

Virtual Workshop: Building and Strengthening Local Coalitions to Advance Upward Mobility in Your Community

Speaker Biographies

Martha Fedorowicz is a training and technical assistance manager in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute, where she works with local government agencies, philanthropic organizations, and nonprofits to conduct policy research, provide technical assistance, and translate research into practical tools for policymakers. Her policy areas of interest include economic development, affordable housing, mobility from poverty, and community engagement. Before joining Urban, Fedorowicz was a special projects administrator with the City of Lansing's Department of Neighborhoods and Citizen Engagement and a summer policy associate in the City of Detroit's Department of Neighborhoods. Fedorowicz has a bachelor's degree in political science and French and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Michigan; she also served as a youth development Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco from 2012 to 2014.

Julie Mullen serves as the City of Alexandria's Economic Mobility Officer in the Department of Community and Human Services. In her role, she launched and manages the city's guaranteed income pilot, Alexandria's Recurring Income for Success and Equity (ARISE). She also leads efforts to increase conditions for economic mobility for city residents. Before working at the city, Julie provided leadership and set strategic direction as the Director of Workforce Development at Northern Virginia Family Service where she worked for seven years. Prior to that, Julie worked in youth development at Year Up, where she cultivated partnerships to support career opportunities for graduates and a robust alumni community. Julie also worked in economic development in rural Oregon where her portfolio included providing technical assistance and access to capital to entrepreneurs and building opportunities for youth entrepreneurship in partnership with the local high school. Julie started her career as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Dominican Republic. She graduated from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations with minors in Economics and Spanish and earned her Master of Business Administration from Brandeis University. Julie lives with her husband and three young sons in Arlington, Virginia.

Joseph Schilling is a senior research associate in the Research to Action Lab at the Urban Institute. He is also a fellow with the Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program, led by the University of Minnesota with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. As a strategic adviser and national expert on reclaiming vacant properties, urban sustainability, and municipal and civic capacity building, Schilling works with public officials and community leaders in designing and developing new models for urban regeneration and neighborhood revitalization. An accomplished public policy facilitator, he has led dozens of research, policy, and community forums. His field work is a living laboratory for applied research, policy storytelling, and technical assistance by extracting and disseminating innovative models through case studies, translation briefs, and roundtables. In 2010, Schilling founded the Vacant Properties Research Network, a dynamic hub for policy and research translation involved with regenerating legacy cities. More recently, Schilling helped Memphis, Tennessee, develop the nation's first neighborhood blight-elimination charter. In 2015, he led a comprehensive literature synthesis on blight for the national nonprofit Keep America Beautiful and finished an evaluation of the Strong Cities, Strong Communities urban fellowship program for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Before joining Urban, Schilling was associate director and senior fellow for Virginia Tech's Metropolitan Institute. He holds an LLM in environmental law

from the George Washington University and a JD from Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco, California.

Julie Weiner is the Chief Development Officer (CDO) at CommUnify (www.communifysb.org) in Santa Barbara, CA. Ms. Weiner has more than 30 years experience of driving revenue in the nonprofit, arts, education, and corporate sectors, and has been leading Santa Barbara County's Upward Mobility Coalition. Before joining the CommUnify team, Ms. Weiner served as Chief Development Officer for the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara where she led all fundraising efforts. Prior to that, Ms. Weiner served as Director of Development for UC Santa Barbara's Division of Humanities and Fine Arts for 5 ½ years where she was responsible for major gifts. Ms. Weiner is a former television and software executive, serving as Director of International Sales at numerous television production entities and at Citrix Online before co-founding the cloud computing company NTRglobal. During her media and technology career she worked both nationally and internationally. Ms. Weiner holds an MFA in Writing for Screen and Stage from Point Park University, Pittsburgh; a D.E.S.S. graduate degree in Law, Management, and Audiovisual Communications from the Pantheon-Sorbonne University in Paris, France, and a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications from UCLA.