

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM 18 APR 23 PM 3:59

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed. Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Wendell E. Primus
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ or None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: 4-5-18 Return: 4-6-18
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____ or None
4. Departure city: D.C. Destination: Oakland, MD Return city: D.C.
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Education & Society Program)
6. Describe meetings and events attended: Attended all the meetings in the Society Program agenda. Met with Carroll County CAB; On Friday attended all the session in the hotel.
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box):
 - a. a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
 - b. the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; and
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. (Signify that statement is true by checking box):
 b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER: Wendell E. Primus DATE: 4-23-18

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Nancy Pelosi DATE: 4-23-18

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: Nancy Pelosi

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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. ***A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

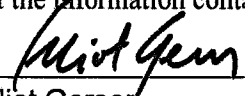
NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

- Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): The Aspen Institute (Education & Society Program)
- Travel Destination(s): McHenry, MD
- Date of Departure: April 5, 2018 Date of Return: April 6, 2018
- Name(s) of Traveler(s): Please see attached participant list
(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)
- Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	\$215.00 round trip bus	\$93.00(1 night) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$59.25	\$89.93meeting room fees (includes meeting facilities, set up/take down, cleaning, meeting materials) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Accompanying Relative	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

- All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (*Signify statement is true by checking box*):

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 
 Name: Elliot Gerson Title: Executive Vice President, Policy & Public Programs
 Organization: The Aspen Institute

I am an officer of the above-named organization (*signify statement is true by checking box*):

Address: 2300 N Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 20037

Telephone number: 202-736-5859 (Lisa Jones, Assistant General Counsel)

Email Address: lisa.jones@aspeninstitute.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Wendell E. Primes
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): The Aspen Institute, Inc
(Education and Society Program)
3. Travel destination(s): McHENRY, MD
4. a. Date of departure April 7, 2018 Date of return: April 6, 2018
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: _____
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:

7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.

I handle welfare programs for the leader -
TANF, child welfare and have worked
on poverty and income inequality issues my entire

9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No
careers,
My official title

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**
TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:
ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL
I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.
is senior Health
and Budget Policy
Advisor,

Date: 3/6/18
Nancy Pelosi
Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): _____
The Aspen Institute, Inc. (Education and Society Program)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (signify that the statement is true by checking box):
3. Check only one: I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip *or*
 - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds *or*.
 - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
4. Provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting. For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary):
See attached list of staff invited and explanation (note: all are senior staffers responsible for various programs and policies that affect mobility from poverty)
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: April 5, 2018 Date of return: April 6, 2018
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): McHenry, MD
c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: *or*
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: *or*
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. Check one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: *or*
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:
If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box):

11. Check one:

a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): or

b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For each sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip and its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The Aspen Institute's Education and Society Program has an 11 year history of providing non-partisan education programs for Congressional staff. The purpose of this trip is to convene a conference to discuss recent trends in economic mobility and new evidence on interventions designed to increase mobility from poverty. Aspen's Education and Society Program is solely responsible for organizing or conducting the meeting. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation provides funding to the Education and Society Program but does not have a role in organizing or conducting the meeting.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: participants may also choose to drive)

b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)

c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: or

b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
4/5/18 \$38.25, 4/6/18 \$21.00

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____

The Garratt County Community Action Committee, Oakland, MD site visit will allow participants to observe first hand the challenges related to mobility from poverty and hear directly from officials and other stakeholders about programs designed to increase economic self-sufficiency. The meeting venue will create an appropriate atmosphere to support off-the-record, non-partisan exchanges of ideas and professional learning away from Washington, DC.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: The Lodge at Wisp City: McHenry, MD Cost per night: 93.00

Reason(s) for selecting: Easily accessible with sufficient lodging and meeting space for all participants close to the rural site visit in Oakland, MD

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$100.00 per participant round trip bus transportation or \$196.20 roundtrip mileage	\$93.00 for 1 night	\$59.25
For each accompanying relative	n/a	n/a	n/a

