

SECURING **OUR** FUTURE ECONOMIC MOBILITY SUMMIT

Building Pathways For Upward Mobility

Program Guide



December 9, 2024

Palm Beach Gardens Marriott

Contents

03		Welcome
04		A Letter from our Chairs
05		Opportunity Ecosystem
06		Palm Beach County Data & Plans
07		About
08		Impact Infographic
09		Securing our Future Initiative Success Stories
12		Marriott Summit Map
13		Agenda
14		Schedule of Events
25		Sponsorships
28		Program Ads

Welcome

Welcome to the 2024 Securing Our Future Economic Mobility Summit

The objective of the summit is to bring systems leaders together in support of our unemployed or underemployed families. The workshops and plenary sessions will provide information about ways in which health and human services systems can work collaboratively to help families earn more and move out of poverty. To enhance the networking and learning opportunities during the summit, local workshop presenters are matched with national speakers with similar expertise.

You are crucial in finding sustainable solutions for families experiencing poverty, keeping our families in the center of our work, and strengthening our relationship with them. Participating in this event demonstrates your commitment to eliminating inequities that keep our families in poverty.

Committee Members

Dr. James Green
Director, Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

Jonathan Brown
Director, Palm Beach County
Department of Housing and Economic
Development

Elisa Cramer
Director, Palm Beach County
Youth Services Department

Angelique Pickett
Director, Palm Beach County
Criminal Justice Commission

Jaime-Lee Bradshaw
Chief Strategy Officer
Community Partners of South Florida

Keith Oswald
Chief of Equity and Wellness
School District of Palm Beach County

Isis Williams
Circuit Community Development
Administrator, Florida Department of
Children and Families

Wilneeda Emmanuel
Chief of Staff
Commissioner Mack Bernard

Dr. Joanna Reid-Enoise
Manager, Planning & Evaluation
Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

Elizabeth Harfmann
Manager, Public Information &
Community Engagement
Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

Sonja Holbrook
Strategic Planner
Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

Angela Cruz
Program Evaluator
Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

Michele Jacobs
President and CEO
Economic Council of Palm Beach County

Julie Dowe
Director of Finance and Support Services
Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

Natalie Vazquez
Senior Program Manager
Palm Beach County
Community Services Department

A Letter from our Chairs

We are excited about our 2nd Securing Our Future Initiative (SOFI) Economic Mobility Summit. SOFI seeks to move community stakeholders in bold new directions to address poverty by laying the foundation for a comprehensive, integrated system of social supports that will empower families as they advance economically. This community-driven, data-informed effort will enable system leaders to work collaboratively to strengthen our local ecosystem, increase financial stability for families and dismantle public policies that perpetuate racial, geographical, and other types of inequities within our workforce, healthcare, education and criminal justice systems.

With multiple collective impact initiatives currently underway, this summit aims to increase awareness about how various health and human services organizations are promoting cross-sector alignment. The workshops will highlight our local efforts to enhance access to health and human service supports in order to help families advance economically.

We are committed to challenging mental models and shifting embedded social narratives that shape policies, institutional practices and resource flows. We are also committed to finding sustainable solutions with the people who are most affected, keeping families in the center of our work and strengthening the relationship between service providers and the families we serve.

By partnering with us for this Summit and engaging in this conversation, you will have the opportunity to shape solutions that will encourage the workforce of the future. Thank you in advance for supporting this conference and our local economic mobility initiative. Together, we can ensure that every child and family has the opportunity to live in a community where the promise of becoming financially independent is a reality.



Barbara Cox Gerlock, PhD
Palm Beach County Chair
Citizens Advisory Committee



Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor
CEO, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County
Birth to 22 Alliance Steering Committee Co-Chair



Elisa Cramer
Director, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department
Birth to 22 Alliance Steering Committee Co-Chair

Opportunity Ecosystem



Citizens Advisory Board
Health & Human Services Element

Birth-to-22 Alliance
Youth Master Plan

Palm Health Foundation
*Healthier Together
Open Table*



Scan to see the *Health and Human Services Element*

Various Reports & Plans

Florida ALICE Report
Health & Human Services Element
Housing Plan for All
Leading the Way Home
Housing Dashboard
Dept. of Housing & Economic Development Plan
Community Health Improvement Plan
Behavioral Health & SUD Master Plan
Hunger Relief Plan
Youth Master Plan
Transportation Plan



Scan me

About

About the Securing Our Future Initiative

The Securing Our Future Initiative (SOFI) was developed through the Birth to 22 Alliance as a strategy to facilitate the financial upward mobility of our families to ensure our youth have the resources they need to thrive in our community. Palm Beach County Community Services Department answered the call to lead this collective-impact, poverty-reduction initiative. As a well-respected Health and Human Services funder in Palm Beach County, the Community Services Department acknowledged they had the opportunity to engage local nonprofit organizations in the work of SOFI so they designed outcomes for SOFI and released a Request for Proposals to appoint community organizations that could conduct activities yielding the poverty-reducing outcomes identified. Following the Request for Proposals, a number of organizations were selected to participate in the Securing Our Future Initiative.

As you will see on the next page, the Securing Our Future Initiative has made strides in reducing childhood poverty in Palm Beach County. We have accomplished much and acknowledge there is still much more work to do. We are proud to collaborate with our local community to achieve a 10% reduction of childhood poverty over the next 10 years.

Direct Service Providers:



Support Service Providers:



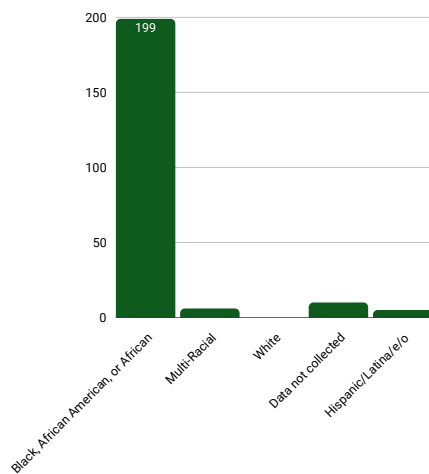
Marking Progress

Insights from the Securing Our Future Initiative

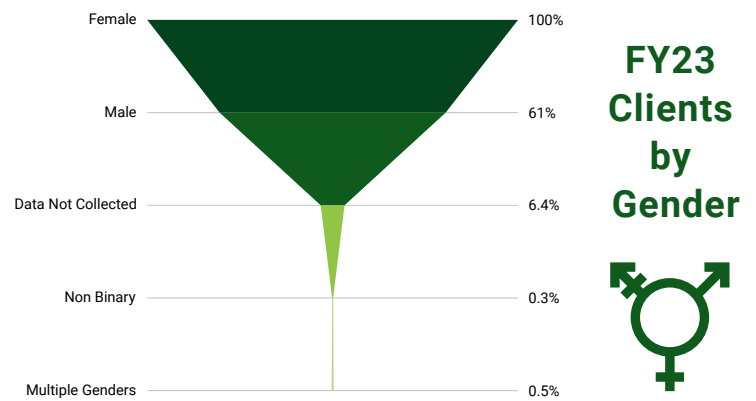
667



Total Number of Families Served
(Households served 2021-2023)



