

150th Video:

Throughout our nation's history, APHA has been there. We've been on the ground, fighting for the public's health since 1872, taking on diseases, poverty, and sanitation at the turn of the century. We were there when Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King, Jr called for equal rights. And continue to today, fighting to end racism and counter all of its devastating health effects.

We were there encouraging auto safety standards and calling for seatbelt laws. Since then, we continue to support work to make our cars and roads safer and reduce injuries. APHA was there when women made their voices heard, and supports their ongoing fight for equality and control over their own health. We fought for access to care as AIDS spread across the country. And continue working to ensure easy and equal access for all to vaccines for COVID 19, the flu, and other infectious disease. We've been sounding the alarm about climate change's impact on human health by raising awareness, and the world is listening.

Change is happening, but these next years are so important. We need your help to shift the tide. By advocating for safe work, home and school environments, access to care, nutritious food, and reducing gun violence, we've strengthened our nation's public health. And APHA continues to develop and advocate for policies and programs that support the public's health and the public health workforce. We were there, and we're here today. And together, we are moving forward. Join us as we celebrate APHA's 150th anniversary and look to an even brighter future. Together, we will continue to improve health and achieve health equity for all.

Phil Bors:

Hello, I'm Phil Bors, Technical Assistance Director at Healthy Places by Design. Welcome everyone to a conversation on changing local food and health systems, shifting power and building resilience through community collaboration. Today's session is a peer exchange with the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge Communities. This is just one part of APHA's National Public Health Week. This session is a collaboration of the Aetna Foundation, APHA, NACO, and Healthy Places by Design. We're excited you can be part of this discussion.

We encourage you to also join the conversation on Twitter. Please follow hashtag communities for health. We look forward to seeing your reactions and ideas from today's session on Twitter. You can do this right now during the session and after today's session as well. We're using a webinar type format today, so everyone besides the panelists will be muted. You can share your thoughts with each other in the chat. For questions of our panelists and in breakout rooms, please use the Q&A feature, which is a separate tab for questions. We hope it doesn't happen, but if you get disconnected, you should be able to rejoin us using your registration login link. We have a great two-part session today. We're so happy to share a brief video in a moment to help us set the stage and introduce the Challenge Communities.

We'll then get into our panel discussion with four amazing leaders from communities across the country who will share what resilience means and looks like in their own words. Following the panel discussion, you'll be able to choose which panelists you'd like to spend more time with in smaller breakout groups. This will be your time to ask questions and share thoughts about shifting power and building resilience. Feel free to make some notes as the panelists speak, and you'll get a chance to join this deeper discussion with one of them after the panel. We really hope you'll stay with us until 5:00 PM Eastern Time, and participate in one of these deeper discussions. My wonderful colleague and collaborator, Brittany Perrotte from APHA will now introduce you to the Challenge initiative and help get us started. Brittany.

Brittany Perrotte: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Brittany Perrotte and I'm the Project Director for the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge here at APHA. For those of you who joined us for the Twitter chat earlier today you know we asked what resilience looks like in your community, and how we can help to build resilience and communities around the world. Today's panel, moderated by Mary Celis from our project team in Paterson, New Jersey will offer innovative solutions for building resilience that emerged during the depths of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Before I turn it over to Mary to start our panel, we wanted to give you a chance to hear from all 20 challenge project teams about what community resilience looks like where they are. To learn more, you can also visit our website and check out the newest HCC highlights report sharing community-led solutions and tips on community collaboration and resilience. We hope you enjoy the short video featuring six-word stories about resilience in local communities.

Video on Community Resilience

"Hi I'm Daryl Jackson Kenisha Rogers Jones of the great city of Paterson, New Jersey and a member of the resident advisory board to the Passaic County food policy council. Resilience in my community looks like passionate community members doing passionate work, Hey folks this is Rosemary Ketchum from the Edible Mountain Project here in the city of Wheeling, West Virginia. Our six community resilience words include agency trust formal power history inclusivity and radical honesty.

