

## JOINT WEBINAR

# EQUIPPING COMMUNITIES TO EQUITABLY USE ARPA FUNDING

### WHEN:

NOVEMBER 11, 2021 | 12:30 - 2:00 PM ET

The American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law in March 2021, includes \$350 billion in fiscal relief for states, counties, and cities to fund the social and economic recovery from the pandemic, with considerable effects on health, equity, and well-being of communities. Join us for a webinar, jointly hosted with The Funders Forum on Accountable Health and the Georgia Health Policy Center, featuring presentations and discussion about how communities can make allocation decisions with equity in mind.

*NOTE: This webinar and any associated resources do not necessarily represent the views of any one organization, the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement, or the National Academies and have not been subjected to the review procedures of, nor are they a reports or products of, the National Academies.*

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**Please share with your networks.**

Questions? Contact Alina Baciu ([abaciu@nas.edu](mailto:abaciu@nas.edu)).

## **PANELISTS:**

**Karrah Herring**  
State of Indiana

**Jeff Levi &  
Marsha Lillie-  
Blanton**  
George Washington  
University

**Xavier Morales**  
Praxis Project

## **MODERATOR:**

**Sheri Johnson**  
University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

## BIOSKETCHES

**Karrah (Miller) Herring, JD**, received her Bachelor of Arts in Communications/Public Relations from Purdue University ('05) and her Juris Doctorate from Valparaiso University School of Law ('11). On November 19, 2020, Indiana governor, Eric Holcomb announced his appointment of Karrah to his cabinet as Indiana's first-ever Chief Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity Officer for the state. In this role, she works with the governor and his team to improve state government operations as well as remove hurdles in the government workplace and services the state provides. Within the first 6 months, Karrah has engaged with over 200 stakeholders, built the infrastructure of the office, and in conjunction with other agencies rolled out the State of Indiana's first ever equity website and Equity Data Portal. Her team's two-year strategic plan will focus on equity in Community, Economic and Workforce Development. Previously, Karrah worked for the University of Notre Dame for a decade and served as the Director of Public Affairs in the Office of Public Affairs and Communications. Her team assisted with cultivating campus relationships with community nonprofits, businesses and state and local government officials. Additionally, Karrah oversaw the university's \$250,000 annual United Way campaign, Public Affairs engagement stories, and assisted with engaging faculty, staff and students with service initiatives in the region. Prior to her role with Public Affairs, she served on the University of Notre Dame's Office of Human Resources Senior Executive Leadership team as the Director of the Office of Institutional Equity. Her team focused on workplace culture compliance including Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, workplace investigations of harassment and discrimination and workplace culture training efforts.

**Sheri Johnson, PhD**, is director of the Population Health Institute; co-director of County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; and associate professor at the University of Wisconsin - Madison School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Johnson has dedicated her 25+ year career to partnering with children, families, community organizations and systems to advance health and well-being. Awed by the resilience of individuals and communities, she is motivated to remove unfair obstacles and conditions that create and perpetuate health inequities. Dr. Johnson completed undergraduate studies at Brown University; earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in clinical psychology at Boston University and served as a Clinical Fellow in Psychology at Harvard Medical School. She was previously Director of Behavioral Health at Milwaukee Health Services, Inc., a federally qualified health center and served as the Administrator and State Health Officer for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health. Immediately prior to joining the PHI, she was Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin Center for Advancement of Underserved Children where she collaborated with diverse stakeholders to address a broad range of real-world problems.

**Jeff Levi, PhD**, is Professor of Health Management & Policy at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University, where his work focuses on the intersection of public health, the health care system and the multi-sector collaborations required to improve health. He has been at GW since 1997. In January 2011, President Obama him to serve as a member of the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health, which he chairs. At the end of 2015, he completed a ten-year tenure as Executive Director of the Trust for America's Health, where he led the organization's advocacy efforts on behalf of a modernized public health system, including implementation of the public health provisions of the Affordable Care Act and annual reports assessing the nation's public health preparedness, investment in public health infrastructure, and response to chronic diseases such as obesity. Dr. Levi received a BA from Oberlin College and a PhD from The George Washington University.

**Marsha Lillie-Blanton, DrPH**, is a public health professional with more than 30 years of experience working on health and health care access issues facing vulnerable populations. She has worked in government, a national health foundation, and academia, with a focus on measuring and improving access to quality care. Her professional career has woven together opportunities to pursue scholarship and teaching in academia with efforts as a practitioner grounded in the realities that confront marginalized communities.

Lillie-Blanton currently is an Associate Research Professor at the George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health. She previously served as the Chief Quality Officer and Director of the Division of Quality and Health Outcomes at the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). With a budget of \$500 million over 6 years, she had responsibility for establishing a health care quality measurement and reporting program for Medicaid and CHIP, oversight of state contracts for annual external quality reviews of Medicaid managed care organizations, developing the state-federal partnership in quality improvement activities, and conducting the first-ever nationwide survey of Medicaid beneficiaries' experiences of care.

Prior to Lillie-Blanton's position with CMS, she held senior-level positions with the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). As a vice-president with the Kaiser Family Foundation, she supported the efforts of policy analysts, provider organizations and communities in reducing racial/ethnic disparities in health care access and managed three health policy leadership development programs for students of color. In her role as an Associate Director of Quality and Public Health at GAO, she managed health policy research and evaluation teams to support the Congress in its oversight of federal government agencies. Lillie-Blanton holds a bachelor's degree from Howard University and a master of health science and doctorate degree from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

**Xavier Morales, PhD, MRP**, is the executive director of Praxis Project, a national organization dedicated to supporting communities building power for health. Xavier is a longtime advocate for community-driven initiatives to achieve health equity and environmental justice. Taking an expansive view of what constitutes good health and community wellness, he works in partnership to enable opportunities across the social determinants of health. Xavier currently serves on the board of the Urban Peace Initiative, and was until recently, the Chair of City of Berkeley sugar sweetened beverage tax expert panel. Xavier often provides testimony in legislative arenas and is a frequent speaker at health conferences and health justice gatherings. Xavier, a former Peace Corps volunteer (Hungary), is originally from Sanger, California and studied environmental sciences at the University of California, Berkeley and city and regional planning at Cornell University.