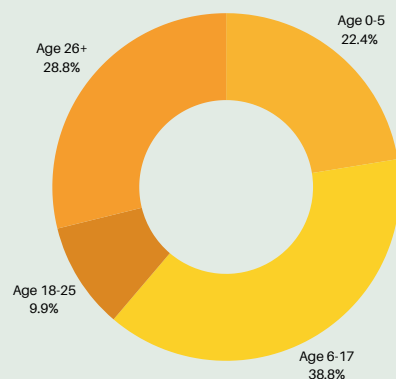
**FY23
Number of
Clients
by Race**



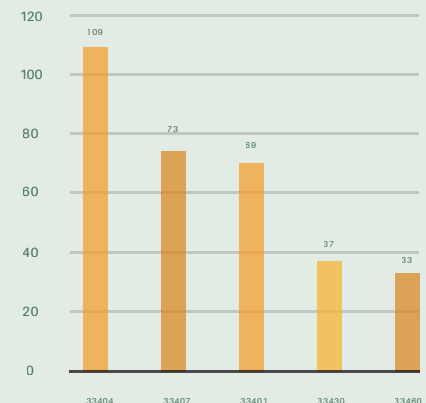
**FY23
Clients
by
Gender**



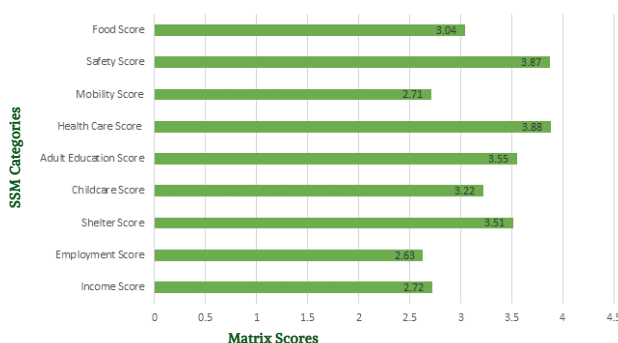
**FY23 SOFI
Clients: Age**



**FY23
SOFI
Clients
per Zip
Codes**



FY23 Average SSM Score



↑41%

Household Income Increase in FY23

Success Stories

CHENET LOUIS-JEAN

In March 2019, the Louis-Jean family embarked on a transformative journey with Community Partners of South Florida's (CPSFL) Securing Our Future Initiative (SOFI) program. Despite facing numerous challenges, including high living expenses and unexpected medical bills that made saving for a down payment difficult, Chenet remained steadfast in their goal of homeownership. "We never thought we could own a home," he shared. "The support we received from the Prosperity Center was incredible. They helped us every step of the way."

Throughout their journey, CPSFL provided unwavering support, helping the family access a variety of resources. These included PBC SHIP grant funds, City of West Palm Beach funds, a matching savings fund through the Homebuyers Club program, a grant from CPSFL, and a lender grant from Regions Bank. This particular deal was notable for the unique collaboration between Palm Beach County (PBC) and the City of West Palm Beach.

The property they purchased was part of the CPSFL Redevelopment Program, which focuses on purchasing and renovating homes in the West Palm Beach area. The culmination of this effort was celebrated on December 12, 2023, when CPSFL hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the renovation. The event was filled with joy, and many photos were taken to commemorate the occasion.

Attending their closing and celebrating this significant milestone with them was a true pleasure. Their success in purchasing their new home is a testament to years of hard work and collaboration, and we are immensely proud to have been part of their journey.



BENTORIA MURPHY

Born and raised in Hollywood, Florida; I grew up in a home filled with boundless love, though financial resources were scarce. In December 2017, I made the move to Boynton Beach with my daughters, embarking on a journey to secure employment while grappling with the challenge of finding affordable daycare. It was then that I discovered the BRIDGES program, which became a lifeline for me. Thanks to BRIDGES, I received a childcare scholarship that alleviated the financial burden.

BRIDGES opened up a world of opportunities for my family. Engaging in Parent Child Activities and Capacity Building Workshops not only enriched our lives but also paved the way for my involvement in leadership groups. However, the most transformative experience came with my connection to the CIRCLES Program.

Joining CIRCLES has been nothing short of life-changing. My motivation was to forge connections within the community and gain a deeper understanding of financial management, both of which I achieved through the program. From budgeting to goal-setting, CIRCLES equipped me with the tools necessary for success. The program even pairs you with an Ally, providing invaluable support and encouragement along the way.

Since becoming a part of the CIRCLES Program, my financial situation has improved significantly. In April, I closed on my new home, and I even published my Teen's Journal on Amazon. Additionally, I founded my own nonprofit, "DiVine Big Sister," aimed at mentoring teen Moms.

Looking ahead, I am determined to expand my nonprofit and share my journey with other parents, hoping to inspire them to join the CIRCLES Program. When I speak about CIRCLES, I emphasize that it's a journey of self-discovery and growth. What you invest in, you will undoubtedly reap, as it truly is a team effort!



JO'RHONDA (SOL) BOOTH

After graduating from The University of Florida, Jo'Rhonda (SoL) Booth returned to her hometown, Belle Glade, FL, facing the harsh reality of post-college life. With no car or money for bus fare, and high expectations from her family as a First-Generation college graduate, she felt lost and unsure about her future. After three months, she moved to West Palm Beach and secured a job at The Breakers as a Banquet Server. However, transportation issues led to her dismissal and eventual eviction. With no other options, she lived outside with her brother for over two months.