Hi Anthony with the Perry County team. This past year we've dealt with historic weather and the coronavirus and despite that our Appalachian roots bonded us together and granted us a steadfast resolve and that's why our six word story is stronger together thanks to our roots. Hello my name is Ferdando Jackson with the Dougherty Fresh project out of Albany, Georgia. Resiliency looks like a community-based food system that's able to withstand natural disasters and man-made disruption making fresh food accessible acceptable for all. I'm Grace Parker Zielinski from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Tompkins County, New York. Resilience in our community looks like meaningful connections interpersonally and across sectors, I'm Jason from Elijah's Promise in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Resilience in my community looks like constantly adapting there's no other way. Hi I'm Julian Levine from the Greenbrier County Health Alliance and the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine Here in Greenbrier County, West Virginia. Our six word story is collaboration and not accepting the status quo. Hi we're in Cambria County, Pennsylvania and we're proud to be part of the Healthiest Cities and Counties Challenge. Collaboration is the cornerstone of resilience. Hi I'm Meg Oaks from Orange County Health Department in Orange County, New York. Resilience in our community looks like strong community partnerships linked together for strength and well-being. Hi I am Michaela Oldfield. I represent the Cincinnati challenge team. Our story of how we're creating resilience is advocating for neighborhood lead food justice

What does resilience look like to you? Resilience looks like to me is love, support, strength, family, god and hope. Hey this is Mike and Jasmine in Rochester, New York and our six word story is Rochester forms first food policy council. I am Kim from the Pittsburgh food policy council. Resilience in my community looks like creating food sovereignty with community leadership. Hi I'm Sierra Watson with the Health Foundation here in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Resilience in my community looks like community engagement strengthens connections amplifies voices. Hey I'm Travis Greer with Cumberland County Department of Public Health here in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Resilience in our community looks like uniting partnerships and community to solve problems. Hi my name is Marissa. I'm from the food bank in Southwest Florida. Resilience looks like feeding families in five Florida counties. Hi my name is Emily Lesko and I am an Americorps community health empowerment navigator serving on the Cleveland challenge team. Resilience in our community is embodied by six simple words: health empowerment through collective education and exchange. Food hydration. Let's eradicate starvation

Mary Celis:

Good afternoon everyone. My name is Mary Celis. I'm the director of Health Initiatives at the United Way of Passaic County. And it's really my privilege to be moderating this panel conversation with our Challenge Communities. And I'm really excited to be here today and introduce my colleagues who you'll all be hearing from and who will be leading breakout sessions as well. I'd like to introduce Sheena Butler from the Cumberland County Public Health Department. She's coming to you today from Cumberland County, North Carolina. I'd also like to introduce to you Rose Shin from Deerfield Beach, Florida, as well as Dawn Plummer from the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. And I'm going to take a few minutes to introduce to you the work that's happening in Passaic County, which I lead with a cross-sector coalition.

The Passaic County Food Policy Council has been in existence for more than 10 years. And we have been working as a part of a larger strategy to impact the social determinants of health and reduce health disparities across Passaic County. And for those of you who aren't familiar with New Jersey geography, we're located in Northern New Jersey. We're right outside New York City. And we really focus on reducing, again, health disparities. And the Passaic County's Food Policy Council's vision is to make sure that healthy food is more affordable and available, as well as accessible to Passaic County residents, knowing that we're in a high-cost state and many residents are often deciding whether or not in a given month, they need to pay rent, pay for medication, pay for childcare, pay for food.

