The Commission for Economic Opportunity Conference
Exploring Strategies to Create Opportunity in New York City

Conference Program
June 21-22, 2006
Welcome to the Commission for Economic Opportunity Conference, a planning conference to advance the work of strategically reducing poverty in New York City.

Since Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg announced the appointment of 32 civic leaders to the New York City Commission for Economic Opportunity, the Commission has been working to develop a coordinated, citywide agenda for increasing economic opportunity and financial independence. The Commission is looking at the most effective way to harness already existing city services and couple them with new initiatives to give more New Yorkers the chance to rise out of poverty. These initiatives are focused around the themes of “Making Work Pay” and “Ensuring that New Yorkers are Prepared for Work.”

Over the course of the next two days, we will learn from everyone’s collective experience about proven strategies to reduce poverty and where opportunities still exist to make an impact.

Thank you for your time and commitment to these efforts.

The Commission for Economic Opportunity
**Agenda – Day 1**

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 21**

9:00 – 9:30  WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS  
**Dr. Linda Edwards**, The City University of New York Graduate Center  
**Lawrence Mandell**, United Way of New York City  
**Linda Gibbs**, Office of the Mayor

9:30 – 10:45  MORNING PLENARY SESSION – HEARING OUR VOICES: PERSPECTIVES FROM THE COMMUNITY

10:45 – 12:45  WORKGROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- Making the Connection: Helping Disconnected Populations Enter the Job Market
- Promoting Strategies for Work and Asset Building: A Place-Based Approach
- Trends in Adolescent Health and Poverty: Successfully Targeting Solutions
- Creating Opportunities for Entrepreneurs: Access to Capital and Supporting Local Lending in Low-Income Communities
- Redefining the Social Safety Net: A Better System for Service Delivery
- The Opportunity Index: Realities and Challenges of Data and Evaluation
- Operating Successful Schools in Neighborhoods of Need: Proven and Promising Models and Practices

12:45 – 1:30  LUNCH

1:30 – 2:15  KEYNOTE ADDRESS: A CALL TO ACTION  
**Rev. Dr. Floyd H. Flake**, The Greater Allen A.M.E. Cathedral of New York

2:15 – 3:30  AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION – AN INSIDER’S VIEW: BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH

3:30 – 4:00  CLOSING REMARKS  
**Linda Gibbs**, Office of the Mayor

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**Agenda – Day 2**

**THURSDAY JUNE 22**

9:00 – 9:30  WELCOME & INTRODUCTION  
**Geoffrey Canada**, Harlem Children’s Zone

9:30 – 10:00  KEYNOTE ADDRESS: ASSESSING THE CHALLENGE  
**Dr. Edwin Meléndez**, New School University

10:00 – 10:15  GREETINGS  
**Michael R. Bloomberg**, Mayor of the City of New York

10:15 – 10:30  BREAK

10:30 – 12:00  MORNING PLENARY SESSION – SUCCESSFUL APPROACHES TO POVERTY REDUCTION: LEARNING FROM EXISTING MODELS

12:00 – 12:45  LUNCH

12:45 – 2:45  WORKGROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS
- Reducing the Skills Gap: A Sectoral Approach
- Incentive-Based Strategies for Developing Human Capital
- Increasing Access to Work Supports: A Springboard Out of Poverty
- Creating Pathways to Graduation, Employment and Higher Education for Disconnected Youth
- Using Data in Result-Based Policy Making
- Prison to Work: Confronting the Challenge

2:45 – 3:45  AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION – MOVING FORWARD WITH WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

3:45 – 4:00  CLOSING REMARKS  
**Linda Gibbs**, Office of the Mayor  
**Lawrence Mandell**, United Way of New York City
Plenary Sessions & Workshops – Day 1

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21

MORNING PLENARY SESSION
Hearing Our Voices: Perspectives from the Community
Moderator: Rev. Alfonso Wyatt, Fund for the City of New York
Luis Garden Acosta, El Puente
Robert Carmona, STRIVE
Andrew Friedman, Make the Road By Walking
Sandra Killett, Community Voices Heard
George McDonald, The Doe Fund
Shawn Patterson, The Doe Fund
Irania Sanchez, Make the Road By Walking
Lavette Woodley, STRIVE
Sondra Youdelman, Community Voices Heard

MORNING WORKGROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Making the Connection: Helping Disconnected Populations
Enter the Job Market
Moderator: David Jones, Community Service Society
Charles Hamilton, The Clark Foundation
Dr. Harry Holzer, Georgetown University
Suzanne Lynn, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development

Promoting Strategies for Work and Asset Building: A Place-Based Approach
Moderator: Dr. James A. Krauskopf, Baruch College
Jeffrey Lubell, Center for Housing Policy
Anthony Rainey, FSS Program
James Riccio, Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation
Jane Schulman, LaGuardia Community College
Patricia Zafiriadis, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development