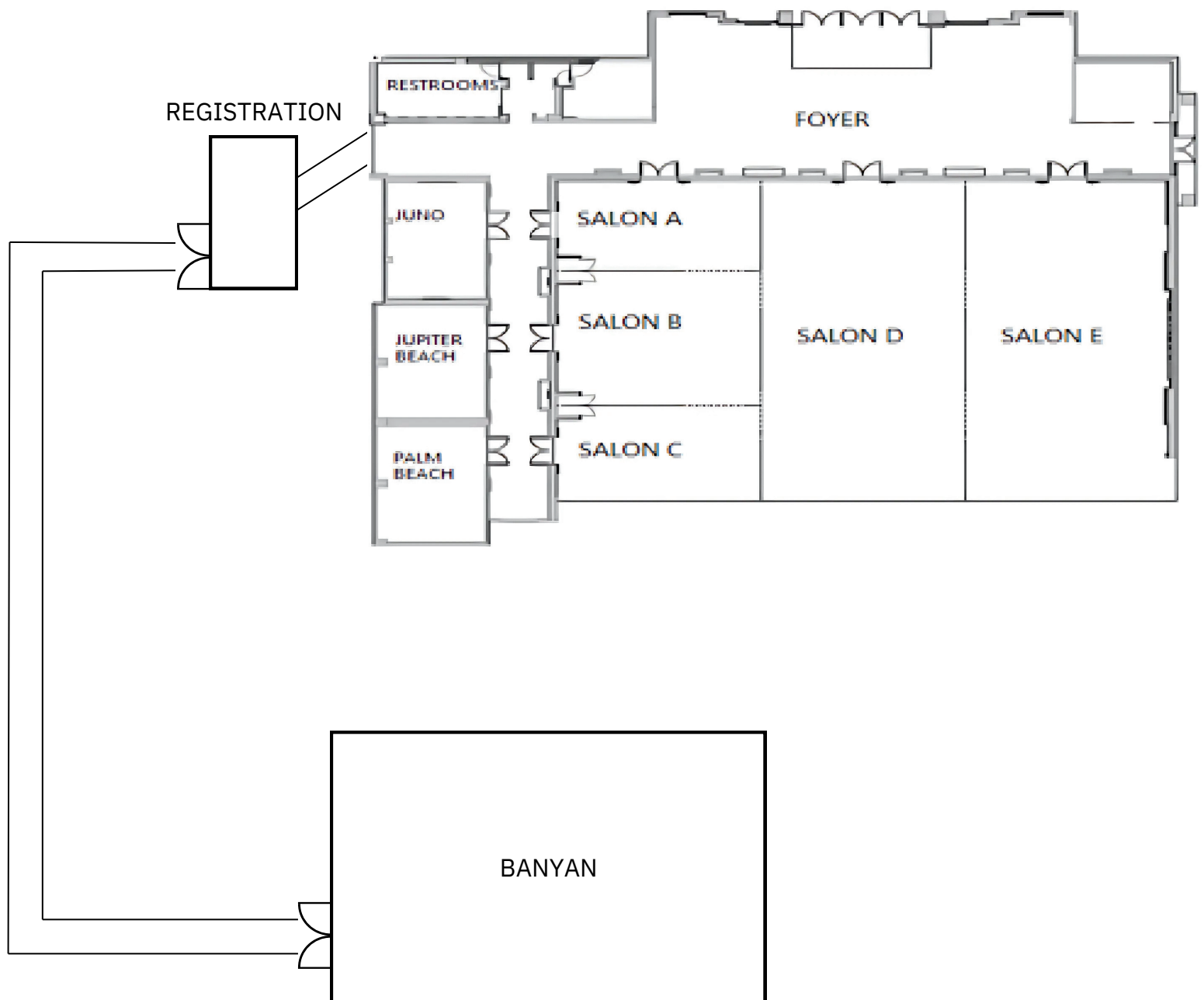
They camped in a field they called "The Spot," but were eventually evicted. This led them to a more exposed area near her storage unit, where they struggled with heat and lack of sleep. Desperate, they sought help from Vita Nova. Vita Nova provided intake assessments, showers, and a sense of community. Jo'Rhonda was admitted to Philip Lewis Center, where she stayed for three months. During this time, she attended courses and workshops, which helped her improve her situation.

After leaving the shelter, Jo'Rhonda lived with supportive individuals and eventually moved into permanent housing provided by Vita Nova. Since May 2024, she has been living at The Village, where she has found peace, mental clarity, and better health. Vita Nova's support has been invaluable, and she is grateful for their guidance and community.

Jo'Rhonda's journey from homelessness to stability is a testament to her resilience and the support of organizations like Vita Nova. Her story highlights the importance of community and the impact of dedicated support systems in transforming lives.



Summit Map



Agenda



9:00AM - 10:30AM

Opening Plenary Session: *Stronger Together: Empowering Local Community Networks to Advance Economic Mobility*; **Banyan**

10:45AM - 12:00PM

Life After Incarceration: *Navigating the Challenges of Re-Entry to Promote Economic Mobility*; **Salon B**

Cultivating Prosperity: *Harnessing the Power of Food Systems for Economic Mobility*; **Salon C**

Empowerment Pathways: *Paving the Way to Economic Independence*; **Salon D**

Health is Wealth: *Advancing Health Equity Through Economic Mobility*; **Salon E**

12:30PM - 1:30PM

Lunch Plenary Session: *Poverty, Place and Race: Exploring the Legacy of Persistent Poverty in Palm Beach County*; **Banyan**

1:45PM - 3:00PM

Nurturing Success: *Exploring Childcare Solutions to Advance Economic Mobility*; **Salon B**

Navigating the Road Ahead: *Advancing Transportation for Economic Mobility*; **Salon C**

Bridging the Gap: *Enhancing Education for Employment in the Digital Age*; **Salon D**

Creating Homes, Creating Futures: *A Collective Effort to Increase Economic Mobility via Access to Affordable Housing*; **Salon E**

3:00PM - 4:00PM

Closing Plenary Session: *Building Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health and Human Services: Addressing Current Challenges and Exploring Future Opportunities*; **Banyan**

Schedule of Events

Scan for Expanded
Speaker Biographies



9:00AM – 10:30AM
BANYAN

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Stronger Together: Empowering Local Community Networks to Advance Economic Mobility

How can community-based organizations (CBOs) and local networks harness the power of Upward Mobility frameworks to drive economic mobility across Palm Beach County? Join us for the opening plenary session of our Summit as we delve into strategies to effectively utilize metrics and tactics to boost upward mobility. Explore how tracking community conditions and reviewing key predictors and indicators can empower our local community networks to achieve economic growth. Don't miss this opportunity to kickstart our journey towards building a stronger, more prosperous community together.

Panelists:

Keith Fudge

Director of Policy Management, *Urban Institute*



Keith leads the Upward Mobility Initiative, focusing on increasing economic and social mobility and racial equity. He has managed projects on evidence-based policymaking strategies. Previously, he worked at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Policy Development and Research and was a senior project manager for the White House Council on Strong Cities, Strong Communities. Fudge holds a BA in English and an MPP from the University of Michigan.

Jennifer Kuiper

Program Director, Resilient Economies and Communities, *National Association of Counties*



Jennifer is the program director for economic and workforce development. She is responsible for leading the Resilient Economies and Communities portfolio which provides thought leadership to counties on issues related to economic mobility, economic development, environment resiliency and disaster recovery. Before joining NACo, Jennifer worked as senior director of policy and evaluation with District Bridges. Prior to that, she served as the executive director of Woodley Park Main Street. Jennifer holds a bachelor's degree in American studies and a Master of Public Policy.

Moderator:

Fabiola "Fab" Brumley

President, *Bank of America Palm Beach County*



Fabiola "Fab" Brumley is leading the integration of the bank's services and leading corporate social responsibility initiatives. She also serves as the Southeast Region Business Banking Executive for Bank of America Merrill Lynch, overseeing a seven-state area. Since starting her career in 1982, Brumley has held various roles, including controller, CFO, commercial lender, and market manager. Actively involved in the community, she serves on several boards and committees, including the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County and the United Way of Palm Beach County. Brumley holds an MBA and a bachelor's degree in accounting from FAU's College of Business.