And so, our coalition has been actively working to build a more sustainable and equitable food system. We've done a number of community food assessments that have demonstrated high rates of hunger. We've also worked to improve local food procurement practices, healthy corner stores, expand participation and federal meal programs, expand community gardens. And we've had some real success, again, over the past 10 years. And we're really excited to be a part of the Challenge Community because we've been wanting to develop resident leaders and resident empowerment throughout this time. And the Challenge project really gave us an opportunity to see some success in that area. And so, the focus of our challenge really has been to build resident leadership. And through that, we've developed a resident advisory board, which has been a real success. And you'll hear from one of our resident leaders in the breakout session. So, I hope that you can join us.

But, we know that the Food Policy Council, both members, and partners, and residents are really continuing in this journey of shifting attitudes and beliefs about resident engagement. Often, organizations ask residents to be beneficiaries of programs, but rarely ask residents to design programs or community impact strategies. We know that residents have a better understanding of the complex challenges that their communities face and insight into how to address those challenges. And so, over the past year to 18 months, we've recruited residents to serve as advisors and strategic thought partners to help us know how to better implement the strategies that we've been working on. And we're really excited to see some success, particularly around healthy corner stores where residents have themselves been involved in recruiting healthy corner stores and implementing those corner stores.

And, I know that you'll hear throughout this panel conversation themes of building resident leadership. And as we know that we, in this moment of coming out of COVID where we saw such incredible health disparities exacerbated by COVID itself, we really know that this is a moment to implement equitable strategies and how we do the work. And building resident leadership, and letting residents really be the ones who are narrating the story of change and hope is actually a part of the process of becoming more equitable in healthy communities. And so, I invite you all to join the breakout sessions and learn more. But right

now, I'd like to turn it over to my colleague Sheena so you can hear from her about her community.

Sheena Butler:

Thank you, Mary. Sounds like you all have been doing quite a bit as well. So, so nice to be a part of this project with so many residents of North Carolina and so many other community members who have like minds like we do. So in our project here in Cumberland, this was completely new for us. We have not had a project this big. And I think that we probably underestimated a little bit about how this project would expand, and how interested people were to be a part of such great work that we're doing.

So in the very beginning, we had a little bit of setback because of COVID of course, and just some personnel changes. So, I actually started the project last year in June, and since then we've been driving on. And so, in June of last year, we were able to sign a resolution with our Cumberland County Commissioners. And I actually didn't even say how I serve on this project. So, I serve as a Food Policy Council Liaison. And on my team, I also have a grants manager, as well as a Food Environment Assessment Liaison. We also have been working with an intern who's been really beneficial and an asset to our project as well.

But we were able to sign a resolution with our commissioners. And they were on board with having a Food Policy Council. They were on board with talking about food insecurity within our community. And we wanted to partner with our military installation. We are really close-knit to Fort Bragg. And although the two entities are different, we felt that it was necessary to combine them. So, we have joined together to form a Food Policy Council. As of last year, we completed a Food Environment Assessment, and that assessment went towards finding out what type of foods were readily available in our area, Cumberland, as well as Fort Bragg.

We're finding that our military families are actually experiencing food insecurity at a high that is a little alarming. And in our areas, we're finding so many families are being relocated here that it is really something that we want to tackle before it gets out of hand. It seems like a lot of young soldiers, as well as children and mothers are having these difficulties and it's not really being said. So now that we're bringing these things to the forefront, we want to try to figure out ways that we can tackle these issues. Cumberland already has a lot of food deficits as well, but the benefit of it all is that we have a lot of resources. We just need to know where those resources are and how we can partner together to bridge in a lot of these gaps.

So from there, the Food Environment Assessment was very successful. We got community members to help us survey local corner stores, grocery stores, mom and pop shops, just to try to figure out if those stores have fresh fruits and vegetables, if they had healthy options that were readily available. So food deserts, as we know, are those that are not accessible to certain communities, but we wanted to see even with the grocery stores that are available, is there healthy options for them?