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$110.28	Meeting room fees (includes meeting facilities, set up/ take down, cleaning, meeting materials) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For each accompanying relative	n/a	n/a

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 

Name: Elliot Gerson

Title: Executive Vice President, Policy & Public Programs

Organization: The Aspen Institute

Address: 2300 N Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037

Telephone number: 202-736-5859 (Lisa Jones, Assistant General Counsel)

Email address: lisa.jones@aspeninst.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

GRANTMAKING TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by a public charity or private foundation (both as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code) that provides a grant of funds to another entity to underwrite, in whole or in part, a trip or an event, meal, or activity that will occur during a trip, or a necessary expense that will be incurred during a trip, with express or implicit knowledge or understanding that one or more House Members or employees may participate in or attend that trip or event, or otherwise may be beneficiaries of the gift or donation. Provide a copy of your completed form to the primary sponsor of the trip.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. I certify that (name of your organization): Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
has been designated a § 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization by the Internal Revenue Service.
 Yes No
2. Name of Primary Trip Sponsor: Aspen Institute Education & Society Program
3. I certify that my organization (complete a or b):
 - a. Has provided a grant, gift, or donation to the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor and conducts an audit or review of its grant, gift, or donation to ensure that the funds are spent in accordance with the terms of its grant, gift, or donation. *or*
 - b. Has had a direct role in the organizing, planning, or conducting of a trip to
(destination) _____ on (date) _____ that is
being organized or arranged by the above-named Primary Trip Sponsor.
4. Check one:
 - a. My organization does not employ or retain a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent *or*
 - b. My organization employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but their involvement in planning, organizing, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the travel regulations.
5. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.
6. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name: Julius Lloyd Horwich Title: Senior Program Officer

Organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Address: 1300 I (Eye) Street NW; Ste. 200E; Washington, DC 20005

Telephone number: 202-662-8130 Email: lloyd.horwich@gatesfoundation.org

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Chairwoman
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Ranking Member



Kenny Marchant, Texas
Leonard Lance, New Jersey
Mimi Walters, California
John Ratcliffe, Texas

Yvette D. Clarke, New York
Jared Polis, Colorado
Anthony Brown, Maryland
Steve Cohen, Tennessee

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

March 29, 2018

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Donna Herbert
Director of Administration

Megan Savage
*Chief of Staff and Counsel to
the Chairwoman*

Daniel J. Taylor
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

Mr. Wendell E. Primus
Office of the Minority Leader
H204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Primus:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to McHenry, Maryland, scheduled for April 5 to 6, 2018, sponsored by the Aspen Institute, Inc., with financial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Susan W. Brooks
Chairwoman

Theodore E. Deutch
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:wfs

**Aspen Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff Network
on Mobility from Poverty**

Mobility from Poverty: Rural Poverty and Criminal Justice Reform

The Lodge at Wisp
290 Marsh Hill Road
McHenry, MD 21541
301-387-5581

April 5 & 6, 2018

AGENDA

Retreat Goals:

- Build on the foundation of learning established at the August, 2017 Mobility from Poverty retreat and spark discussion around two high-profile challenges affecting policymakers' efforts to increase economic mobility in America:
 - the changing nature of poverty in rural areas, including a sharp increase in substance abuse and mortality among middle-aged white adults without college degrees;
 - and the nexus between poverty and the criminal justice system.
- Understand how a sharp increase in incarceration rates over time has affected low-income families and communities, and how interactions with the criminal justice system can affect vulnerable families trying to move out of poverty, especially re-entry and collateral consequences for those who become entangled with the criminal justice system.
- Engage in active learning and build working relationships with experts and practitioners from various fields of expertise, as well as with colleagues from different parties and chambers.

