

## “Jobs-Plus: Creating Communities of Employment”

**Presenter:** Patrick Hart, New York City Center for Economic Opportunity

Patrick Hart is the Social Innovation Fund sustainability coordinator for New York City Center for Economic Opportunity (CEO). In this capacity, he works with CEO staff and program coordinators to help CEO’s five Social Innovation Fund (SIF) programs remain strong. He works to ensure that the Social Innovation Fund programs continue to spark program and policy change at the federal, state, and local level. Previously, he served as a policy analyst for the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development, where his work focused on policy issues such as foreclosure, homelessness, transit-oriented development, and other issues. Hart holds a bachelor’s degree from Swarthmore College and a master’s in public policy from the Harvard Kennedy School.

**Summary and Findings:** Large public housing communities are a prime example of areas of concentrated poverty that have struggled to build a strong employment base. Jobs-Plus is an evidence-based model for improving employment in public housing currently being implemented by the Center for Economic Opportunity and partner providers in New York City and San Antonio. During the 1990s and early 2000s, MDRC conducted a rigorous study of the model in six public housing developments across the country that lasted seven years. The test showed that Jobs-Plus significantly increased earnings among residents wherever the model was fully implemented, including for three years after the programs ended. The current research is tracking the ways that SIF Jobs-Plus’s new providers adhere to and adapt strategies shown during the initial demonstration to be related to successful implementation.

**Implications for Policy and Practice:** The research will provide invaluable information for housing authorities and other providers considering ways to increase economic empowerment in public housing communities. In addition, the findings could have implications beyond public housing for efforts to improve employment outcomes in settings of concentrated poverty, developing successful employment services in housing-assisted settings, and identifying institutional strategies to maximize housing assistance as an employment-related asset.