So, in our assessment we also had our Fayetteville Youth Council to help us with that. And it was so nice to see the youth get involved. We don't want to ever put the youth to the side. We actually want their voice to be a part of this. And, we're hoping that they can continue the work with us. And so, it was really nice to have all of that information and for us to make it into a summary report. Moving forward to November of last year, we started our Food Policy Council. So, we now have a Cumberland County Fort Bragg Food Policy Council. We have 15 members on that council. All representatives from higher education, local farmers. We even have local government, school systems, and several others that are part of that. And, we do have community residents as well.

So, we just actually had a meeting today. And so we've been working each month since then to try to formulate goals, and figure out what we can do with the information we have, how we can and pull our resources together and combat food insecurity. So, I'm really grateful for all of the voices that we have so far. Really looking forward to expanding. And, our project has been resilient in that we have really connected with so many people and made those partnerships. So, really thankful for that. So, thank you guys for having me. I'm happy to be on the call with so many of you as well. So, I'm going to hand everything over to Dawn.

Dawn Plummer:

Thanks so much, Sheena. Hi everyone. My name is Dawn Plummer. I serve as the executive director of the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council. So, greetings from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We're in the Southwestern corner of Pennsylvania. We have been thrilled to be part of the Healthiest Cities & Counties Challenge. This opportunity came before us at a really important time for the life of our council. The Pittsburgh Food Policy Council was founded in 2009, so we've been around for quite a bit. And from 2018 to 2020, we were completing our region's first food action plan. It's the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan. And of course, the pandemic was unfolding at that same time.

And so, when we completed that plan, we had been working with... We have over 100 member entities as part of our member network. We, as a Food Policy Council have a board of directors that has representative seats from throughout the food system, as well as seats for community members from city and county communities that are impacted by food apartheid. We have tables of work groups, and committees, and coalitions. We have a broad network working on a variety of things. And the Food Action Plan gave us the opportunity to identify the strategies that were most important and make priorities. And our one of our top priorities was to support community-led efforts to address food apartheid by building resilience, community leadership and food sovereignty.

So, much of our work in the Food Policy Council is to look at, and our our mission says, "Building a food system that is just, equitable, and sustainable." So, not assuming that our food system got to where we were without a series of decisions being made. So, who are making those decisions? We're very much about building food democracy, about how can we get those who are most negatively impacted by our food system to see the decisions that are made along the way and where particularly, these are public processes where residents of the city in particular, can be at those tables and understanding those processes. And budget hearings, and all of the things that it takes to run a city. And, how the city can really lead in this realm. We see food as a human right, which means it's incumbent upon our governments to guarantee that right. And so, how can we collaborate closely with the city?

And so with this project, we were able to deepen our relationship and collaboration with both the City of Pittsburgh and its mayor's office, and also city planning, as well as our Allegheny County Health Department, which is a county-level health department, as well as the American Heart Association, and our expansive member network. We set out to do two things. Again, since knowledge is power, and data should be really driving investments and decisions, we wanted to identify healthy food priority areas in Pittsburgh for policy action and collective impact. So really, to identify using data and GIS mapping, what were the communities that should be put at the top of the list in terms of investments to improve conditions that...

The distinction between the term that was coined by the urban agriculturalist, Karen Washington, the difference between the idea of a food desert versus a food apartheid is that a desert is a naturally occurring phenomenon whereas food apartheid really underscores the fact that there is historic disinvestment decisions made along the way that

have created the environments that we have. They're not just sort of happenstance. They are the result of decisions and leadership. And we can turn those tides in communities, particularly with the leadership of those living in communities most impacted. And so, we wanted to identify those healthy food priority areas.

And the second thing we wanted to do, and sort of standardize the way that we're capturing this data, what is the language we're using? Are we speaking in a common language with our elected officials, and our community leaders, and nonprofits? The second goal we had was to create a consistent mechanism to meaningfully engage residents with local government to co-design policy that positively impacts food and health equity in priority communities. So, the idea there was to develop what we grew to call the Pittsburgh Food Equity Ambassador Program. And I'm super-psyched to have Teaira Collins to talk with later about that program. She was a participant in that program and was so enthusiastic, she has since joined our board. So, excited to dig more into that.

