

A Nation That Works: What's It Going To Take?
2016 National Conference on Ending Chronic Unemployment and Poverty
DRAFT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

9:00a.m. Conference Registration Opens

11:30a.m. – 4:00p.m. Site Visits and Concurrent Pre-Conference Institutes

During the conference registration process, attendees will have the option of selecting **either** a site visit or a pre-conference institute to participate in. Site visits and pre-conference institutes have a limited number of seats and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Attendees will be contacted closer to the date of the conference to confirm participation, and additional details about the site visit or pre-conference institute will be provided. Attendees will only be able to select one session in which to participate.

Site Visits

Site visits will kick off with a group lunch at [Inspiration Kitchens](#) in Chicago's Garfield Park neighborhood. Inspiration Kitchens is a social enterprise restaurant that offers contemporary American cuisine prepared and served by students and graduates of their award-winning food service training program. Attendees will enjoy a great meal while learning how Inspiration Kitchen helps jobseekers facing barriers to employment gain the skills they need to succeed in work. Following lunch, attendees will head to their pre-selected program site. Transportation will be provided.

Bright Endeavors

Location: 4015 West Carroll Avenue, Chicago, IL 60624

Bright Endeavors lights the way out of poverty for young moms who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness by teaching them to craft premium soy candles in a supportive, professional environment. Through their paid transitional jobs program, Bright Endeavors provides the guidance and job skills young moms need to secure quality employment and achieve a lifetime of personal success. Bright Endeavors is a social enterprise of New Moms, a holistic social service organization that is a subgrantee of the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) program and a member of REDF's national portfolio.

Sweet Beginnings

Location: 3726 West Flourney Street, Chicago, IL 60624

Launched in 2004 with seed money from the Illinois Department of Corrections, Sweet Beginnings provides transitional jobs opportunities for residents of Chicago's North Lawndale community who face significant barriers to employment, including people returning home from incarceration. Sweet Beginnings makes and sells an all-natural line of raw honey and honey-infused body care products, extracting their honey from an urban apiary in the heart of Chicago. Sweet Beginnings' parent organization is the North Lawndale Employment Network, which aims to improve the earnings potential of North Lawndale residents.

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Chicago FarmWorks

Location: 407 North Kedzie Avenue, Chicago, IL 60612

Viable employment and healthy food are human rights, not luxuries. Chicago FarmWorks fights two issues associated with poverty: unemployment and hunger/healthy food access. Utilizing a two acre farm in Chicago's East Garfield Park neighborhood, Chicago FarmWorks distributes over 30,000 servings of produce each year at no cost to 1,400 persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families. FarmWorks also helps more than 30 community residents overcome barriers to employment and find full-time, long-term jobs through FarmWorks' transitional jobs program. In addition to working on the farm, participants work at the Greater Chicago Food Depository warehouse, earning valuable experience in urban agriculture, warehousing, and logistics. Since 2013, 83 percent of graduates have transitioned to long-term employment with pay rates averaging \$10 per hour even before this became Chicago's minimum wage.

Pre-Conference Institutes

What Can Social Return on Investment (SROI) Do For You?

Instructor: Amy Terpstra, Director of Research, Social IMPACT Research Center, Heartland Alliance

As social service leaders, we're routinely fielding questions from funders and policymakers about whether investments into our programs are really worth it—and it's often difficult to understand and communicate in a holistic way the true impact of the programs and activities we care about. A social return on investment (SROI) expands our understanding of a program's value beyond traditional financial outcomes by putting social and environmental benefits on the same playing field as financial benefits. This is especially important in the social services sector, where so much of the work does not appear to have an immediate financial outcome—an SROI recognizes social and environmental outcomes as equally important and ascribes them financial value as well. This interactive and hands-on pre-conference institute will introduce leaders from community-based organizations to the ins-and-outs of SROI. By the end of the session, attendees will appreciate the importance of crafting value propositions, understand SROI principles and steps and the important role program data play in SROI, and leave with a rough draft of their program's SROI framework.

