



## Child Poverty Forum East St Louis September 10, 2024

### Agenda

- I. (1:00 p.m.-1:05 p.m.) Welcome  
Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat - Children's Advocates for Change, President  
Rev. Bethany Johnson-Javois - Deaconess Foundation, President and CEO
- II. (1:05 p.m.-1:20 p.m.) Presentation of East St. Louis Data  
Renee Ryberg - Child Trends, Senior Research Scientist
- III. (1:20 p.m.-1:55 p.m.) A "Fireside Chat": National and Local View on Child Poverty  
(30-minute chat & 5-minute Q &A)  
Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat - Children's Advocates for Change, President  
Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson - Children's Defense Fund, President and CEO
- IV. (1:55 p.m.-2:25 p.m.) Poverty and Education Panel  
Moderator: Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat - Children's Advocates for Change, President  
Panelists:  
Superintendent Arthur R. Culver - East St. Louis School District 189  
Stephanie Herling - Birth to Five Illinois: Region 50, Regional Council Manager  
Sheila Burton - Every Child Education Equity Project, Executive Director  
Dr. Tiffany Gholson - Breaking Barriers International, Founder  
Parent Panelist
- V. (2:25 p.m.-3:05 p.m.) Poverty and Health Panel  
Moderator: Dara Munson - Family Focus, President  
Panelists:  
Dr. Mariana Souto-Manning - Erikson Institute, President  
Dr. Safiya McNeese-Ruffin - Assistant Professor, Associate Program Director of  
SIU Family Medicine Residency Program - Alton  
Linda Joiner - East Side Health District, Health Education Program Manager  
Patrice Howard - SIHF Healthcare, Senior Vice President  
Parent Panelist
- VI. (3:05 p.m.-3:25 p.m.) Table discussions: What is the best next step forward to address child poverty? (Conversation and report outs)

- VII. (3:25 p.m.-3:55 p.m.) *Elected/Appointed Officials Panel*  
Moderator: Jacki Robinson-Ivy - The Northern Trust Company, Senior Vice-President;  
Board Chair, City Club of Chicago  
Panelists:  
    State Senator Christopher Belt  
    State Representative Kevin Schmidt  
    Lieutenant Elbert Jennings - Illinois State Police  
    Ryan Croke - First Assistant Deputy Governor for Health and Human Services  
    Parent Panelist
- VIII. (3:55 p.m.- 4:05 p.m.) Closing Remarks  
Dr. Tasha Green Cruzat - Children's Advocates for Change, President