10:45AM – 12:00PM
SALON B

SAFETY & JUSTICE

Life After Incarceration: Navigating the Challenges of Re-Entry to Promote Economic Mobility

In this session we will explore the various barriers and existing policies that hinder individuals from successfully gaining employment upon re-entering society. Participants will engage in discussions and discover best practices aimed at reducing fines and fees, advancing economic mobility for formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, and fostering supportive employer practices. Topics will include policies recommendations that promote fair hiring practices and enhance economic prospects for citizens re-entering the community.

Panelists:

Brett Taylor

Senior Advisor, Community Justice Team, Center for Justice Innovation



Brett Taylor is a Senior Advisor for the Community Justice Team at the Center for Justice Innovation. He provides technical assistance to the MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge sites in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Palm Beach County. Brett has worked on justice system strategic plans and needs assessments for various states, cities, and tribes. He has led the planning of several community courts and conducts trainings on Procedural Justice, RNR tools, and Restorative Justice practices. Brett was a lead planner for the Red Hook Peacemaking Program and Los Angeles County's Rapid Diversion Program.

Freddie Menard

Assistant State Attorney, State Attorney's Office - 15th Judicial Circuit



Freddie Menard, Esq. is an Assistant State Attorney in the 15th Judicial Circuit in Palm Beach County, Florida. A Haitian-American from Miami, she graduated with honors from Florida A&M University and Florida State University College of Law. Since 2020, she has prosecuted Felony Domestic Violence cases and oversees the Conviction Review and Hate Crime Units. Freddie is also committed to community service and mentoring young lawyers, holding various leadership roles in local bar associations and serving as a governor for the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Board of Governors.

Daniel Eisinger

Public Defender - Elect, Public Defender's Office - Palm Beach County



Daniel, a lifelong resident of Wellington, Florida, and an alumnus of the University of Florida, has been with the Palm Beach County Public Defender's office since 2003. He has extensive experience representing clients in various criminal cases and currently oversees a large team and budget. Daniel is actively involved in initiatives to reduce jail populations and address racial disparities, and he is a member of several professional organizations. He will begin his first term as Public Defender in January 2025.

Jessica Hidalgo

Manager, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Systems



Jessica is the Manager of Criminal Justice Programs at Palm Beach County Public Safety, where she has worked since July 2018. With over 15 years of experience, she manages reentry programs, supports the Full Reentry Task Force, and creates initiatives for people returning from incarceration. Jessica previously facilitated classes in institutions, provided HIV testing and counseling, and developed criminal justice programs. She holds a degree from Boston University and has settled in South Florida with her family.

Moderator:

Angelique J. Pickett

Executive Director, Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission



Angelique has twenty-two years in the public sector arena, including as Director of Crime, Traffic, and Intelligence Analysis with Fairfax County, Virginia, Intelligence Led Policing Manager with Boca Raton, Florida, and Intelligence Lead with the Palm Beach County Threat Management Team. She is a Subject Matter Expert and consultant with the Bureau of Justice Assistance National Training and Technical Assistance Center and with the International Association of Chiefs of Police Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center and owner of Public Safety Analytical Intelligence Consulting.

10:45AM – 12:00PM
SALON C

FOOD & HUNGER

Cultivating Prosperity: Harnessing the Power of Food Systems for Economic Mobility

Join us as we uncover the transformative potential of the food system in driving economic mobility. From strengthening food infrastructure to fostering culinary entrepreneurship, we'll explore a variety of strategies to combat food insecurity and enhance economic prospects. Gain insight into ongoing community projects and expert-endorsed best practices. Discover key initiatives and strategies that boost earning potential. Additionally, we'll spotlight local endeavors that empower individuals through vocational culinary training and foster economic equity in the food sector.

Panelists:

Florence French Fagan

Senior Regional Organizer for the Southeast, *Bread for the World*



Florence's organization is focused on ending hunger. She mobilizes people, churches, nonprofits and universities across the southeast to advance equitable policies for reducing hunger. As an organizer she brings constituents and leaders together to encourage constituents to share their experiences with local policy makers. She is passionate about helping people change their understanding of why poverty exists and discovering ways to make a positive difference.

Jamie Kendall

Chief Executive Officer, *Palm Beach County Food Bank*



With over 25 years of experience in non-profit management, fundraising, and public relations, I am the Chief Executive Officer of Palm Beach County Food Bank, a non-profit organization that provides food to over 150 agencies that feed the hungry in our community. Hunger relief is my passion and my mission, and I am committed to delivering quality food to those who need it most, while raising awareness and funds for our cause.

Julie Kreaflle

Consultant, *United Way Palm Beach County*



Julie has been with the United Way of Palm Beach County as Vice President for Hunger Relief since 2018 and a consultant since 2023. She oversees the Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan. Previously, she worked with Florida Impact to End Hunger for nine years. Her career includes roles at United Way of Broward County, Florida Power & Light Company, Broward Health, and Walt Disney World Co. Julie is a magna cum laude graduate of James Madison University and studied abroad at the University of London. She has served on various boards and community organizations. Julie is married with three children and two granddaughters.

Moderator:

Taruna Malhotra

Deputy Director, *Palm Beach County Community Services Department*



Taruna manages various Health and Human Services programs like Homeless, Seniors, Veterans, Community Action, HIV elimination, and non-profit funding. She oversees a budget of over \$90 million and is responsible for the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the HHS system of care. A dynamic professional, she focuses on access to social services, community welfare, and nonprofit capacity building. Taruna is a problem solver and data-driven leader, contributing to technological innovations and policy changes, earning numerous awards.

10:45AM – 12:00PM
SALON D

EMPLOYMENT

Empowerment Pathways: Paving the Way to Economic Independence

In this session, we'll explore a myriad of innovative approaches aimed at fostering employment and economic empowerment within our community. We'll spotlight initiatives such as Circles and Prosperity Centers, a program dedicated to assisting those living in poverty by offering comprehensive wrap-around services, including employment skills training and social capital development to facilitate their transition out of poverty. We'll also discuss concepts like universal income, pre-employment training, work readiness training, and financial literacy. Join us as we explore these initiatives and discuss their role in promoting economic mobility and empowerment within our community.

Panelists:

Tiffney Marley

Senior Vice President, Practice Transformation
 National Community Action Partnership



Tiffney is the Senior Vice President for Practice Transformation at the DC-Based, National Community Action Partnership (NCAP). She leads training and technical assistance strategies for local Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to build social and economic mobility. Tiffney also focuses on mission alignment, culture shaping, external partnerships, business growth, and equity. With 27 years of experience, she has developed leaders and organizations across various disciplines. Tiffney is a Certified Community Action Professional and a Rx Racial Healing Practitioner, holding degrees from Georgetown University, Duke University, and North Carolina State University.

