



## OFA State and Tribal Technical Assistance and Resources

### *Leveraging Strategic Partnerships and Funding to Address Housing Stability Needs of TANF Recipients and Families with Low Incomes*

#### SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

##### **Nicholas Feucht, Real Estate and Housing Coordinator, Chesterfield County Department of Community Enhancement**

Nicholas Feucht works in the areas of affordable housing and community development in Chesterfield County, Virginia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he served as the Chesterfield Emergency Rental Assistance program (CERA) administrator. The program utilized four different sources of state and federal pandemic relief funding to establish emergency housing and utility relief programs, emergency homeless services, and legal assistance services for low- to moderate-income households. He previously worked for the City of Richmond in the Department of Economic and Community Development working on a broad range of projects involving community revitalization, small business development, affordable housing financing, and poverty mitigation. He routinely works across government agencies to coordinate back office functions so that programs are easily accessible to citizens, require less administrative resources, and provide longer lasting benefits to recipients.

##### **Rachel Gwilliam, Program Specialist, Division of State TANF Policy, Office of Family Assistance, Administration for Children and Families**

Rachel Gwilliam is a program specialist in the Division of State TANF Policy, Office of Family Assistance, where she has worked since 2007. She serves as OFA's contact on issues related to family homelessness.

##### **Sharon McDonald, Senior Fellow for Families and Children, National Alliance to End Homelessness and Senior Advisor, Administration for Children and Families**

Sharon McDonald has joined ACF as a Senior Advisor under an IPA (at 20 percent FTE) to support cross-cutting ACF priorities, with a particular focus on protecting the safety and well-being of children and families experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. Dr. McDonald continues to serve as the Senior Fellow for Families and Children at the National Alliance to End Homelessness. In her over 20-year tenure at the Alliance, she has focused on identifying and promulgating promising strategies to assist families experiencing homelessness. This has included promoting the application of Housing First principles in homeless service delivery as well as identifying and elevating models of cross system partnerships that help vulnerable children and families quickly transition to safe permanent housing options. Dr. McDonald's direct practice experience with homeless and at-risk populations include overseeing a seven-day day center program that served as the primary local source of assistance for people experiencing homelessness (a lifeline for those living without shelter). She also supervised graduate students to create a community-based social work service program to residents of a subsidized housing development. She has an MSW and a Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Policy from Virginia Commonwealth University. She has been credentialed as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and served as the 1999/2000 Council on Social Work Education/National Association of Social Workers Congressional Fellow.



***Cindy Moussavou, Program Director, Housing Families First***

Cindy Moussavou earned her Bachelor of Social Work from James Madison University and began her social work career serving families experiencing homelessness in rural Virginia. She later relocated to New Haven, Connecticut, working with individuals experiencing chronic homelessness and frequent stays in the correctional system. In 2014, Ms. Moussavou joined the Housing Families First team as a Shelter and Rapid Re-Housing Case Manager for families and single women. Her career commitment is to point to the “Building Neighbors” value – that we are as strong as our most vulnerable neighbor and that, together in supporting our neighbors in housing access and affordability, we strengthen the fabric of our community. Ms. Moussavou became the first Program Director for Housing Families First in late 2018. She works to further develop housing counseling and access as a proven path to ending homelessness. She is planted in the heart of Henrico’s East End with her young family.

***Gina Rendina, Policy Advisor, Emergency Housing Team, U.S. Department of the Treasury***

Gina Rendina is a policy advisor for the Emergency Housing Team at the Department of Treasury. Prior to working with Treasury, Ms. Rendina has over 15 years of experience working with non-profits and local governments on homelessness and affordable housing issues.

***Raessa Singh, Senior Advisor, Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary, Administration for Children and Families***

Raessa Singh joined ACF in December 2021 as a senior advisor in the Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary (IOAS) to support priorities related to the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. This includes a strong focus on cross-cutting work, with a specific focus on the connections between child welfare and homelessness as well as between child welfare and domestic and family violence. Prior to this role, Ms. Singh worked at the DC Department of Human Services helping to lead initiatives such as the roll out of the District’s emergency rental assistance program, and efforts to improve access to housing stability services for families and single adults. She earned graduate degrees in Social Work and Public Health from Boston University and currently resides in DC.

***Vivian Turner, Assistant Director, Workforce, Child Care and Strategic Partnerships, Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services***

Vivian Turner has served in a number of executive leadership roles with both non-profit and governmental entities and has amassed over 25 years of administrative and managerial expertise. Throughout her career, she has appreciated the opportunity to work on behalf of diverse and disenfranchised communities. She has designed services and programs that help customers navigate systems and access services and resources that place them on paths to self-sufficiency. Ms. Turner currently serves as an assistant director with the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services, where she oversees the agency’s Research and Policy, Workforce, Child Care, and Community Contracts (TANF) and Programs departments. She has been with Franklin County for over 10 years.