Thursday, April 5, 2018

7:00 AM	Bus transportation - Architect of the Capitol approved bus pickup location of the East curb of 1st St, SW/NW between Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues
11:00 AM	Arrival
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Working Lunch
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Welcome Objectives To guide the retreat's discussion, Congressional staffers and faculty members will begin by sharing their top two learning objectives for the convening.
12:30 – 1:45 PM	<u>Session I: Understanding rural poverty in context</u> Faculty: Jim Ziliak , Director of the Center for Poverty Research, University of Kentucky

Guiding Questions:

- *What are the characteristics of rural areas that may help or hinder mobility from poverty (e.g., the role of proximity to cities, natural amenities, and the legacy of single-employer dominated economies)?*
- *What is the role of migration patterns and immigration in shifting the population and poverty levels in rural areas?*
- *How does the diversity of rural poverty, including areas of persistent, concentrated poverty (including in the Rio Grande, central Appalachia, Mississippi Delta/Black Belt crescent, and on reservations) affect mobility from poverty?*
- *What key trends affect mobility from poverty, such as:*
 - *Changes in family composition (large increases in births out of wedlock and female-headed households);*
 - *Changes in the share of rural poor who work and the share of those who are working that are poor;*
 - *How the rural poor and rural areas access Federal assistance*
- *How strong is the relationship between educational attainment and labor market outcomes in rural areas, including low levels of educational attainment being associated with higher poverty and unemployment rates?*
- *What are the challenges in access to public health services, high quality public schools and child care, and public transportation in rural settings?*
- *What can be learned from prior experience of place-based Federal policy-making, including recent efforts like promise zones in the Kentucky highlands and the Stronger Economies Together project in Nebraska, and the lack of a strong rural evidence-base?*

1:45 – 2:00 PM

Depart hotel for site visit

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Site visit: Garrett County Community Action Committee

104 E Center St, Oakland MD 21550

Key site visit participants:

- **Duane Yoder** – President of GCCAC
- **Gregan Crawford** – Vice President of GCCAC

Staff will tour the GCCAC facility and observe the operations taking place there. Next, staff will participate in a discussion with GCCAC staff about the work being performed in Western Maryland to support families in poverty, experiencing substance abuse, and/or interacting with the criminal justice system. Staff will also have the opportunity to meet and talk with families that GCCAC serves and have time for staff-only reflection on the site visit and issues to discuss further in the following day's sessions.

Key Points:

- Federal program offices have generally been supportive of GCCAC's efforts on data-sharing and targeting but getting state buy-in has been more difficult
- The CSBG has been an important funding source for developing and executing on GCCAC's model (CSBG is very flexible Federal funding, targeted for cuts in many

Republican budgets because its flexibility has allowed it to be grossly misused in some cases)

- Data systems are expensive, and have required philanthropic support to develop, and rigorous evaluation is basically out of the question due to cost (and small numbers)
- Sometimes the closest resources cannot be utilized because they are over state lines, but on the other hand, Garrett County has been able to benefit from its proximity to other states' economic activity (take, for example, fracking-related industry, which is allowed in PA and banned in MD)
- In Garrett County, there is a "poverty trap" for low-income families making between \$11 to \$15 where additional income leads to a marginal reduction in total resources (in most urban areas, the trap is theoretically possible but doesn't occur because of the unavailability of some benefits (usually housing) for which low-income working families are eligible)

5:00 – 5:15 PM

Return to Hotel

6:30 PM

Networking Reception with Expert Faculty

*Sundown Village resort location
Yurt D DOLOMITE*

Staffers will have the opportunity to network with participants during the reception.

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Working Dinner with Discussion of Earlier Sessions

Yurt E ENDICOTT

Friday, April 6, 2018

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast

MORRIS ROOM

8:30 – 9:45 AM

Session II: The challenges and opportunities of rural labor markets

Faculty:

- **Beth Mattingly**, Director of Research on Vulnerable Families, Carsey School of Public Policy
- **Ines Polonius**, Chief Executive Officer of Communities Unlimited, Inc.