Kemberly Bush

Chief Executive Officer, Pathways to Prosperity



Kemberly is dedicated to enhancing the well-being of children and families in Palm Beach County through educational and social services. With over 30 years of experience in Social Work, she specializes in addiction, program development, grant writing, and strategic planning. Kemberly is passionate about helping individuals achieve their life visions, reflecting her strong faith in family and God. She has been recognized with multiple awards for her lifelong commitment to service. Beyond her professional responsibilities, Kemberly enjoys community service, traveling with her husband, and spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Kelly Powell

Chief Executive Officer, Community Partners of South Florida



Kelly has been with the organization since 2009. She has made significant contributions in public health and community services, including passing state laws for child passengers and developing public health programs locally, nationally and internationally. Recognized for her innovative leadership, Kelly holds a Bachelor of Science from Virginia Tech. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her family. Looking ahead, Kelly aims to expand CPSFL's outreach programs, enhance partnerships, and implement innovative strategies to address community needs, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration within the organization.

Moderator:

Julia Dattolo

President & CEO, Career Source Palm Beach County, Inc.



Julia has driven positive changes in workforce development at local, state, and national levels. Under her leadership, CareerSource has significantly contributed to regional growth. Julia has established essential collaborations, improving education, career development, and opportunities for Palm Beach County residents. She has been named NonProfit Executive of the Year, Toni Jennings State of Florida Workforce Development Professional of the Year, and Palm Beach North Chamber Woman of the Year. Julia is a military veteran and serves on several boards. She holds degrees from the University of New Hampshire and UCLA.

10:45AM – 12:00PM
SALON E

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Health is Wealth: Advancing Health Equity Through Economic Mobility

This session will focus on the critical intersection of health and economic stability, emphasizing how improving economic mobility can lead to better health outcomes for individuals and families, particularly those facing significant barriers. This session will explore innovative pilot initiatives and proven best practices aimed at supporting the physical and behavioral health needs of families living in poverty and individuals transitioning back to the community from treatment centers and jails. Join us to gain valuable insights, share experiences, and collaborate with fellow participants committed to advancing health equity through economic mobility.

Panelists:

Dr. Eugenia Millender

Professor and Assistant Dean of Research, *Florida State University*



Dr. Millender is a distinguished nurse scientist and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Center of Population Sciences for Health Equity and serves as a Professor and Assistant Dean of Research at Florida State University's College of Nursing. Her research focuses on reducing mental health disparities among underserved populations, examining how stress and trauma contribute to health disparities. Through community-engaged and transnational research, she aims to drive equitable change both nationally and internationally.

Darcy Davis

President & Chief Executive Officer, *Health Care District of Palm Beach County*



Darcy J. Davis is the Health Care District of Palm Beach County's President and Chief Executive Officer. With 30 years of healthcare experience, Darcy has held executive-level positions at rural and academic medical centers – earning recognition as a South Florida Business Journal Power Leader in Healthcare for eight years. Under her leadership, the public safety-net healthcare system's award-winning behavioral health model has been replicated in 29 Florida counties. Darcy continues to enhance healthcare access by remaining vigilant of the community's needs. She serves on the county's Criminal Justice Commission and United Way of Palm Beach County's Hunger Relief Advisory Council.

Dr. Joythi Gunta

Health Director, *Florida Department of Health - Palm Beach County*



Dr. Gunta MD, MPH, recently appointed Director for the Florida Department of Health-Palm Beach County, is board certified in Preventive Medicine/Public Health and Occupational/Environmental Medicine. With a master's in public health, she trained in Pediatrics at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu. Her passion for population health led her to the Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County's Preventive Medicine/Public Health Residency Program in 2016. Post-residency, she became Medical Director for Employee Health and Wellness for Delray Beach, FL, and served as a national consultant with the CDC for COVID-19 Immunization Safety Assessment. She aims to promote population health by eliminating health disparities and inequities.

Moderator:

Andrea Stephenson

Chief Executive Officer, *Health Council of Southeast Florida*



Andrea has three decades of experience in health care and human services, focusing on improving access to health care and promoting health equity. She leads the Health Council of Southeast Florida (HCSEF) and the Lake Okeechobee Rural Health Network (LORHN), both established by Florida Statute to address health disparities and advocate for underserved populations. These organizations also assess the impact of local initiatives. Andrea holds a B.A. in sociology, a master's in health science (MHS), and an MBA, all from the University of Florida.



12:30PM - 1:30PM
BANYAN

LUNCH PLENARY

Poverty, Place and Race: Exploring the Legacy of Persistent Poverty in PBC

Join us for a compelling plenary session addressing the interconnected issues of poverty, race, and place and their impact on upward economic mobility. We'll explore the racial wealth gap, policies that perpetuate poverty, and innovative investment strategies to revitalize neighborhoods. Discover promising initiatives like the Purpose Built Community model, which fosters public-private partnerships for community revitalization. We'll also tackle misconceptions about racial economic progress and examine interventions to provide clearer insights into economic disparities. Join us as we reimagine the power of place to foster economic opportunity and growth, paving the way for a brighter, more equitable future.

Panelists:

Dr. LesLeigh Ford

Associate Director of Office of Race & Equity Research; Urban Institute



Dr. Ford leads and contributes to research and policy advising projects that address racial inequities. Her work includes diversifying the health care workforce, expanding the Black maternal health workforce, and improving access to leadership development programs for racial equity-focused leaders of color. She currently leads an initiative on equitable wealth building and recently launched Black Family Thriving, focusing on wealth building among Black middle-class Americans. Her previous work includes evaluating philanthropic and government-funded grant programs and providing research and advising to inform funder decision making and practice.

Upendo Shabazz

Chief Executive Officer, Northend RISE



Upendo Shabazz, with over 20 years of experience in the nonprofit philanthropic sector, accepted the CEO position at Northend RISE in August 2024. Previously, she served as Regional Vice President for Allegany Franciscan Ministries and held roles at United Way of Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach County School District. Upendo began her career as a social worker and excels in managing people and relationships in the philanthropic sector. She has taught at Barry University and is a frequent speaker on place-based investment and Trust-based philanthropy. Upendo holds degrees from Florida State University and certifications from the University of Miami.

Moderator:

Raphael Clemente

Executive Director, Palm Beach Venture Philanthropy



Raphael is an urban planner and community development leader with over 25 years of experience in South Florida. He worked in both the private and public sectors before joining the West Palm Beach Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in 2006, serving as Executive Director from 2011 to 2024. He led initiatives enhancing quality of life and economic opportunities through placemaking and community-based programs. Now leading Palm Beach Venture Philanthropy (PBVP), a division of Quantum Foundation, Raphael focuses on revitalizing historically disinvested neighborhoods with place-based initiatives designed to creating economic opportunity, improve quality of life, and enhance health outcomes. He lives in West Palm Beach with his family.

1:45PM – 3:00PM
SALON B

CHILDCARE

Nurturing Success: Exploring Childcare Solutions to Advance Economic Mobility

Join us as we dig into the critical topic of childcare and its profound impact on early childhood development and intergenerational income mobility. Explore innovative approaches like employer-sponsored childcare and the pivotal role it plays in supporting working families. Discover the significance of early childcare in shaping future opportunities for children and families. We'll shine a spotlight on local organizations and their tireless efforts to provide quality childcare services to our community. Additionally, we'll discuss policies and programs aimed at enhancing access to affordable childcare for families in need. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, engage, and advocate for solutions that empower our children and families for a brighter future.

