

**Congressional Hunger Center Roundtable with
House Rules Committee Chairman Rep. Jim McGovern
Thursday, July 22, 2021
2-3:30PMET**

ZOOM LINK: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83721083347>

EVENT SUMMARY: Selected Fellows and Alums from the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship will share their expertise on the root causes of hunger, how we ensure a strong social safety net, and apply an equity lens to our collective work to end hunger in the United States. After each speaker's presentation, there will be time for 1-2 questions from Rep. McGovern or other members of the roundtable. At the conclusion of presentations, there will be opportunity for discussions and Q&A among the speakers.

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER
2pmET	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Shannon Maynard, Executive Director, Congressional Hunger Center
2:05	Remarks	Rep. Jim McGovern, Chairman, House Rules Committee
2:15	Economic Policies and Poverty	Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Co-Executive Director, Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality
2:20	Immigrant Families and the Social Safety Net	Rocio Perez, Emerson National Hunger Fellow
2:25	Affordable Housing and Mixed-Income Communities	Amy T. Khare, Research Director, National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities and Research Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University
2:30	Amplifying the Voices of People with Lived Experience of Poverty & Hunger	Tony Eskridge, Emerson National Hunger Fellow
2:35	Community-Centered Policy Solutions	Marc Jacobson, CEO, Hunger-Free Colorado
2:40	Tribal Communities and Agriculture Extension	Lexie Holden, Emerson National Hunger Fellow
2:45	Health Equity	Laura Harker, Senior Policy Analyst, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
2:50	Pandemic's Impact on Emergency Food Providers	Max De Faria, Emerson National Hunger Fellow
2:55	Food Access & Systems	Christine Tran, Executive Director, Los Angeles Food Policy Council
3:00	Discussion and Q&A	All
3:30	Adjourn	

SPEAKER BIOS

Max De Faria, Emerson National Hunger Fellow (2020-2021)

Originally from Pawtucket, Rhode Island, Max received a BA in Geography and Spanish Language and Literature with a minor in Political Science from Clark University, dedicating their studies and professional pursuits to learning about the food system and food sovereignty. As a Nutrition Education Intern with Farm Fresh RI, they taught children ages 5 to 11 the importance of a healthy diet and supported vulnerable community members in accessing additional farmers markets benefits available to SNAP recipients. They also served as a SNAP Outreach Intern with the Worcester County Food Bank, supporting community members in applying for and accessing SNAP benefits. Max's fellowship work with the California Association of Food Banks focused on how food banks in California responded to the pandemic: what worked, what didn't work. Also, covers how federal, state, and local governments responded. Max's lived experience with hunger and poverty is reflected in their work and public speaking. Max spent their field placement with the California Association of Food Banks documenting the impacts of COVID-19 on the state's emergency food system. They are completing their policy placement with RESULTS.

Tony Eskridge, Emerson National Hunger Fellow (2020-2021)

Born and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, Tony Eskridge graduated from Rhodes College with a degree in Urban Studies and minor in Political Science. His passions for nutrition, food access, and community work began in high school, as he led workshops related to the MyPlate, food insecurity, and general wellness at local health fairs. In addition to serving as Student Body President and a First Year student mentor at Rhodes, Tony worked with community development non-profits uplifting Memphis neighborhoods, minority businesses, and CDCs. His academic research experiences include discussing the root causes of the historic devaluation of black neighborhood value and linking community development priorities and concentrated poverty to the health and well-being of neighborhood residents. Tony spent his field placement with the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, working with member organizations to market and promote the Pittsburgh Food Action Plan, which identifies specific strategies to improve the food system for all, especially historically marginalized groups. He is completing his policy placement with the Kairos Center for Religions, Rights, and Social Justice. Tony is currently working with the Pittsburgh Food Policy Council, a community anchor that brings together member organizations from various government, non-profit, co-op, university, and farm entities from the Southwest Pennsylvania region. Tony's main focus is marketing, campaigning, and collaborating with the PFPC member organizations around the Greater Pittsburgh Food Action Plan, a plan 3 years in the making that identifies specific strategies for action to improve the food system for all, especially historically marginalized groups.

Indivar Dutta-Gupta, Co-Executive Director, Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality (Emerson Alum 2005-2006)

Indivar Dutta-Gupta is co-executive director at the Georgetown Center on Poverty and Inequality, where he leads work to develop and advance ideas for reducing domestic poverty and economic inequality, with particular attention to gender and racial equity. Dutta-Gupta also serves on the National Academy of Social Insurance's board of directors and is a member of the Institute for Research Poverty, Employment and Self Sufficiency Network, and the Research Task Force for the Gates Foundation's Postsecondary Value Commission. Previously, Dutta-Gupta was project director at Freedman Consulting LLC, leading strategic initiatives for major philanthropies, children's groups, and workers' organizations. He served as senior policy advisor at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, focusing on budget and tax policies and cross-cutting low-income issues. Earlier, he served as Ways and Means Committee professional staff in the US House of Representatives. Dutta-Gupta was an Emerson National Hunger Fellow at DC Hunger Solutions and the Center for American Progress. He was named a First Focus Campaign for Children Champion for Children and received the Congressional Hunger Center Alumni Leadership Award (2016). He was named one of Washington Life magazine's most influential 40-and-Under Leaders (2013) and a 40 and under rising star (2016). Dutta-Gupta is an honors graduate of the University of Chicago and a Harry S. Truman Scholar.