Trends in Adolescent Health and Poverty: Successfully Targeting Solutions
Moderator: Paloma Hernandez, Urban Health Plan
Dr. Michael Carrera, The Children’s Aid Society
Andrea Kane, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

Creating Opportunities for Entrepreneurs: Access to Capital and Supporting Local Lending in Low-Income Communities
Moderator: Dr. Julia Sass Rubin, Rutgers University
David Black, The Aspen Institute
Daniel Nissenbaum, HSBC Bank
Dr. Lisa Servon, New School University
Kerwin Tesdell, Community Development Venture Capital Alliance
Janet Thompson, ACCION

Redefining the Social Safety Net: A Better System for Service Delivery
Moderator: Dr. Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Safe Space
Verna Eggleston, NYC Human Resources Administration
Dr. Ester Fuchs, Columbia University
Dale Joseph, One City/One Community Project
JoAnne Page, Fortune Society
Dr. William Weisberg, Children’s Aid Society

The Opportunity Index: Realities and Challenges of Data and Evaluation
Moderator: Dr. Lawrence Aber, New York University
Dr. Maryanne Schretzman, NYC Department of Homeless Services
Dr. Walter Stafford, New York University
Dr. Beth Weitzman, New York University

Operating Successful Schools in Neighborhoods of Need: Proven and Promising Models and Practices
Moderator: Michele Cahill, NYC Department of Education
Mashea Ashton, NYC Department of Education
Robert Hughes, New Visions for Public Schools
John Sanchez, East Side House Settlement

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
An Insider’s View: Building a Comprehensive Approach
Moderator: Linda Gibbs, Office of the Mayor
Dr. Lawrence Aber, New York University
Dr. Lilliam Barrios-Paoli, Safe Space
Michele Cahill, NYC Department of Education
Paloma Hernandez, Urban Health Plan
David Jones, Community Service Society
Dr. James Krauskopf, Baruch College
Dr. Julia Sass Rubin, Rutgers University
Plenary Sessions & Workshops – Day 2

THURSDAY JUNE 22

MORNING PLENARY SESSION
Successful Approaches to Poverty Reduction: Lessons from Existing Models
Moderator: Eric Brettschneider, Agenda for Children Tomorrow
Gordon Berlin, President, Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation
Gladys Carrión, United Way of New York City
James Riccio, Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation
Michael Weinstein, Robin Hood Foundation

AFTERNOON WORKGROUP BREAKOUT SESSIONS
Reducing the Skills Gap: A Sectoral Approach
Moderator: David Margalit, NYC Department of Small Business Services
Mark Elliott, Consultant
Allison Gerber, The Aspen Institute
Scott Sheely, Lancaster Workforce Investment Board

Incentive-Based Strategies for Developing Human Capital
Moderator: Dr. Mary Bassett, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Dr. Laura Rawlings, The World Bank
Dr. Petra Todd, University of Pennsylvania
Dr. Kenneth Wolpin, University of Pennsylvania

Increasing Access to Work Supports: A Springboard Out of Poverty
Moderator: Nancy Wackstein, United Neighborhood Houses
Diane Baillargeon, SEEDCO
Dr. Stephanie Buchanan, Freelancers Union/Working Today
Mark Greenberg, Center for American Progress

Creating Pathways to Graduation, Employment and Higher Education for Disconnected Youth
Moderator: Rev. Alfonso Wyatt, Fund for the City of New York
JoEllen Lynch, NYC Department of Education
Jeanne Mullgrav, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development
Michelle Yanche, Neighborhood Family Services Coalition

Using Data in Result-Based Policy Making
Moderator: Gail Nayowith, Citizens’ Committee for Children
Dr. Avis Jones DeWeever, Institute for Women’s Policy Research
Dr. Kristin Moore, Child Trends
Dr. Dennis Smith, New York University

Prison to Work: Confronting the Challenge
Moderator: Rev. Terry Troia, Project Hospitality
Martin Horn, NYC Department of Correction
Glenn Martin, National HIRE Network
Mindy Tarlow, Center for Employment Opportunities
Jeremy Travis, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

AFTERNOON PLENARY SESSION
Moving Forward with What We Have Learned
Moderator: Linda Gibbs, Office of the Mayor
Reg Foster, IBM
Colvin Grannum, Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation
Dr. John Mollenkopf, The City University of New York Graduate Center
Ana L. Oliveira, New York Women’s Foundation
Moisés Peréz, Alianza Dominicana, Inc.
New York City Commission For Economic Opportunity

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Mindy Tarlow, Executive Director, Center for Employment Opportunities
Merryl Tisch, Co-chair, New York State Board of Regents’ Committee on Elementary, Middle, Secondary and Continuing Education
Maria Torres, Co-founder, Point Community Development Corporation
Jeremy Travis, President, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Reverend Terry Troia, Executive Director, Project Hospitality
Nancy Wackstein, Executive Director, United Neighborhood Houses
This conference is sponsored by
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