Panelists:

Makayla Buchanan

Director of Early Learning and Literacy, Florida Chamber Foundation

Makayla leads Florida's Business Alliance for Early Learning Project at the Florida Chamber Foundation, aiming to make Florida the top state in early learning. She believes in the power of collaboration among business, philanthropic, and education communities to ensure all children are kindergarten ready and reading on grade level by 3rd grade. Previously, she was the Director of Engagement and Partnership at the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations and President & CEO of the Clay Education Foundation. Makayla's background includes roles in government affairs, policy advocacy, and grassroots organizing. She holds a master's degree in public policy from Liberty University.



Laura Conway

Executive Director, Lutheran Services Florida Head Start - Palm Beach County

Laura is a seasoned leader with over 20 years of expertise in non-profit operations and management, specializing in early childhood education and community development. As a Head Start Director, she excels in team leadership, compliance oversight, and strategic program execution. Laura has a proven ability to recruit, train, and develop staff, and has successfully developed and implemented federal budgets, secured grant funding, and achieved accreditation milestones like QRIS 5/5 and NAEYC certification. Previously, she directed operations for Free the Oppressed Foundation, managing children's homes and establishing partnerships across Honduras, Colombia, and El Salvador.



Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor

Chief Executive Officer, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County

Dr. Williams-Taylor has worked for 20 years to oversee prevention and early intervention services for tens of thousands of children and families annually. Last year, the Council funded services for over 52,000 children and families, provided 32,000 childcare, afterschool, and summer camp scholarships, and supported 736 programs. Previously, she served as Chief Program Officer, focusing on research, evaluation, and program operations. Dr. Williams-Taylor holds Master's Degrees in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice, and a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice.



Moderator:

Aruna Gilbert

Chief Program and Policy Officer, Early Learning Coalition

Aruna began her career at the United Nations Environment Program, coordinating the Global Youth Forum on Youth and the Environment. For ten years, she advocated for children with special medical needs as a Medical Foster Care Coordinator at the Florida Department of Children and Families. She also worked as a Behavioral Health Professional in Palm Beach public schools. Since 2005, she has been with the Early Learning Coalition, focusing on high-quality preschool experiences and excellent customer service. Aruna holds a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York at Cortland and a Masters in Social Work from Barry University.



1:45PM – 3:00PM
SALON C

TRANSPORTATION

Navigating the Road Ahead: Advancing Transportation for Economic Mobility

Join us for an insightful discussion on transportation and its pivotal role in fostering economic mobility within our communities. Explore the current state of transportation infrastructure, including potential enhancements like new bus stops and other changes aimed at improving accessibility. Discover innovative initiatives that foster collaboration between the public and private sectors to enhance transportation services. Learn about best practices from across the nation, addressing transportation challenges and promoting equitable access for all. Don't miss this opportunity to contribute to the creation of a more inclusive transportation system for our communities.

Panelists:

Ivan Maldonado

Executive Director, *Palm Tran*



Ivan, a proud Army veteran, has built a reputation as a senior leader in public transportation, operations, and public service over the past 20 years. Since July 2024, he has led Palm Tran, a mid-sized transit agency in Florida, managing a \$174 million budget and overseeing over 400 vehicles that provide more than 7.5 million rides and nearly 1 million paratransit trips annually. Ivan holds a Master's degree in Business Administration, a Doctoral degree in Naturopathy, and several certifications. He is also active in community service, ministry, and competitive track and field events. Ivan is married with five children.

Valerie Nielsen

Executive Director, *Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency*



Valerie is passionate about multimodal transportation and creating healthy, sustainable, and economically vibrant communities. As Executive Director at the Palm Beach Transportation Planning Agency (TPA), she leads efforts to plan, prioritize, and fund transportation projects for all ages and abilities in Palm Beach County. A Leadership Palm Beach County Class of 2016 Alumna, Valerie has held various leadership roles, including Chair of the City of Greenacres Planning Commission and Vice-Chair of the Miami-Dade Health & Built Environment Committee. Fluent in English and Spanish, she has over 17 years of experience in strategic planning and project management, with degrees from Florida State University.

David Dech

Executive Director, *South Florida Regional Transportation Authority*



David has 27 years in the rail industry and experience in both freight and commuter rail service. Dech has overseen the expansion of Tri-Rail service into Downtown Miami and has a background in designing, constructing, and opening rail yards. He began his career as a switchman for CSX and progressed to Vice President of Rail Operations for Capital Metro. Dech has led significant projects, including the installation of the EATC/PTC system and maintaining high on-time performance for commuter services.

Moderator:

Sharon L'Herrou

President & CEO, *211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast*



Joining the 211 Palm Beach/Treasure Coast staff in 2014, Sharon has served as President/CEO since 2016. With a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and over 20 years of experience in social services and management, she has launched initiatives such as a new Veterans' Program, Crisis Chat Initiative, and 24/7 Texting Services. Named chair for the Florida Alliance for Information and Referrals Systems in 2020, Sharon is a strong advocate for suicide prevention and crisis counseling. She has significantly raised 211's profile in the community, demonstrating integrity, passion, and dedication to the bigger picture.

1:45PM – 3:00PM
SALON D

EDUCATION

Bridging the Gap: Enhancing Education for Employment in the Digital Age

Join us for an enlightening session on empowering tomorrow's workforce, today. Explore education's role in addressing the skills gap and preparing individuals for the evolving workforce demands. Explore strategies to identify and focus on the essential skills needed by potential employers and collaborating with the educational system to integrate them into tailored curriculum. Discover the realm of AI and Cybersecurity, uncovering the certifications required for increasing employment opportunities in these growing fields. Explore best practices from national partners or communities actively working to bridge the gap between education and employment, offering invaluable insights into effective strategies for success. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the conversation and contribute to shaping the future of education and employment in the digital age.

Panelists:

Dr. Adam Phyll III

Director of Professional Learning & Leadership, *All4Ed*



Dr. Phyll III is dedicated to enhancing education through technology. With over two decades of experience, he began as a high school science teacher, quickly recognizing technology's transformative potential. He supports educators in integrating digital tools, ensuring equitable access for all students. At Future Ready Schools, he leads initiatives to foster digital literacy, cybersecurity, and innovative teaching. A respected speaker and thought leader, Dr. Phyll frequently presents at national conferences and contributes to educational publications. His work is driven by a deep commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring every student can thrive in a rapidly evolving digital world. His philosophy on teaching is "if you're having fun teaching it, then your students will have fun learning it."

Dr. Ava Parker

President, *Palm Beach State College*



Dr. Parker has served as president of Palm Beach State College (PBSC) since 2015, leading significant growth and advancements in student success. Under her leadership, PBSC opened a fifth campus, increased student enrollment and workforce partnerships, and expanded facilities for allied health and technology professions. PBSC was also selected as an Amazon Career Choice education partner and has received more than 60 Resource and Grant Development Awards totaling \$47.5 million. Parker is actively involved in various national and local organizations. She has received numerous accolades, including the Distinguished Member Award from Leadership Florida, South Florida 2022 Ultimate CEO Award, and was named to the 2024 Florida 500 list of the state's most influential business leaders.

