

Session Descriptions

Morning Keynote Presentation: 8:45 am — 9:30 am (Conference Center)

Helping Families Climb the Economic Ladder by Addressing Benefit Cliffs

Session Description: This presentation offers an introduction to benefit cliffs in family support programs and describes their impacts that impede family economic mobility and well-being. Also outlined are key policy and practice strategies for state agencies to ‘soften’ the cliffs within and across federally funded programs in human services, labor and nutrition. Connections to addressing efforts to address basic human needs, like hunger and housing will also be discussed.

Background: States are striving to fill workforce needs with available workers to facilitate upward mobility and economic growth. Benefit cliffs are often an obstacle for both business and the potential employee. The parent wants the job, but often needs some of the family supports they were receiving to bridge to work. These supports often include childcare, food, and/or housing. When an employment opportunity leads to the swift and full retraction of family benefits, the family and ‘tents’ on a cliff. A parent may often decline a job opportunity or advancement as the loss of the family supports costs more than the employment gain. The wage is not enough to provide for the family and a transition plan of continuing but decreasing benefits, is lacking.

New studies show that the business industry is losing many potential workers, notably during a worker shortage, due to this cliff effect. The Florida Chamber of Commerce and the CT Business and Industry Association note this challenge in recent studies. States are figuring out what they can do on the state level to help transition benefits so the parent can take the job being offered and sustain employment. They are sharing their policy and program strategies and are also noting what might help on the federal level. One such example is the lack of coordination and alignment across agency, which confounds the family.

“For families, the cliff effect can create an anchor into, rather than a ladder out of, poverty. They lose more than they gain when they take a job or receive a raise and their safety net is simultaneously weakened or eliminated. For business, it often means perpetually recruiting, hiring and training for the same entry-level positions. To the detriment of all, the workforce shortage is not filled, families do not exit social support systems, and economic growth is stymied.” *NCSL Moving on Up Helping Families Climb the Economic Ladder by Addressing Benefit Cliffs. 2019*

Presenter:

Josephine Hauer, Ed.D., Innovation and Strategy, *U.S. Department of Health and Human Services*

Wellness Session: 9:30 am — 9:40 am (Conference Center)

Session Description: We invite you to join us for this exciting opportunity to take care of your mind and body by participating in the Sunshine Summit to End Hunger's first wellness session. Don't miss out on this chance to prioritize your health and wellness.

Presenter:

Nicole Pilling, *Wellness Instructor*

Session #1: 9:40 am — 10:30 am (Conference Center)***The Power of Community in Food Systems*****Session Description:****Session #1A: *Food is Power: Food Sovereignty In Practice***

What do food pantries, community gardens, food policy councils, educational food programs, and farmer-in-training programs have in common? They are all part of a growing movement in the United States and across the world towards food sovereignty. Food sovereignty is a food system in which the people who produce, distribute, and consume food also control the mechanisms and policies of food production and distribution. Food sovereignty asserts that people have a right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods. If food insecurity is the problem, food sovereignty is the solution. However, understanding food sovereignty, in practice, can be difficult and therefore implementing programs that respect the pillars of food sovereignty can seem near impossible.

In this presentation, presenters will work to describe the food sovereignty movement through an exploration of WellBuilt Cities work, past, present, and future, in addressing food insecurity. Food is Power will benefit attendees by providing context for the present need for community centric solutions, and how WellFed Community, a social enterprise of WellBuilt Cities is researching and implementing food sovereignty programming. Utilizing the pillars of food sovereignty, we will provide tactile examples of food sovereignty in action. We will use practical, real-life examples to illustrate the dream of a localized food system, for and by the people, that is building skills and power, working with nature, and prioritizing and valuing food providers. Attendees will leave with a clear understanding of exactly how food is, in fact, power.

Presenters:

Dhalia Bumbaca, MS MBA, Director of Development & Programming, *WellFed Community/WellBuilt Cities*

Jon Dengler, CEO, *WellBuilt Cities*

Session #1B: *Seedlings to Neighbors*

Seedlings to Neighbors is an exciting collaboration between Daystar Life Center, Bayfront Health, and Eckerd College. Through this partnership Daystar has built garden beds in the backyards of 10 participants in Pinellas County. Over the course of 12 months volunteers from Daystar, alongside students from Eckerd College, are teaching the participants how to plant, grow, and prepare fresh food from their gardens. Participants will also have access to fresh produce grown on campus to supplement their needs.

