



2024 Poverty Summit

PRESENTED BY THE
SHRIVER CENTER ON POVERTY LAW



JANUARY 18, 2024 | CHICAGO, IL & HYBRID

**Shriver
Center on
Poverty
Law**

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear changemakers,

Thank you for joining us at our 2024 Poverty Summit. Exactly 60 years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the War on Poverty, the national commitment that led to the formation of the Shriver Center. What have we achieved since the launch? And where do we go next to further our shared vision for a nation without poverty and racism?

Results of the War on Poverty have been mixed. Today, we will together examine the initiative's successes and failures, and explore how we shift focus from helping individuals to changing systems of inequity. We hope you walk away energized, optimistic and continuing to do the work.


Poverty is a policy choice — and we can make better choices in the future. We can invest in communities and families, so we all thrive together. Together, we can Change Rules, Change Lives, and create economic and racial justice.



Sincerely,
Audra Wilson
President & CEO, Shriver Center on Poverty Law

OUR HISTORY

The Shriver Center was born out of Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty, which was declared exactly 60 years ago this month. Because of our history, we hold a unique position in the fight for racial and economic justice, having worked closely with presidential administrations, civil rights leaders, legislatures, legal experts, and — most importantly — people with lived experience.



AGENDA

- 8:00 a.m. **Registration and networking**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome session**
- 9:30 a.m. **Keynote address from Matthew Desmond**
- 10:30 a.m. **Break and book signing**
- 11:00 a.m. Session 1
Building Better Solutions to Ensure Housing is a Human Right
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. Session 2
Securing Children’s Futures: Return to Family and Community-Based Supports
- 2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:45 p.m. Session 3
Innovating for the Next 60 Years: Entrepreneurism as a Tool for Economic Mobility
- 4:00 p.m. **Closing Session**

MATTHEW DESMOND, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MacArthur “Genius” and Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond is the author of the instant #1 New York Times bestseller *Poverty, by America* and the 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Desmond is the Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology, and the founder and principal investigator of The Eviction Lab (www.evictionlab.org) at Princeton University.



SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND SPEAKERS

Session 1

Building Better Solutions to Ensure Housing is a Human Right

This panel will focus on solutions and strategies, including ensuring access to quality housing, increasing the supply of affordable homes, and eliminating barriers to choice of housing.

Moderator



Kate Walz
Associate Director of
Litigation, National
Housing Law Project

Introduction by



Eric Sirota
Director of Housing
Justice, Shriver Center
on Poverty Law

Panelists



Avalon Betts-Gaston
Executive Director,
Illinois Alliance for
Reentry and Justice



Michelle J. Gilbert
Legal and Policy
Director, Law Center
for Better Housing



Lilly Lerner
Executive Director,
Tenant Education
Network

Session 2

Securing Children's Futures: Return to Family and Community-Based Supports

The child welfare and foster systems include built-in racial biases that result in ill-informed decisions to remove Black children disproportionately from their parents, rather than strengthening their families through increased supports. But Black children, like all children, need the care of their parents and their communities. We will discuss the system's greatest challenges and elevate actions that we can take to effect change and advance racial equity at all levels.

Moderator



Anita Weinberg

Director, Child Law Policy Institute and Legislation & Policy Clinic, Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Introduction by



Vanessa Y. White

Director of Community and Family Justice, Shriver Center on Poverty Law

Panelists



Bonita Carr

Chief Executive Officer, Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County



Carley Riley

Attending Physician and Director of Community Systems Science, Michael Fisher Child Health Equity Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital



Carmyn Tassone

Lived Experience Expert



Tina Lewis

Assistant Public Defender, Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

Session 3

Innovating for the Next 60 Years: Entrepreneurism as a Tool for Economic Mobility

Small businesses are huge for the economy: more than 90 percent of all enterprises in the U.S. have fewer than five employees. Creating and owning a business is a way to achieve financial stability and build generational wealth. Support for entrepreneurs, especially entrepreneurs of color, calls for better policies and more access to capital. We will explore strategies, tools, and assets to encourage entrepreneurship and investment in individuals and communities.

Moderator



Shannon McGhee

Vice President of Programs & Engagement, mHUB

Panelists



Jeffery Beckham, Jr.

CEO of Chicago Scholars,
Co-Founder of Reach
Pathways



Kelly Evans

Vice President of
Entrepreneurship and
Economic Development,
Chicago Urban League



Karen Goldner

Managing Director of
Established Business Program
and Services, Women's
Business Development Center



Stephanie Hickman

President and CEO, Trice
Construction Company



LaTanya Jackson Wilson

Vice President of Advocacy,
Shriver Center on Poverty Law

SHRIVER CENTER MERCH

Shirt
\$20



Tote Bag
\$12



Order your merch by scanning the QR code. Items will be available for pick-up during the breaks and lunch



You can support our work directly by donating to accelerate our mission.

The belief that the future is worth fighting for is core to the Shriver Center's work. We will always continue to push for policies that support families and prioritize keeping them together. To create change where it's needed most, we'll collaborate with networks and coalitions, while supporting movements. When we all work together, we can build a better future where we all thrive together.



Give to support our mission at www.povertylaw.org/donate.



2024 Annual

gala

Changing Rules. Changing Lives.

APRIL 11, 2024 | 6:00 P.M.

The Bridgeport Art Center

1200 W 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60609

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For more information, please visit our website at povertylaw.org/sponsor-gala-2024 or contact Erin Dowland Kabwe, Vice President of Development, at erinkabwe@povertylaw.org.