Michael J. Burke

Superintendent, *School District of Palm Beach County*



As the Superintendent of the A-Rated School District of Palm Beach County, Mr. Michael Burke is passionate about ensuring academic excellence and paving the way to post-graduate success for the District's more than 170,000 students who attend 182 district-operated schools. He is deeply committed to the School Board's mission to educate, affirm, and inspire each student in an equity-embedded school system. As Superintendent of the tenth-largest district in the nation, Mr. Burke also oversees Palm Beach County's largest workforce. The District employs nearly 23,000 people.

Moderator:

Michele Jacobs

President & CEO, *Economic Council of Palm Beach County*



Michele has over 30 years of leadership experience in strategic planning, marketing, budgeting, and operations. She joined the Council in 2017 and was promoted in 2018. Michele oversees all strategic and operational aspects of the Council, participates in the legislative process, and collaborates with the public sector. Previously, she was the Corporate Director of Marketing and Operations at The Forbes Company. She has also held senior executive roles in the retail industry and actively volunteers for various charitable organizations.

1:45PM – 3:00PM
SALON E

HOUSING

Creating Homes, Creating Futures: A Collective Effort to Increase Economic Mobility via Access to Affordable Housing

Join us for a vital discussion on housing as an essential need and the collective efforts underway to increase housing accessibility and affordability in Palm Beach County. Explore strategies to leverage housing initiatives to advance economic independence and stabilize communities. Topics will include effective utilization of the Housing Dashboard, homeless prevention strategies focusing on eviction prevention, and other initiatives aimed at increasing access to affordable housing. Gain insights into collaborative efforts with Housing Authorities, emphasizing governance and boosting economic mobility through self-sufficiency models to end homelessness for families across our community. Discover the importance of sealing eviction records for housing stability and economic prosperity. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the solution in addressing housing challenges and building a better future for our communities.

Panelists:

Ashon Nesbitt

Chief Executive Officer, *Florida Housing Coalition*



Ashon is recognized for his leadership in community and nonprofit sectors. Previously, he served as Chief Programs Officer and Technical Advisor, leading initiatives like the Community Land Trust Institute and the Center for Racial Equity. Nesbitt has significantly expanded and professionalized Community Land Trusts in Florida, creating the first-of-its-kind Community Land Trust Certification Program. He holds two Master's Degrees from the University of Florida in Urban and Regional Planning and Real Estate, and a Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies from Florida A&M University.

Suzanne Cabrera

President & CEO, *Housing Leadership Council of Palm Beach County, Inc.*



The HLC is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization founded in 2006 by community and business leaders to address workforce/affordable housing issues. The organization is an action-oriented coalition of businesses, civic, and community leaders working to increase the availability and attainability of housing for area residents. Specifically, Mrs. Cabrera works on the development and preservation of affordable/workforce housing including financing of projects through private and public sources and addressing regulatory barriers that increase the cost of housing.

Wendy Tippet

Director, *Palm Beach County Human Services and Community Action*



Wendy has over 35 years of experience with nonprofits and government organizations. She holds degrees in Sociology and Nonprofit Management, and certifications as a Nationally Certified Grant Writer, Fund Development, and Six Sigma Green Belt. Wendy began her career working with abused and neglected teens before moving into services for homeless families. She has been instrumental in initiatives to end youth and veteran homelessness and innovative street-to-work programs. Wendy serves on several boards and is recognized as a national trainer in Shared Housing. Her awards include the Golden Palm Award and the Ending Youth Homelessness Award.

Moderator:

Jonathan Brown

Director, *Palm Beach County Housing & Economic Development*



Jonathan has over 20 years of experience in affordable, workforce, and market rate housing, economic development, banking, and lending. He has served as the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Manager and the Northwest Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Manager for the City of Fort Lauderdale. Jonathan holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Eastern Michigan University and is a graduate of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators – Executive Leadership Institute. He is also certified as a Redevelopment Professional, Economic Development Finance Professional, Green Belt for process improvements, Homeownership Counselor, and Master Trainer.



3:00PM - 4:00PM
BANYAN

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Building Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Health and Human Services:

Addressing Current Challenges and Exploring Future
Opportunities

We will close our Summit with the crucial topic and discussion of building Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Health and Human Services to advance economic mobility. Explore how AI and other existing technologies can be leveraged to address current challenges and unlock future opportunities in the health and human services sector. Join us for this final session as we discuss innovative strategies and potential applications of AI to enhance service delivery, improve client outcomes, and streamline administrative processes. Don't miss this opportunity to be at the forefront of revolutionizing the health and human services sector with the integration of AI.

Panelists:

Ronnie Thomas

Specialist Leader - Strategy & Analytics, Deloitte Consulting



Ronnie is a Strategy & Analytics Specialist leader at Deloitte with over 15 years of experience in AI, business, and technology for public sector clients. He excels in leading cross-functional teams to deliver innovative AI solutions, focusing on digital strategies that enhance operational efficiency, customer engagement, and service quality. Ronnie specializes in Digital Transformation, Applied AI, Generative AI, Intelligent Automation, Conversational AI, and Advanced Analytics. He holds a Bachelor's in Computer Science, an MBA in Strategy and IT, and certifications in Telecommunication and AI Strategy, combining technical acumen with a deep understanding of public sector challenges.

Archie Satchell

Chief Information Officer, Palm Beach County



Archie has a distinguished 40-year career in public service, holding key executive leadership positions, including Chief Information Officer, Deputy Chief Information Officer, and Director of Application Development. He fosters collaborative partnerships across local government, non-profit entities, and educational institutions to establish a resilient and secure infrastructure. Archie holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Northwood University. He is an active member of professional associations such as the Florida Local Government Information Systems Association (FLGISA), the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Telecommunications & Technology Committee, and NACo's County Technology Advisory Council.

