

Bio - Melissa Jones, MPA

Melissa Jones, MPA, is the Executive Director of BARHII. She is passionate about creating the conditions that increase quality of life and makes life fairer for more people. Her work focuses on the intersection of social determinants of health, social inequity, and well-being.

Her experience includes work in municipal government and non-profits, in the Bay Area's large and small cities. Melissa is an active community member in Oakland and also serves on the Association of Bay Area Government's Regional Planning Committee, which advises on regional planning issues.

Before joining BARHII, Melissa served as Senior Program Officer at Boston Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), where she launched and ran Boston LISC's Resilient Communities Resilient Families (RCRF) Initiative. The initiative works to ensure that residents of Boston's Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan neighborhoods benefit from the rising tide of transit and other public investments. During her tenure, RCRF engaged several thousand residents and non-profits in neighborhood planning. The program has invested millions of dollars to fund affordable housing, leadership development, Family Financial Opportunity Center programs, and a local entrepreneurship pipeline program to ensure residents' financial lives are improving. She was awarded the LISC's President's award in 2014 for her work on comprehensive community development.

Melissa has additional experience funding and implementing programs focused on community economic development, family financial stability, education, and civic empowerment. Specifically, she has served in youth empowerment organizations, as Program Specialist for the City of Alameda, and as Program Analyst for the City of Oakland's Oakland Fund for Children and Youth. Early in her career, she served as Director of Professional Development for Partners in School Innovation where she trained staff to support school reform efforts in San Francisco Unified, San Jose Unified, and Oak Grove Unified school districts.