Laura Harker, Senior Policy Analyst, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute *(Emerson Alum 2012-2013)*

Laura Harker is a senior policy analyst at GBPI where she is responsible for researching and reporting on Georgia's health policies and related spending. Prior to joining GBPI in 2016, Laura conducted public health research, policy analysis, and advocacy on food insecurity and poverty issues as a fellow with the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington, D.C. She produced policy briefs and reports to provide evidence-based recommendations for state and national lawmakers. She worked with the Office of the Associate Director for Policy at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a graduate student to conduct policy assessments and impact analysis in support of the National Prevention Strategy. Laura graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and holds a master's degree in public health policy from Emory University.

Lexie Holden, Emerson National Hunger Fellow *(2020-2021)*

Lexie Holden graduated from the University of Chicago in 2020 with degrees in Political Science and Germanic Studies, as well as a minor in Human Rights. While studying at Chicago, she served as Special Projects Manager for State Senator Kwame Raoul where she worked, among many things, on combating food deserts in Chicago's South Side. Lexie also has done anti-hunger work in Seattle, Washington, with Pike Place Market, and wrote an article for Human Rights magazine on food justice as economic justice while interning with the American Bar Association's Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice in Washington, D.C. Lexie is also a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Lexie completed her field work at the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Her research focused on the Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP) agents' experiences, successes, challenges, needs, and community impact. She is now completing her policy placement with the Food Research and Action Center.

Marc Jacobson, CEO, Hunger-Free Colorado *(Emerson Alum 1998-1999)*

Marc currently leads a statewide coalition in Colorado working to make the state hunger-free. Prior, Marc worked at Baylor University's Texas Hunger Initiative serving as the Dallas Regional Director and Statewide Organizing Director. Within these roles, Marc led capacity-building efforts to increase access to SNAP, oversaw the creation of model initiatives to boost participation and program delivery quality in federal child nutrition programs, spearheaded campaigns to educate and advocate on hunger policy, and guided the development of local anti-hunger coalitions in rural and urban communities across Texas. Marc holds a bachelor's in History from Yale University and a Master of Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Amy T. Khare, Ph.D. Research Director of the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities and Research Assistant Professor at Case Western Reserve University *(Emerson Alum 1997-1998)*

Amy Khare's research focuses on urban poverty and inequality, with an emphasis on community development, housing and politics. She is particularly interested in strategies that promote inclusion, equity and justice within cities and communities. Khare's methodological training is as an urban ethnographer, and her professional experiences working in social justice endeavors lay the foundation of her scholarly interests. With the National Initiative on Mixed-Income Communities (NIMC), Khare leads applied research studies and program evaluations. In addition, she provides consulting services to public, private and non-profit partners around the country. Khare is co-leading the development of an edited volume provisionally titled *What Works to Promote Inclusive, Equitable Mixed-Income, Mixed-Use Communities*, published as part of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco series. Khare received her doctorate from the University of Chicago, School of Social Service Administration in 2016 and her MSW and BSW from the University of Kansas. She previously worked for the Urban Institute. In 2015, Khare was honored by the Urban Affairs Association with the Emerging Scholar Award, presented to one doctoral candidate in the nation.

Shannon Maynard, Executive Director, Congressional Hunger Center *(Emerson Alum 1997-1998)*

Shannon Maynard assumed the position of Executive Director of the Congressional Hunger Center in September 2015. Prior to her current role, Shannon served as Chief Talent and Knowledge Officer at Grameen Foundation. Shannon joined Grameen Foundation in 2009 as the founding director of Bankers without Borders, a global skills-based volunteer initiative to connect top volunteer talent with social enterprises using market-based solutions tailored to the needs of the world's poorest people. Previously, Shannon was the Executive Director of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation under the George W. Bush administration and managed

strategic initiatives for the federal agency the Corporation for National and Community Service where she spent almost nine years including posts with AmeriCorps*VISTA and the Office of Public Affairs. Earlier in her career, Shannon held various leadership positions managing AmeriCorps programs for local and national nonprofits focused on hunger and civic engagement. Her work has been featured in the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Nonprofit Quarterly, and the Chronicle of Philanthropy. Shannon received an MBA from Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in journalism and political science from the University of Richmond.

Rocio Perez, Emerson National Hunger Fellow (2020-2021)

Rocio Perez is a first-generation Latina who was born and raised in Downtown Los Angeles. Growing up in a low-income and predominantly undocumented community, Rocio learned how to navigate educational, legal, and health barriers that influenced her public service career. She has staffed a bill aimed at protecting low-income workers under CalFresh and CalWORKs, provided post-release services to Central American unaccompanied minors on behalf of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), and contributed to detention research by the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ) to successfully secure \$4.7 million in state funding for deportation defense services. In the future, Rocio plans to pursue a Master's in Public Policy to shape immigration policy that protects immigrant communities in all social, political and economic domains of society. Rocio conducted her field placement with the California Association of Food Banks where she collaborated with food banks, school food banks, school district representatives, and state agencies to conduct a survey of householders experiences with the P-EBT program. She is now completing her policy placement with the Center for Law and Social Policy.

Christine Tran, Executive Director, Los Angeles Food Policy Council (Emerson Alum 2008-2009)

Christine Tran is the Executive Director for the Los Angeles Food Policy Council. She is a first generation high school graduate. An Angeleno from South El Monte, she is the daughter of refugees. Her mother worked in sweatshops, her father as a day laborer. Through her lived experiences, she is committed to increasing healthy food access, expanding local opportunities and building healthy communities through [inclusive policies and programs](#). Prior to joining LAFPC, Christine worked on multi-year family engagement grants as a Program Officer at First 5 LA. In addition, she is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington studying the intersection of school nutrition and educational policy. Her diverse cross-sector career includes teaching middle and high school for the Los Angeles Unified School District, engaging in Farm to School procurement efforts with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service as a Bill Emerson Congressional Hunger Fellow as well as working as a policy and program analyst with the Latino Policy Forum.