

AM Workshop 1

Working Cities Challenge: A New Model for System Change

Five Connecticut cities have taken on the Working Cities Challenge offered by the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston: to build citywide, multisector collaboratives that create system change for the economic benefit of residents of low income and of color. The four core elements of Working Cities are designed to ground the work in the communities being served and lift up leadership from groups other than “the usual suspects.” You’ll hear an overview from statewide director David Radcliffe, then learn from local initiative leaders about how their collaboratives are implementing their plans on the ground. This uniquely inclusive Challenge capitalizes on the diversity of communities to change systems and move the needle on ambitious goals. Come find out how it works!

Moderator: David Radcliffe, Director, CT Working Cities Challenge

David joined the Boston Fed in 2016 to manage the Working Cities Challenge initiative in Connecticut. In recent years, he has been consulting with Connecticut nonprofits on collective impact, community organizing, public space and early childhood education. Previously, he was the director of Meriden Children First Initiative, a cross-sector collaborative focused on early learning and parent leadership in a struggling Connecticut town. David provided key leadership to help his city win planning grants from the U.S. Department of Education’s Promise Neighborhood and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Choice Neighborhood initiatives. David holds a B.S. in Consumer Economics from Cornell University and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Connecticut.

Panelists:

Amy Peltier, Initiative Director, East Hartford Connects

Amy Peltier is the Initiative Director of East Hartford CONNects (EHC), East Hartford’s Working Cities Initiative. EHC recently concluded its first year of implementation. Amy was introduced to Working Cities while working for a short time as a Senior Manager of Community Investments at the United Way of Central and Northeastern CT. She was part of the design team that developed the EHC initiative. Amy previously worked as a staff attorney for the public defender agency of Massachusetts for seven years, handling both cases. As a public defender, her focus was on applying a holistic lens to her litigation,





9:30am – 11:00am

AM Workshop 1

incorporating social service connections and support of individual clients even after their cases were closed. Prior to law school, Amy spent seven years in San Francisco managing two nonprofit programs that promoted equitable social and criminal justice policies through direct organizing and supporting community residents in developing their own advocacy skills. In the last 20 years, Amy has had other professional and volunteer experiences that have spanned from Alaska to Zimbabwe. She is an Aspen Institute Economic Opportunity Fellow and a member of the CT 2Gen Advisory Council. She serves on Advisory Boards for East Hartford Adult Education and Intercommunity School Based Health Centers. She is also heavily involved in promoting civic and political education and engagement for everyone, especially young people and women, serving on her town's Democratic Town Committee and League of Women Voters.

Joel Rivera, Director, Hartford Working Cities

Joel Rivera is the Director of the Hartford Working Cities Initiative. Joel comes to us with the goal of addressing systemic poverty, focusing on systems change and organizational behavior to create new programs and impact communities that need it the most. He started his career in workforce development in 1998 in New York City, (Bronx, Harlem and Brooklyn), where he worked in Welfare to Work programs with economically disadvantaged communities helping them to achieve self-sufficiency. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in humanities from Bradford College in 1998, as well as a Master of Science in organizational leadership from Mercy College in 2004 and a Master of Science in professional counseling from Central CT State University in 2009. Most recently Joel directed a suite of financial empowerment programs throughout Connecticut for low-to-moderate income communities. He also worked for 10 years with the Connecticut Department of Rehabilitation Services. Joel is a Licensed Professional Counselor and a Nationally Certified Rehabilitation Counselor.



2019 Conference