Creating Opportunity for Homeless Jobseekers: Connecting Income, Employment, and Housing Supports

Instructors: Chris Warland, Associate Director of Field Building, National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity, Heartland Alliance
& Carl Wiley, National Center on Employment & Homelessness Coordinator, National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity, Heartland Alliance

Employment in quality job is key to preventing and ending homelessness. Although most people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness want to work, many face significant barriers to getting and keeping jobs. Many others are working but not earning enough to make ends meet or keep a stable roof over their heads. Access to employment, earned income, and housing supports are critical to assisting people experiencing homelessness regain their

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footing and move toward stability and economic security. This pre-conference institute will lift up the importance of earned income as a pathway for individuals and families to exit homelessness, remain housed, and improve overall health and wellbeing. Attendees will come away knowing what the research evidence says about connecting homeless jobseekers to employment and why and how service providers should prioritize access to employment for people experiencing homelessness. Because a key principle of this training is that virtually anyone can if work if they have the right supports, attendees will also gain a deeper understanding of the “employment first” philosophy and the importance of providing access to employment supports at the beginning of service engagement.

Applying Therapeutic Approaches in an Employment Setting: Motivational Interviewing 101
Instructor: Valery Shuman, Senior Director, Heartland Center for Systems Change, Heartland Health Outreach, Inc.

Motivational Interviewing is a client-centered method utilized to enhance motivation for change and resolve ambivalence. This introductory training will explore how motivational interviewing strategies can be used to guide engagement and relationship building in the context of employment case management. Training participants will learn how motivational interviewing can be used to engage consumers in employment services and assess readiness, willingness, and ability for change. Attendees are asked to bring case examples for the group to utilize for practice of motivational interviewing skills.

Transforming Impossible into Possible (TIP): Psychological Self-Sufficiency and Employment Success

Instructor: Dr. Philip Hong, Professor, School of Social Work, Loyola University Chicago

Dr. Hong developed the Transforming Impossible into Possible (TIP) program to help low-income jobseekers transition from long-term unemployment to employment through the development of Psychological Self-Sufficiency. This session will provide an introduction to TIP, an evidence-informed group intervention model in workforce development that empowers participants to develop self-awareness, confidence, hope, goal-orientation, leadership, accountability, conscientiousness, and grit in order to improve both employment and retention outcomes. At the core of these skills is the social and emotional well-being which is crucial to an individual's success finding a job and personal advancement in the workplace. The session will address how the TIP program can be best implemented for positive employment process and outcomes, how TIP can be evaluated with sound measures, and how the program can be replicated in other settings for greater impact.

4:00p.m. Funders Together to End Homelessness Discussion: Economic Security and Homelessness (*Funders Only*)

Funders Together to End Homelessness invites you to join funders from across the country to discuss the importance of employment and economic security in ending homelessness. This meeting will allow you connect with other funders interested in moving this

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conversation forward and in identifying concrete ways to improve economic security and ultimately prevent and end homelessness.

If you are interested in joining this conversation, please contact Jennifer Olney at jennifer@funderstogether.org.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016

7:00a.m. Registration Opens/Breakfast Available

8:30 – 10:00a.m. Morning Plenary Session

Ensuring Economic Equity for ALL: A Discussion with National Leaders

- Evelyn Diaz, President, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
- Angela Glover Blackwell, President and Chief Executive Officer, PolicyLink (*invited*)

10:15a.m - 11:45a.m. Concurrent Workshops & Panels

12:00 - 1:30p.m. Lunch & Plenary Session

Creating Employment Opportunities for ALL: A National Subsidized Employment Program

- Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Director, Project on Deep Poverty and Senior Fellow, Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality (*invited*)

1:45:-2:45p.m. Concurrent Discussion Sessions

3:00-4:30p.m. Concurrent Workshops & Panels

5:00 – 6:00p.m. Reception

Ensuring the Power of Business Works for ALL: Leveraging Social Enterprise Strategies for the Chronically Unemployed

- Carla Javits, President, REDF

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016

7:30a.m. Breakfast Available

8:00a.m. Registration Open

8:30 - 10:00a.m. Concurrent Workshops and Panels

10:15 - 11:15a.m. Concurrent Discussion Sessions

11:30a.m - 1:00p.m. Concurrent Workshops and Panels

1:00 - 1:15p.m. Travel to Lunch

1:15p.m. - 3:00p.m. Lunch & Plenary Session

Advancing a Nation that Works for ALL: A Policy Platform for a New Administration

- Melissa Young, Director, Heartland Alliance's National Initiatives on Poverty & Economic Opportunity

3:00p.m. Adjourn