

New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute's Seventh Annual Conference

Strengthening New Hampshire: Creating Equitable Opportunities for All Granite Staters

Friday, February 21, 2020



Agenda *(as of January 31)*

8:00 – 8:45 Registration and Breakfast

8:45 – 9:05 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Bruce King, CEO, New London Hospital and Chair, NHFPI Board of Directors
AnnMarie French, Executive Director, NHFPI

Opening Remarks

Pawn Nitichan, Executive Director, City Year New Hampshire
and Vice President, City Year Inc.

9:05 – 9:35 New Hampshire's Demographics, Economy, and Access to Opportunity

Phil Sletten, Policy Analyst, NHFPI

New Hampshire's economy has grown in the ten years since the recession, but many Granite Staters continue to struggle to make ends meet. There are large disparities in levels of economic security and access to housing, health care, and educational opportunities among New Hampshire residents. These inequities impact people of different ages, incomes, abilities and disabilities, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and geographic locations to varying degrees. An overview of relevant data provides insight into who today's Granite Staters are, and the inequities in access to opportunities that they face.

9:35 – 10:45 Panel Discussion: Enhancing Equitable Access in Housing, Health, and Education

Moderated panel discussion followed by audience Q&A

This moderated panel discussion will address levels of access and opportunity in the areas of housing, health, and education, and the connections to economic stability and mobility as well as a strong workforce. Panelists will discuss current initiatives, recent policy changes, and new state budget investments designed to enhance support for residents in these areas.

- *Ben Frost, Managing Director, Policy and Public Affairs, NH Housing Finance Authority*
- *Ann Landry, Associate Commissioner, Population Health, NH Dept. of Health and Human Services*
- *Michael Turmelle, Director of Education and Career Initiatives, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation*
- *Moderator: Victoria Adewumi, Manchester Health Department Community Liaison and NHFPI Board of Directors*

10:45 – 11:05 Break

11:05 –12:20 Examining Local Economic Conditions and Community Challenges

Phil Sletten, Policy Analyst, NHFPI

There are important statewide and regional factors that influence access to opportunity in New Hampshire. Additionally, key influences at the local level contribute to significant differences in opportunities for children and families. From vast differences in economic circumstances within counties and regions to implications for public resources and school funding, examining inequities in access to opportunities requires consideration of conditions at the municipal level. Available data showing differing challenges in neighboring communities demonstrates the limitations on generating resources locally and suggests that policy changes may be needed to effectively reduce inequities.

The Whole Picture of Public Education in New Hampshire

Evelyn Aissa, Executive Director, Reaching Higher NH

The Whole Picture of Public Education uses data from state and national databases to provide our communities with comprehensive research into student learning and outcomes, community factors, and school finance. The project's aim is to widen the aperture of our understanding of public education in our state. There is considerable power in family and community factors on student outcomes in school, specifically a family's income/economic status, and the overall educational attainment of a community in which the student lives. Our schools serve as hubs of learning – but they also have unique and unparalleled opportunities to address systemic barriers, helping to ensure that children arrive to class positioned and able to learn. In addition to a report, the project includes articles exploring interactive data visualizations and individual school district and town profiles.

Using Data to Engage and Transform New Hampshire Communities – A Case Study from NH Community Development Finance Authority

Katherine Easterly Martey, Executive Director, NH Community Development Finance Authority

As part of its mission to support community economic development across New Hampshire, CDFA assembles and uses relevant demographic, fiscal and other data to help guide its planning and funding priorities. Starting in 2019, CDFA embarked on an initiative – in partnership with NHFPI - to update its data collection, analysis and visualization capacity. The result is a new set of “Community Indicators” designed to provide information and context on community well-being to local leaders, nonprofit organizations, state agencies, and other stakeholders. CDFA’s CEO Katy Easterly Martey and Director of Economic Development Kevin Peterson will outline the growing need for transparent access to relevant and reliable data to build capacity, support business growth and job creation, and improve community agency and well-being; describe the partnership approach used to create CDFA’s Community Indicators; and share future goals for increasing the use of data and data visualization by CDFA and its partners.

Audience Q&A with all speakers

12:20 – 12:30 Closing Remarks

AnnMarie French, Executive Director, NHFPI