And just generally speaking, I think what we're hearing here from communities from North Carolina to New Jersey and beyond is that this is a movement of change in our communities and that we are taking the power back. And, to look at our public resources. We're the wealthiest country in the world, and there's no reason we should have hunger and the kinds of disparities that we have. And so, how can we take a look together at those public resources and make sure they're allocated where they're most needed? And I will stop there and pass it on to Rose.

Rose Shin:

Thank you, Dawn. Hello everyone. I just love to hear all the passion and energy behind all of this. And, thank you for having me here. My name is Rose Shin. I'm part of Flipany. We are a local nonprofit here in Florida. And our mission is to foster healthy lives through the nutrition, education, and physical activities and wellness initiatives. We're very excited to partner with Aetna and APHA, and be a part of the Challenge team to promote and help support community-centered approaches and decision making as everyone else has spoken about, as well for Deerfield Beach.

So our partner with Deerfield Beach has been the Deerfield Beach Middle School. And Rihanna is here with me today. We'll be speaking more in depth about the work that we've done and within the community, but through the middle school with the parents, and the youth, and the different individuals, and partners that are a part of that community. When you think of Florida, you think of all the sun, and you think of the beach, and you don't think of the food disparities that also occur.

So for us, we're very happy that we can be there at the school. Our goals are to bring up the youth. We want to hear from them. We have a Youth Advisory Board where they are telling us, "What is it that you see is important and how can we help," right? We shape that. We have a Parent Advisory Community Group as well, where we've got parents from the community, from the school, and other schools, and community leaders in Deerfield Beach who we want to hear their voices as well. What is important to the community? What is it that you want us to focus our energy on that we can help support you through whatever means and resources that we have?

And food access. So, we started a food pantry which we call a neighborhood market at the middle school. And started pre-pandemic. And that was the plan. And we were trying to figure out how to divert the waste from the cafeteria and be able to siphon that through the food pantry, through the neighborhood markets, so that people had access within the community. So, we are also continuing to look at that and seeing how that's going to be

post-pandemic. And also, diverting some of that food waste into a compost that can be utilized in the garden that we also helped support in the middle school.

So, our efforts are towards... Dawn, I like the word, when you said food democracy. For us, it's also about food rescue and food waste, and how can we supply more food into the community and also prevent some of the food waste that occurs as well. So for us, we are very much looking into, again, the youth, and the parent, and community involvement to see how we can join together. To hear the voices that they have, and the interest that they have, and guide us in that direction. So thank you again, and we look forward to speaking with you more. And now, I'll pass this over back to Mary.

Mary Celis:

Thank you so much Rose, Sheena, and Dawn, for those overviews of the work that you're doing in each of your communities. It really is been such a phenomenal learning experience to partner with you all in our learning sessions. And as I'm reflecting on some common themes that I heard from each of our presentations, the thing that is really standing out to me, I think Dawn, you highlighted it really, really well when you talked about the difference between a food desert and food apartheid. That one is naturally occurring, and the other was designed, in large part, due to structural racism, disinvestment, and maintaining inequalities. And, that's something that we've really been wrestling with all along the way, I think, in Paterson and in Passaic County, in our Food Policy Council.

But certainly has been, again, a huge spotlight shown on the health disparities and really gross inequalities during COVID. Not only because of how the pandemic itself, the virus itself impacted low-income communities of color, but also how it impacted those communities in terms of their ability to be resilient, how it impacted them economically. And so, it's something we've been wrestling with, again, for quite some time. And I think that one of the highlights for me of this project, again, really is around building a structure. We talk about structures, building a structure to combat what was designed through structural racism.