Guiding Questions:

- *What historical and structural challenges do rural labor markets face, including historical differences in educational investment (because of the nature of past employment opportunities), and changes in age and family structure?*
- *Are there cultural challenges (including the changing nature of work) and economic challenges facing rural area trying to diversify or compensate for the loss of a major employer?*
- *How do thin markets in child care, housing, and transportation makes job acquisition or job switching more difficult (and employment stability more challenging for low-income workers)?*

- *How does immigration in some rural communities affect labor markets and ancillary social service systems?*

9:45 – 10:00 AM Break

10:00 – 11:30 AM Session III: Addressing substance abuse

Faculty:

- **Shannon Monnat**, Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University
- **Jessica Nickel**, President and Chief Executive Officer of Addiction Policy Forum

Guiding Questions:

- *What social precursors have generated the vulnerability to the opioid epidemic?*
- *What geographic variation exists in opioid/substance abuse and can it be explained in part by indicators of economic, social, and family distress?*
- *What short-term stresses in rural areas for coping with service demands exist and what are the long-term demographic implications?*
- *What are the limitations of just focusing on treatment and how can more comprehensive solutions be crafted/supported?*
- *What has been shown to be effective in prevention (and abstinence) efforts, as well as for treatment and recovery?*
- *How does substance play into the larger criminal justice trends around incarceration and re-entry?*

11:30 – 12:30 PM

Lunch

MORRIS ROOM

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Session IV: Re-entry and collateral consequences from criminal justice involvement

Faculty:

- **Vikrant Reddy**, Senior Research Fellow, the Charles Koch Institute
- **Daryl Atkinson**, Co-Director of Forward Justice
- **Stefan LoBuglio**, Director of Corrections and Reentry at Council of State Governments Justice Center

Guiding Questions:

- *What are the underlying causes for the rapid increase in incarceration rates in the last 30+ years?*
- *What is the need for a rationalization between social services and criminal justice (many of the same end users; more effective social policy should be considered a public safety measure)?*
- *What are the issues around restitution (arriving at an arrangement that allows for victims' restitution, by promoting economic opportunity for ex-felons, can be a powerful counterbalance for some folks who may otherwise prioritize punishment)*
- *Are there issues related to occupational licensing (e.g., access to driver's licenses) and access to services like housing that create barriers or to lead to perverse negative outcomes for those entangled in the justice system?*
- *What have we learned about what works in successful re-entry and what has limited or encouraged data sharing?)*

**Aspen Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff Network
on Mobility from Poverty**

Mobility from Poverty: Rural Poverty and Criminal Justice Reform

The Lodge at Wisp
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AGENDA

Retreat Goals:

- Build on the foundation of learning established at the August, 2017 Mobility from Poverty retreat and spark discussion around two high-profile challenges affecting policymakers' efforts to increase economic mobility in America:
 - the changing nature of poverty in rural areas, including a dramatic rise in substance abuse and mortality among middle-aged white adults without college degrees;
 - and the nexus between poverty and the criminal justice system.
- Understand how a sharp increase in incarceration rates over time has affected low-income families and communities, and how interactions with the criminal justice system can affect vulnerable families trying to move out of poverty, especially re-entry and collateral consequences for those who become entangled with the criminal justice system.
- Engage in active learning and build working relationships with experts and practitioners from various fields of expertise, as well as with colleagues from different parties and chambers.

Thursday, April 5, 2018

8:00 AM	Bus transportation - bus pickup location is the east curb of Peace Circle (1st & Pennsylvania Ave, NW)
11:15 AM	Arrival at Garrett County Community Action Committee site
11:30 – 12:00 PM	Working Lunch
12:00 – 12:30 PM	Welcome & Objectives To guide the retreat's discussion, Congressional staffers and faculty members will begin by sharing their top two learning objectives for the convening.
12:30 – 1:45 PM	<u>Session I: Understanding rural poverty in context</u> Faculty: Bruce Weber , Emeritus Professor and Director Rural Studies Program, Oregon State University

Guiding Questions:

