

All Together Now: Advancing 2Gen Strategies in Rural America

Today's Innovators

- **Charley Martin-Berry** is the Executive Director of Community Caring Collaborative (CCC) in East Machias, Maine. She helped shape and launch *Family Futures Downeast* (FFD), a two-generation education and workforce opportunity for families. FFD was designated as one of 10 White House Rural Council Rural IMPACT Demonstration sites (2015-18) nationwide. Charley acts on the values of the Community Caring Collaborative to increase health and hope in Downeast Maine, focusing on strengthening partner organizations and their collective impact.
- **Duane Yoder** is the President of Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) in Oakland, Maryland. GCCAC is a nationwide leader in implementing a whole-organization 2Gen strategy to help low-income families move from crisis to thriving, inspiring both rural and urban sites across the country. Also designated a White House Rural Council Rural IMPACT Demonstration site, GCCAC serves nearly 33 percent of households and 25 percent of residents in its far western Appalachian Maryland county.
- **Shannon Davis**, a Maryland native, is a young mother who has lived in Garrett County for 15 years. One of four children from a family plagued with poverty and addiction, Shannon was homeless, pregnant and still struggling with substance abuse when she walked into the doors of Garrett County Community Action Committee in September 2017, with the goal of finding housing and stabilizing her family life.
- **Jeannie Chaffin** helps design policy and implementation strategies that can improve family livelihoods. As recent director of the Office of Community Services (OCS) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, she helped lead the 2017-19 national Rural IMPACT Demonstration. Now an independent consultant, Jeannie is currently helping the national Community Action Partnership's learning communities as they adopt 2Gen practices and transition toward becoming 2Gen organizations; and she is advising on 2Gen policy in several states.

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Today's Moderator

- **René Bryce-Laporte** is an independent consultant based in Washington, DC, with a particular focus on family asset-building and workforce issues. For over two decades, he has worked to help underserved people and communities find social and economic opportunity, serving as a convener, facilitator, researcher, writer and director of multi-site programs. He is a board member of the Campaign for Youth Justice, a past board member of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, and coordinated the first national demonstration of Individual Development Accounts.

Today's Data Presenter

- **Jessica Carson** is Research Assistant Professor with the Vulnerable Families Research Program at the Carsey School of Public Policy of the University of New Hampshire. Since joining Carsey in 2010, Jess has studied poverty, work, and the social safety net, including policies and programs that support low-income workers like affordable health insurance, food assistance programs, and quality child care.

About...America's Rural Opportunity

Rural America is full of innovation – people working together in new and proven ways to solve tough problems and make the most of opportunity. Too often, these stories of invention, collaboration and creativity go untold – and they have critical value for both rural and urban America. Starting in 2016, the Rural Development Innovation Group and the Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group sought to change that by showcasing stories of what's working to increase opportunity and prosperity in rural America in the **America's Rural Opportunity** series. Today's event is the ninth in the **ARO** series.

To find out more about the series and to view videos of other **ARO** exchanges, please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/ASPEN-ARO>

Rural Development Innovation Group

The **Rural Development Innovation Group** (RDIG) is a diverse set of practitioners, intermediaries and funders deeply engaged in rural community and economic development across the United States. Initially convened in 2016 by the Northern Forest Center, the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities and Aspen CSG, RDIG aims to accelerate the knowledge, adoption and impact of innovative rural development strategies in the United States.

To learn more about RDIG, get updates, and share your stories of rural innovation: Visit us at as.pn/rural.
The current RDIG members are listed here.

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Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group (CSG)

CSG connects, motivates and equips local leaders to build more prosperous regions and advance those living on the economic margins.

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