



RAISING A NATION OF SAVERS: KINDERGARTEN, COLLEGE, AND LIFELONG SAVINGS

SEPTEMBER 19, 8:00-9:30AM | THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Participants will discuss Kindergarten to College, the first universal and automatic child savings accounts program, and the potential of child savings accounts to instill lifelong savings habits and strengthen financial security for Americans.

JOSÉ CISNEROS, TREASURER, CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

José Cisneros is the elected Treasurer of the City and County of San Francisco. As Treasurer, José serves as the City's banker and chief investment officer, and manages tax and revenue collection for San Francisco. Treasurer Cisneros believes that his role of safeguarding the city's money should extend to all San Franciscans and, as such, has embarked upon an ambitious financial empowerment agenda since taking office. The most known of these programs is an innovative public-private partnership to bank the unbanked called *Bank on San Francisco*, launched in 2006. Today *Bank On* programs are being replicated by nearly 100 cities and states nationwide, spurring the creation of *Bank On USA* by the US Department of the Treasury. Treasurer Cisneros has since launched the San

Francisco Office of Financial Empowerment (OFE). Its newest initiatives include *Kindergarten to College*, the first universal matched children's savings account program in a public school system in the country and *CurrenC SF*, an employer-focused initiative designed to make electronic pay universal for all workers in San Francisco. To further this work on a national level, San Francisco joined with New York City to create the *Cities for Financial Empowerment* coalition, a group of pioneering municipal governments from across the country working to advance innovative financial empowerment initiatives.

PHILIP ENGLISH, CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS PRACTICE, ARENT FOX LLP

Phil English serves as Co-Chairman of the Government Relations Practice at Arent Fox LLP, where he specializes in tax policy, trade, health care and energy policy. He currently serves as National Coordinator for the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative, and is a member of the firm's Columbia Working Group. He served seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, the last as Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. He also served on the Joint Economic Committee, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Economic Leadership Institute, and as a member on the President's Export Council. While in Congress, he was a strong advocate of fundamental tax reform, as well as expanded savings instruments (Auto IRA) and reforms for federal unemployment insurance and trade adjustment assistance (TAA). While on the Ways and Means Committee, English played an active role in shaping landmark legislation in welfare reform and a Medicare prescription drug benefit. English was elected Controller of the City of Erie, and was appointed Minority Executive Director of the Finance Committee and Research Director of the Labor and Industry Committee in the Senate of Pennsylvania. He is currently a member of the United States National Commission on UNESCO. He holds a BA (Political Science) from the University of Pennsylvania.

LISA MENSAH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE ASPEN INSTITUTE INITIATIVE ON FINANCIAL SECURITY (*moderator*)

Lisa Mensah is an expert in using financial tools to improve the economic security of the working poor. At Aspen IFS, Mensah leads a team of financial security experts who study the financial products and public policy solutions that help build wealth from birth to retirement for America's working families. Mensah began her career in commercial banking at Citibank prior to working 13 years with the Ford Foundation. Serving as Deputy Director of Economic Development for the organization, Mensah led the Foundation's work in microfinance and women's economic development. She became the leading national funder of individual development accounts (IDAs) – innovative savings accounts structured with matching incentives and personal financial training used to finance homeownership, entrepreneurship and education. Under Mensah's leadership, IDAs grew from an experiment at a handful of sites to become a tool used by hundreds of community organizations in all 50 states. With a deep interest in solutions to the broad challenges to economic security and financial access, Mensah is the board chair of the National Academy of Social Insurance, a board member of the Doorways to Dreams (D2D) Fund, in Allston, MA and HOPE Enterprise Corporation, in Jackson, MS. Mensah holds an M.A. from the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. from Harvard University.

DAVID SOO, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

David Soo is the Senior Advisor to the Secretary for Financial Education at the US Department of Education. His work focuses on ensuring that students from kindergarten through college have access to high quality and relevant financial education. This starts with early awareness and financial literacy, and continues as they face college choices and make decisions about paying for college. At ED David works with the Under Secretary's office, with major responsibilities advancing the President's 2020 college completion agenda and for promoting innovation in teaching and learning. David earned a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in Education and a BA and MA from Boston College. David resides in Annapolis, Maryland.

The Aspen Institute Initiative on Financial Security is a leading policy program focused on bold solutions to help all Americans at every stage of life to save, invest, and own.