And even the small change of building out a resident advisory board has started to shift conversations among institutions in my community. And created pathways I think, for residents to be more vocal, whether it's in what's happening in the local school district or the city council. And so, my question to each of you, and we'll just go through the order and pass it along to each other in the same way that we did is, how is this Challenge project accelerated addressing some of these structural inequalities in your community? And again, with highlighting resident leadership and engagement empowerment. And so, I'll leave that open-ended and I'll turn it over to you, Sheena.

Sheena Butler:

Yeah. So this is actually a conversation we are starting for our Food Policy Council. Because they're new, we really want to make sure that equity is always a part of every initiative that we do. And, that sometimes can be very hard because as we're getting started, we talked about how we want to pilot certain things. And in piloting your projects, that may leave some communities out that may not include everyone. But in doing that effort, you will be able to see what's needed and what communities are suffering, and how we can change the system that may be broken or may just need some reiterating in certain areas.

So, we want to make sure that we always include communities of color. And especially, as I talked about the military installation, we're seeing that although those young soldiers are being affected, we're talking about E-6 and below, there are also communities of color there too. And so, we don't want to exclude any of those populations. So, that's some of the work that the council will be trying to work towards, and those are the goals that we want to set. And, we have a forum coming up soon there where we want to have all of this great information about what our community's going through, and have those voices at the table.

How can we make sure that in our goal setting that we're not excluding anyone, that everything is inclusive as well as equitable. So, as far as...

Dawn Plummer:

Yeah, I can pick up there in terms of what we're seeing in Pittsburgh. With our Challenge project, particularly with our Ambassador Program, while we had completed a Food Action Plan, the majority of that work had been done pre-pandemic. And so, the Pittsburgh Food Equity Ambassador Program gave us the opportunity to identify residents through an application process, to join us from each of the nine city council districts across the city, with a special emphasis on applicants who have lived experience with food insecurity, and poverty, and who are really deeply rooted in the community.

So, our first cohort that met over the course of six months, drew from all walks of life. It was PTO moms, to people who are running food pantries, to leaders of urban gardens, college students who are experiencing food insecurity. A whole variety of really great people. And despite the fact that we had to be over zoom, we were able to build a sense of community and understanding across our different communities in the City of Pittsburgh. And, we were convening around the time of an election. And in January, we welcomed a new mayor. And so, while we had our Food Action Plan, we didn't, as the Food Policy Council wanted to tell our ambassadors, "Here are the strategies we think are most important."

So, we had an organic process of sharing from on the ground perspective, what do we need? What does the new mayor need to know? And, where can we hit the ground running? And so, our ambassadors put together a recommendations report of six recommendations and were able to present that to members of the new mayor's senior staff in the very early days of his administration. So, it was just a really great opportunity, and we are well-poised as an organization and with the leadership of our ambassadors to dig into those recommendations and make them actionable in these coming months. And I'll pass it to Rose.

Rose Shin:

Hi. I feel like we're really starting at the grassroots level where we are, and working with the youth and creating a leadership program for them, and trying to create youth to have voices as well. And starting there, I think if you create individuals and students that feel like they have power, and that they have the ability to make changes, that you can really insert and continue for them a pathway that they might not have thought of before. Where people might not have, especially in middle school, thought that their voices are important. And, starting with a small group saying, "What do you want? What do you think is important?" And then from there, we can build up to speaking out to a larger community level. And then, trying to get that up to the next level with affecting policy and changes.

But I think for us, it's empowering the individuals and the residents, especially the younger ones, to be able to continue and plant the seed, would be for us, the way to help create systems change. And, really working with the community themselves, is to hearing what it is that they want instead of us telling them what they can do. So, turning the tables on, "We'll stay silent. 'What is it that you want? What do you think is important? You let us know, and then we'll see what we can do to make that happen.'"