- *What are the characteristics of rural areas that may help or hinder mobility from poverty (e.g., the role of proximity to cities, natural amenities, and the legacy of single-employer dominated economies)?*
- *What is the role of migration patterns and immigration in shifting the population and poverty levels in rural areas?*
- *How does the diversity of rural poverty, including areas of persistent, concentrated poverty (including in the Rio Grande, central Appalachia, Mississippi Delta/Black Belt crescent, and on reservations) affect mobility from poverty?*
- *What key trends affect mobility from poverty, such as:*
 - *Changes in family composition (large increases in births out of wedlock and female-headed households);*
 - *Changes in the share of rural poor who work and the share of those who are working that are poor;*
 - *How the rural poor and rural areas access Federal assistance*
- *How strong is the relationship between educational attainment and labor market outcomes in rural areas, including low levels of educational attainment being associated with higher poverty and unemployment rates?*
- *What are the challenges in access to public health services, high quality public schools and child care, and public transportation in rural settings?*
- *What can be learned from prior experience of place-based Federal policy-making, including recent efforts like promise zones in the Kentucky highlands and the Stronger Economies Together project in Nebraska, and the lack of a strong rural evidence-base?*

1:45 – 2:00 PM

Break

2:00 – 5:00 PM

Site visit: Garrett County Community Action Committee
104 E Center St, Oakland MD 21550

Key site visit participants:

- **Duane Yoder** – President of GCCAC
- **Gregan Crawford** – Vice President of GCCAC

Staff will take a walking tour of the GCCAC facility and observe the operations taking place there. Then staff will participate in a briefing with GCCAC staff about the work being performed in Western Maryland to support families in poverty, experiencing substance abuse, and/or interacting with the criminal justice system. Staff will also have the opportunity to meet and talk with families that GCCAC serves. Finally, there will be time for staff-only reflection on the site visit and issues to discuss further in the following day's sessions.

Guiding Questions:

- *How do Federal programs support GCCAC efforts to serve Western Maryland? If so, what programs and in what ways (funding, programs, policies, etc.)? If not, why not, and are there ways that can be addressed?*
- *What other resources or programs at the state or local levels does GCCAC leverage?*

- *What service and support trends are emerging - both positive and negative? How has the balance of services provided changed over time?*
- *How does GCCAC gather, organize and use information and data about services needed and services provided?*
- *How can service delivery be evaluated for results? Is that possible given small numbers of participants? What cost implications are there?*
- *Is there a need for cross-state service delivery? Is that possible? If not, are partnerships or other arrangements possible?*
- *Are there structural obstacles to solving rural labor market issues? For example, do benefit tiers encourage or discourage work (ie, is there a poverty trap where additional income leads to significant benefit reductions that outweigh income increases?)*
- *How does GCCAC leverage partnerships (public, private, etc.) to support and enhance its service delivery model?*

5:00 – 5:15 PM

Travel to Hotel

6:30 PM

Networking Reception with Expert Faculty

*Sundown Village resort location
Yurt D DOLOMITE*

Staffers will have the opportunity to network with participants during the reception.

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Working Dinner with Discussion of Earlier Sessions

Yurt E ENDICOTT

Staff and faculty will have the opportunity to discuss the themes that emerged from the opening keynote and the issues raised from the site visit.

Friday, April 6, 2018

7:30 – 8:30 AM

Breakfast

MORRIS ROOM

8:30 – 9:45 AM

Session II: The challenges and opportunities of rural labor markets

CRAWFORD
ROOM

Faculty:

- **Brian Thiede**, Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology, Economics, and Demography, Penn State University
- **Ines Polonius**, Chief Executive Officer of Communities Unlimited, Inc.
- **Shawn Bender**, Vice President, Beitzel Corporation

Guiding Questions:

- *What historical and structural challenges do rural labor markets face, including historical differences in educational investment (because of the nature of past employment opportunities), and changes in age and family structure?*
- *Are there cultural challenges (including the changing nature of work) and economic challenges facing rural area trying to diversify or compensate for the loss of a major employer?*
- *How do thin markets in child care, housing, and transportation makes job acquisition or job switching more difficult (and employment stability more challenging for low-income workers)?*