As part of this program, a nurse from Bayfront Health will be conducting regular check-ups with the participants and their families to gauge overall health improvements throughout the program. Daystar's garden staff will also monitor the continued use of the garden to determine how many of the participants continue to grow their own fresh produce after the program ends. We feel that information from this program will benefit attendees because it will show a sustainable option for tackling food insecurity at the root level by teaching families how to grow and prepare their own healthy food in their backyards.

Presenters:

Matthew Korol, Director of Operations, *Daystar Life Center*

Jacqueline Roche, Community Engagement Specialist, *Daystar Life Center*

Session #1C: *Connecting the Food System Community with the Homegrown Hillsborough Network*

Homegrown Hillsborough is a new network working to connect food system and community stakeholders to influence and determine food system development in Hillsborough County. Food system development can positively impact public health initiatives and lead to better health outcomes, specifically as it relates to obesity and chronic illnesses (Mary Story, Michael W. Hamm & David Wallinga, 2009).

For food system initiatives to be effective, they must be organized around communities to match each community's specific needs. Homegrown Hillsborough will be the connecting entity to ensure that education, projects, and programming are tailored to the needs of the community it purports to serve.

The opportunity to attend and present and present at the 13th Annual Sunshine Summit to End Hunger will allow stakeholders and professionals within the community to learn more about Homegrown Hillsborough and how they can connect with community partners to accomplish common goals and strengthen community bonds.

Presenter:

Monica Petrella, MS, Food System Program Coordinator - Hillsborough County, Homegrown Hillsborough

Cooking Demonstration: 10:30 am — 10:45 am (Conference Center)

Chef Albert Tash's Upcycling Taste-it!

Session Description:

Join us in a cooking demonstration using recovered food.

Presenter:

Chef Albert Tash, Executive Chef, *Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tampa*

Session #2: 10:45 am — 11:45 am (Conference Center)

Food Banking Today

Session Description:

Join us for an informative session on the current state of food banking. Our panel of experts will discuss the challenges faced by food banks, the impact of COVID-19 on food insecurity, and strategies for addressing these issues. Speakers will share innovative solutions and best practices that have helped address food insecurity and hunger in their communities.

Panelists:

Shaina Bent, Chief Operating Officer, *St. Pete Free Clinic*

Laureen Husband, Vice President, Public Policy & Community Engagement, *Feeding Northeast Florida*

Richard Leber, President & CEO, *Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida*

Wellness Session: 11:45 pm — 11:50 am (Conference Center)

Session Description: Take a stretch, clear your mind, and recharge with Nicole Pilling, Wellness Instructor. Let's take a moment to focus on ourselves and come back feeling refreshed and energized. Join us for this much-needed break!

Presenter:

Nicole Pilling, *Wellness Instructor*

Lunch Keynote Presentation: 11:50 am — 12:35 pm (Conference Center)

National Legislative Update and the Reauthorization of the 2023 Farm Bill

Session Description:

What is the status and future of the Farm Bill? What marker bills are likely to become a part of a Farm Bill? How will the Tax Deal and the WIC program be impacted by political breakdown in the U.S House? Will the Child Tax Credit be a topic for debate next year? Which members of congress are allies of programs that we care about and what can you do to help advocate for their protection and expansion? Learn answers to these questions and more.

Presenter:

Florence French Fagan, Senior Southeast Regional Organizer, *Bread for the World*

Session #3: 1:25 pm — 2:25 pm (Conference Center)

Hunger Across Demographics

Session Description:

Session Description:

During this session, we will explore the issue of hunger and food insecurity across various demographics, including children, seniors, and family hunger. Our expert panelists will share their insights on the root causes of hunger, its impact on different communities, and potential solutions to address this critical issue.

Presenters:

Lynn Geist, President, *Florida School Nutrition Association* - Representing Childhood/School Hunger

Mark Adler, Executive Director, *Meals on Wheels South Florida* – Representing Senior Hunger

Christine Long, Vice President and Chief Program Officer *Metropolitan Ministries* - Representing Family Hunger

Session 4: 2:30 pm — 3:30 pm (Conference Center)

Self-Care Strategies for Real World Service

Session Description:

This interactive workshop will provide an understanding of vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue. We will discuss and practice mindfulness and self-care strategies, while de-mystifying the concept of self-care, which can often feel overwhelming and unattainable in our daily lives. Participants will leave with hands-on tools to improve their services by prioritizing self-care.

Presenters:

Jamie Avant, Vice President of Effinity Training and Wellness Services, *Metropolitan Ministries*

Tejal Patel, Director of Effinity Training, *Metropolitan Ministries*