Mary Celis:

Thank you all. An example that I can highlight from Passaic County is that again, I think that our coalition has been really mindful of addressing inequalities around food access and food justice, and been doing some deep dives into the data around food environment studies, food insecurity assessments. And, we had an aha moment I think, even before COVID, where we actually were able to layer some of the mapping that we had done and around food insecurity rates. But also, rates of high cost of housing, low employment, but also some of the food environment studies. And we lined those maps up with some of the red-lining

maps that we were able to access. And no surprise, that those maps really lined up where we saw historic disinvestment and lack of access to capital. We saw the fallout over decades that really created this disinvestment.

And so, one of the highlights for me, in addressing these historically designed lack of access to healthy food and opportunity really came through the Resident Advisory Board learning about a statewide legislation, which was called the Food Desert Relief Act, which commissioned the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to create tax incentives, grant technical assistance, and other types of products to support the development of food retail in low-income communities. And again, there's the food desert designation.

And, our Resident Advisory Board was really able to meet, to review the methodology, to review the mapping, especially in the four communities that had been designated by this process, through this Food Desert Relief Act and community designation. And were really well-prepared for the public comment portion of the process that the NJEDA had to go through. And were really able to speak just so eloquently, passionately with specific data in this statewide public forum, and give testimony to the fact that their communities really needed additional support, even outside of food retail.

That we needed to make food retail, not just present, but we needed to make it high quality. We needed to make it affordable. We needed to think about things like transportation, and to really advocate. And, had the statewide authority that had the ability to leverage \$240 million to rethink, especially some of the criteria that they used around food quality in their research and their methodology, to designate some of these communities. And I think that, that is a really great example of structural changes that need to happen so that residents are participating, and holding governing bodies accountable.

And to be honest, I'm very proud to say that the NJEDA was very responsive. They wanted to hear from residents. But we missed the structure in place because normally, residents would never have known about that opportunity for public comment. They wouldn't have had the opportunity to really learn about this huge report, right? And to have it synthesized in a way that was relatable. And so, that's something that I'm really proud of and proud of them.

I really want to say thank you to Gerald Jackson who's been on our Resident Advisory Board and here today. Who's been just a huge advocate for equitable food policy, and for justice in our communities. And again, I just want to thank you all. Thank you Sheena, Rose, Dawn, you all have been phenomenal partners. And one of the highlights for me of being a part of the Challenge team is getting to know you all and learn from the exceptional work that you have been doing in each of your communities. And, getting to know the residents that have also participated in the learning sessions. And so, I just want to say, thank you. It's really phenomenal to be a part of this journey with you all. And, I'll hand it over to Phil.

Phil Bors:

Wow. Thank you so much, Mary. And thank you, Sheena, Dawn, and Rose for sharing your amazing insights about your Challenge work. We're going to spend the most of our remaining time in breakout rooms. We have about 35 minutes, maybe a little bit more. Once you get there, you'll be able to submit questions using the Q&A feature and talk to each other in the chat. Then, we'll return as a whole group for a quick closing before the 5:00 hour. It's my privilege now to introduce you to our special guests during the breakout celebrity interview conversations. Our celebrity co-panelists are community residents. And they work hand-in-hand with the Challenge leaders. They will talk about their own inspirations, challenges, and how community members have used their power to create solutions and resilience.

So, welcome Darrell Jackson from Paterson, New Jersey, and Nate Crew from Cumberland County, North Carolina. We're also so fortunate to have Rihanna Ali from Deerfield Beach, Florida, and Teaira Collins, who works with the Challenge initiative in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In a moment, you'll get to choose one of these community pairs that you'd like to hear more from. We know that you'd probably love to hear from all of them, but you do have to choose one pair. From Paterson, Mary Celis will be interviewing Darrell Jackson. From Cumberland, Sheena Butler will be interviewing and talking with Nate Crew. Rose Shin and Rihanna Ali will be talking about their work in Deerfield Beach. And from Pittsburgh, Dawn Plummer will facilitate a conversation with Teaira Collins. At this point, I think we can go to the breakouts.