- *How does immigration in some rural communities affect labor markets and ancillary social service systems?*

9:45 – 10:00 AM

Break

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Session III: Addressing substance abuse

CRAWFORD
ROOM

Faculty:

- **Shannon Monnat**, Professor of Sociology, Syracuse University
- **Mark O'Brien**, Vice President, Addiction Policy Forum

Guiding Questions:

- *What social precursors have generated the vulnerability to the opioid epidemic?*
- *What geographic variation exists in opioid/substance abuse and can it be explained in part by indicators of economic, social, and family distress?*
- *What short-term stresses in rural areas for coping with service demands exist and what are the long-term demographic implications?*
- *What are the limitations of just focusing on treatment and how can more comprehensive solutions be crafted/supported?*
- *What has been shown to be effective in prevention (and abstinence) efforts, as well as for treatment and recovery?*
- *How does substance play into the larger criminal justice trends around incarceration and re-entry?*

11:30 – 12:30 PM

Lunch

MORRIS ROOM

12:30 – 2:00 PM

Session IV: Re-entry and collateral consequences from criminal justice involvement

CRAWFORD
ROOM

Faculty:

- **Jordan Richardson**, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, the Charles Koch Institute
- **Chidi Umez**, Project Manager, Criminal Records Project, Council of State Governments Justice Center

Guiding Questions:

- *What are the underlying causes for the rapid increase in incarceration rates in the last 30+ years?*
- *What is the need for a rationalization between social services and criminal justice (many of the same end users; more effective social policy should be considered a public safety measure)?*
- *What are the issues around restitution (arriving at an arrangement that allows for victims' restitution, by promoting economic opportunity for ex-felons, can be a powerful counterbalance for some folks who may otherwise prioritize punishment)*
- *Are there issues related to occupational licensing (e.g., access to driver's licenses) and access to services like housing that create barriers or to lead to perverse negative outcomes for those entangled in the justice system?*
- *What have we learned about what works in successful re-entry and what has limited or encouraged data sharing?)*

- *Are re-entry efforts sufficiently targeted to those who need the services/support the most?*
- *How can re-entry be more than just a corrections effort? What is the role of health and mental health agencies?*
- *What are the unique challenges to re-entry in the rural context?*
- *Are rural areas lagging urban areas in implementing criminal justice reforms, which is leading to larger subsets of rural populations being affected?*

2:00 – 2:15 PM	Break + Complete Retreat Evaluation
2:15 – 2:30 PM	Final Observations from Expert Faculty
2:30 – 3:00 PM	Taking Stock: Staff Reflections and Feedback to Guide Next Steps Adjourn
3:15 PM	<i>Buses depart from lobby (drop off is the east curb of Garfield Circle (1st & Maryland Ave, SW).</i>



THE ASPEN INSTITUTE
EDUCATION & SOCIETY PROGRAM

#4. Please provide names and titles of ALL House Members and employees you are inviting.

The House employees invited (listed below) are senior staff responsible for various programs and policies related to mobility from poverty; they are invited specifically because of their issue portfolio to meet with leaders and poverty experts from state, local, research, and support organizations to engage in non-partisan dialogue on the impact of federal policy on mobility from poverty.

HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Joe Carlile
Minority Staff Assistant
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

Doug Disrud
Majority Clerk
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development

Theresa Dumais
Minority Director of Housing Policy
House Financial Services Committee

Véronique Pluviose
Minority Staff Director
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Nancy Fox
Majority Staff Director
House Committee on Appropriations

Ed Gilroy
Majority Director of Workforce Policy
House Committee on Education and the Workforce

Amy Jones
Majority Director of Education and Human Services
Policy
House Committee on Education and Workforce