Taruna Malhotra

Deputy Director, Palm Beach County Community Services Department



Taruna manages various Health and Human Services programs like Homeless, Seniors, Veterans, Community Action, HIV elimination, and non-profit funding. She oversees a budget of over \$90 million and is responsible for the assessment, planning, implementation, and evaluation of the HHS system of care. A dynamic professional, she focuses on access to social services, community welfare, and nonprofit capacity building. Taruna is a problem solver and data-driven leader, contributing to technological innovations and policy changes, earning numerous awards

Sponsorships

Community Impact Sponsor \$15,000



PALM BEACH
VENTURE PHILANTHROPY

A DIVISION OF **QUANTUM FOUNDATION**

Opening Reception Sponsor \$10,000



PNC

Ally Sponsor

\$5,000



GREAT
CHARITY
CHALLENGE

Family Sponsor

\$5,000



Engagement Sponsor

\$5,000



FPL®

Workforce Sponsor

\$2,000



UNITED WAY
Palm Beach County

Supporting Sponsors

\$500

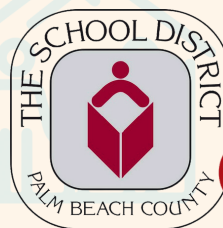
BANK OF AMERICA



Jewish Federation
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



Valley
BANK





WHO WE ARE

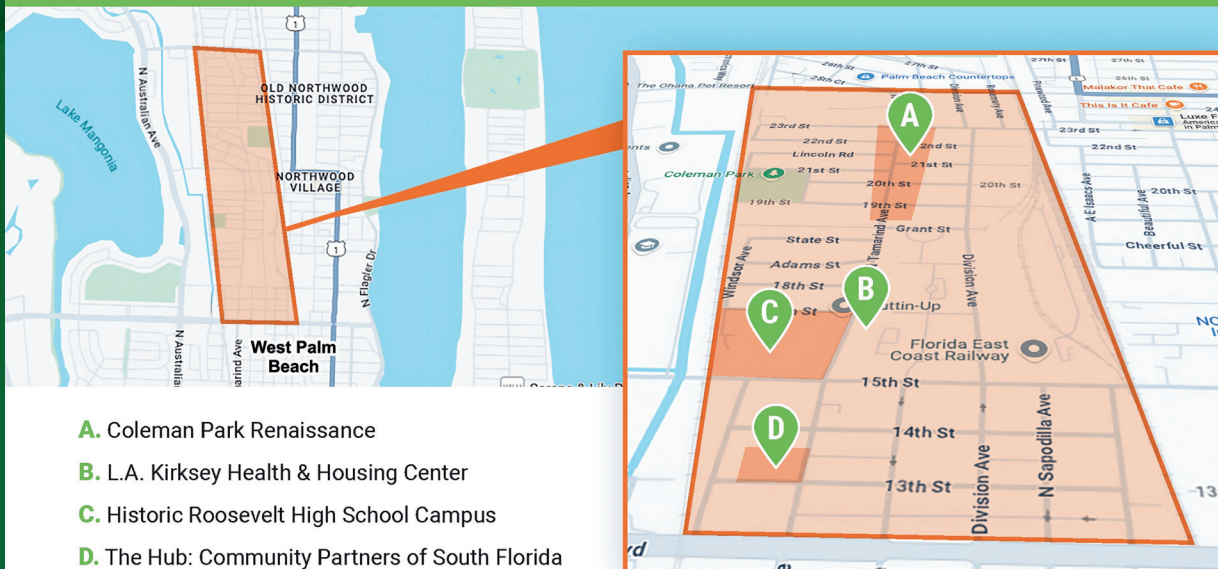
Palm Beach Venture Philanthropy's (PBVP) primary goal is to support and enhance Quantum Foundation's mission to inspire and fund initiatives that improve the health of communities by using long-term investments and initiatives that go beyond providing just financial support.

This will be accomplished by developing solutions and securing capital to tackle persistent socio-economic challenges in underinvested communities.

PBVP was established in 2023 after Quantum Foundation's board and staff recognized the need for greater impact in the communities they serve. Despite awarding \$175 million to local nonprofit organizations in Palm Beach County over the past 30 years, economic mobility in the county's underinvested neighborhoods remained stagnant.

PBVP supports the people of a community by catalyzing investment in place and programs. We are piloting our initial efforts in partnership with Northend RISE as the Community Quarterback in Coleman Park.

PROJECTS WE ARE SUPPORTING IN COLEMAN PARK



- A. Coleman Park Renaissance
- B. L.A. Kirksey Health & Housing Center
- C. Historic Roosevelt High School Campus
- D. The Hub: Community Partners of South Florida

Organizations we are supporting to improve Social Determinants of Health in Coleman Park (through Quantum's Stronger Communities Initiative):

Community Partners of South Florida • Habitat for Humanity Greater Palm Beach County • Heart, Health, & Healing Ministries • Inner City Innovators • Legal Aid Society of Palm Beach County • Neighborhood Renaissance • Pathways to Prosperity • Rose Trolley • U.B. Kinsey Educational and Community Center

LEARN MORE AT PBVP.ORG



BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

At Community Partners of South Florida, we are committed to investing in Palm Beach County residents with transformative solutions in education, housing, health, and economic development. Our mission is to create a thriving, inclusive community where opportunity, prosperity, and a high quality of life are accessible to all.

OUR IMPACT

From financial literacy training to accessible housing programs, CPSFL breaks down barriers and opens doors for families and individuals. Our approach provides not only immediate support but also long-term resources for stability, independence, and growth.

PARTNER WITH US

With your partnership, we can extend our reach even further. Supporting CPSFL means investing in brighter futures for children, stronger foundations for families, and a more resilient community. Together, we can create lasting change and build a prosperous Palm Beach County for everyone.

LET'S BUILD A STRONGER PALM BEACH COUNTY TOGETHER!



561.841.3500



cpsfl.org





A strong community can do brilliant things.

At PNC, we're proud to live and work among
the people and organizations that dedicate
themselves to making our communities brilliant.

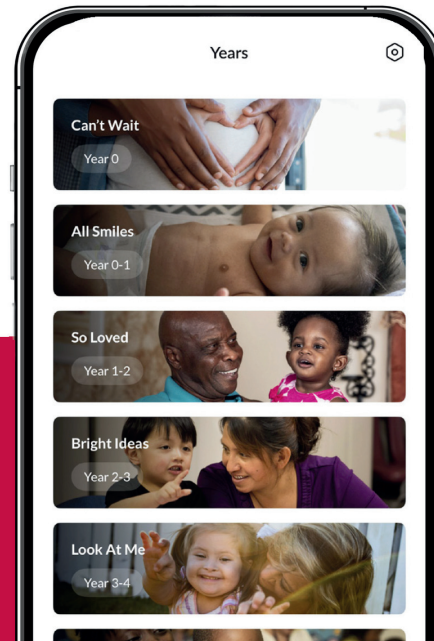


Brilliantly Boring is a service mark of The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
©2024 The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. All rights reserved. PNC Bank, National Association. Member FDIC.

The **EveryParent App** is better than ever!

Access local parenting resources, expert advice, engaging content, fresh videos, things to do and more!

- Weekly updates on fun 'Things to Do' in your community
- Timely notifications with info specific to your child's age
- Videos and articles that answer your toughest parenting questions
- Connections to Palm Beach County resources and programs that can help



Download the **FREE** app today!



Join us for the 16th Annual
GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE
 Saturday, February 1, 2025
 at
 Wellington International

WELLINGTON INTERNATIONAL
GREAT CHARITY CHALLENGE

Sponsored by **Fidelity**

Celebrating Global Music

WWW.GREATCHARITYCHALLENGE.COM



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners
Maria Marino, Gregg Weiss, Joel Flores,
Marci Woodward, Maria Sachs, Sara Baxter, Bobby Powell
County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker



www.pbcgov.com/communityservices