independent consulting practice, Powered by Shakti, draws on her more than two decades of cross-sector experience leading and implementing initiatives to create community-centered economic opportunity. Patel is also a senior fellow at the Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis. Her career has spanned philanthropy, government, and think tanks. Previously, she served as executive director of the US Partnership on Mobility from Poverty at the Urban Institute. Patel also served in the Obama administration as director of the Office of Family Assistance within the US Department of Health and Human Services. She was deputy director and part of the founding team of Ascend at the Aspen Institute, where she led national efforts to expand two-generation approaches. As a social-sector startup strategist, Patel has designed and launched multiple place-based philanthropic initiatives focused on increasing social and economic mobility, including as a program officer at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, director of programs at the Washington Area Women's Foundation, and managing director at the Robin Hood Foundation. She serves on advisory groups for the Fannie Mae Sustainable Communities Initiative and Project Evident. Patel is a summa cum laude graduate of Vanderbilt University, where she was a chancellor's scholar. She holds a master of social work degree with a concentration in social and economic development from Washington University in St. Louis, where she was a Bettie Schroth Johnson scholar.

Paula Sammons is a program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and provides leadership and oversight for executing programmatic, policy, and systems change efforts that build family economic security. She has more than 25 years of experience in philanthropy, with expertise in whole-family approaches to economic mobility, workforce development, enterprise and economic development, asset development, economic inclusion, job quality, integrated services, and family-centered coaching. Her work has had both national and place-based focuses, including her current assignment in the South. Her earlier work has included working in community mental health settings, the banking industry, secondary and postsecondary education, and nonprofit and private sectors. She is a current board member on the Institute for Women's Policy Research and Local Initiatives Support Corporation. She sits on the steering committee for the Children, Youth, and Families Funders.

Benjamin Soskis is a senior research associate in the Center on Nonprofits and Philanthropy at the Urban Institute. His work explores the ways historical inquiry can inform contemporary philanthropic practice. He is especially interested in the relationship between philanthropy and democratic norms and institutions. A historian and journalist, Soskis is the coeditor of *HistPhil*, a web publication devoted to the history of the nonprofit and philanthropic sectors. Previously, he was a fellow at the Center for Nonprofit Management, Philanthropy, and Policy at George Mason University. He is also a consultant for the Open Philanthropy Project and a frequent contributor to the *Chronicle of Philanthropy*. His writing on philanthropy has also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *The Guardian*, *New Yorker* online, *Stanford Social Innovation Review*, *American Prospect*, and *Boston Review*. He is coauthor of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic: A Biography of the Song That Marches On*, which was a finalist for the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize, and coauthor of *Looking Back at 50 Years of US Philanthropy* (Hewlett Foundation 2016) and "A History of Associational Life and the Nonprofit Sector in the United States," in *The Nonprofit Sector: A Research Handbook* (Stanford University Press, forthcoming). Soskis has taught at the George Washington University and the University

of California, Washington Center. He received his doctoral degree in American history from Columbia University.

Sonia Torres Rodríguez is a research assistant in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Torres Rodríguez's research interests include racial equity, community empowerment, and economic mobility. Before joining Urban, Torres Rodríguez was a research fellow for Stanford's American Voices Project, a national qualitative and ethnographic study of poverty and inequality in the United States. Torres Rodríguez graduated from Rice University with a bachelor's degree in mathematical economic analysis.

Fay Walker is a research analyst in the Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center at the Urban Institute. Her work focuses on affordable housing and community development. Before working at Urban, Walker's work centered on civic engagement, affordable housing, and community outreach, with a particular focus on mapping substandard housing and evictions. Walker holds a bachelor's degree in diplomacy and world affairs from Occidental College and two master's degrees in urban spatial analytics and city and regional planning, both from the University of Pennsylvania.

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.

Tonia Wellons is the president and chief executive officer of the Greater Washington Community Foundation, the largest public foundation in the region. The foundation's mission is to build thriving communities by galvanizing philanthropy and investing locally to maximize community impact. The foundation's vision is for a more equitable, just, and thriving Greater Washington, where all residents can live, work, and thrive. Leading an organization with 35 staff members, nearly \$400 million in assets under management, and \$70 million in annual grants, Wellons oversees business operations, serves as chief development officer, and works with the board of trustees and staff to determine the strategic priorities of the foundation. Wellons has also successfully launched and led programmatic and development efforts for several key initiatives at the foundation, including the COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, VoicesDMV, the Resilience Fund, and the Partnership to End Homelessness. In 2020, she was named a hero of the crisis

by *Washingtonian Magazine* and nonprofit leader of the year by the *Washington Business Journal*, recognizing her leadership in raising more than \$11 million in response to the pandemic, which supported more than 300 nonprofits. Before joining the foundation, she served as a political appointee for the Obama administration and as head of global partnerships at the Peace Corps. Wellons previously served as fund manager of a multidonor initiative focused on financial access and inclusion at the World Bank Group. She also spent a significant part of her career working on capacity development initiatives funded by the US Agency for International Development during the immediate postapartheid era in South Africa and the broader Sub-Saharan region.