Clinton Jones
Majority Senior Counsel
House Financial Services Committee

Barrett Karr
Chief of Staff
Majority Leader, Kevin McCarthy

Tom Mahr
Policy Director
Majority Whip, Steve Scalise

Ted McCann
Assistant to the Speaker for Policy
Speaker Paul Ryan

Dick Meltzer
Policy Director
Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi

Morna Miller
House Committee Ways and Means Subcommittee
on Human Resources

Lisa Molyneux
Minority Professional Staff
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education

Wendell Primus
Senior Policy Advisor
Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi

Shalanda Young
Minority Staff Director
House Committee on Appropriations



**Aspen Retreat for Senior Congressional Staff Network
on Mobility from Poverty**

Mobility from Poverty: Rural Poverty and Criminal Justice Reform

The Lodge at Wisp
290 Marsh Hill Road
McHenry, MD 21541
301-387-5581
April 5 & 6, 2018

HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL STAFF

Doug Disrud
Majority Clerk
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development
doug@hous.gov

Tom Mahr
Policy Director
Minority Whip, Steny Hoyer

Morna Miller
House Committee Ways and Means Subcommittee
on Human Resources

Wendell Primus
Senior Policy Advisor
Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi
wprimus@hous.gov

February 23, 2018

Dear House Colleague,

We are writing to invite you to participate in an upcoming retreat – ***“Mobility from Poverty: Rural Poverty and Criminal Justice Reform”*** – for the Aspen Senior Congressional Staff Network on Mobility from Poverty beginning **11:00 AM Thursday, April 5, 2018 through 3:15 PM Friday, April 6, 2018**. The lodging and meeting location is **The Lodge at Wisp, 290 Marsh Hill Road, McHenry, MD 21541**, approximately 180 miles from Washington, DC with a site visit to the Garrett County Community Action Committee, 104 E Center Street, Oakland, MD 21550. Roundtrip ground transportation from DC to the retreat will be provided.

At this convening, staffers will hear from researchers and practitioners how economic mobility has changed over time and the challenges affecting policymakers’ efforts to increase economic mobility in America and the changing nature of poverty in rural areas, including a sharp increase in substance abuse and the nexus between poverty and the criminal justice system. Staffers will learn about recent evidence on the effectiveness of interventions designed to increase mobility from poverty, including interventions that address the role of family, place, and health, as well as the changing structure of labor markets. Even as policymakers seek to increase economic mobility broadly, they must understand and contend with barriers and challenges specific to rural contexts, which may require different approaches to be successful. The convening will focus on potential roles for Congress and the executive branch in increasing mobility from poverty. Finally, the retreat will provide an opportunity for staffers to engage in their own learning and build working relationships with colleagues from different parties and chambers and with leading experts in the field. We fully comply with the rules that have been enacted by the House regarding privately-funded travel. Enclosed you will find all the forms necessary for Ethics rules compliance:

- A detailed agenda listing discussion sessions
- A completed Primary Trip Sponsor Form
- A list of invited House staffers
- A blank Traveler Form
- Completed Grantmaking Trip Sponsor Form from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

You must complete the Traveler Form and submit it with the enclosed agenda, list of invited staffers, Primary Trip Sponsor Form, and Grantmaking Trip Sponsor Form directly to the Committee on Ethics (1015 Longworth) no later than Tuesday, March 6, 2018. After receiving the completed travel package, the Ethics Committee will review and issue an approval to you or your sponsoring Member. After the trip, you will need to complete a post-travel form that we will email to you after the site visit.

Attendance is by invitation only, with no outside observers or lobbyists. Funding is provided solely by grants from established foundations – no government, individual, foreign, corporate, or special interest money is accepted. The Network is supported by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Aspen Education & Society Program maintains autonomy over invitations, materials, and the agenda for the retreat.

The retreat will begin at 11:00 AM Thursday, April 5, 2018 through 3:15 PM Friday, April 6, 2018. Please plan your travel accordingly in order to be present for the duration of the retreat. Final logistics information will be provided. Dress is casual for all meetings.

The retreat promises to be productive and informative. We look forward to seeing you there.