

Senior Fellows

Results for America's Senior Fellows program, founded in 2015, attracts high-caliber scholarship and strategic thinking to challenges facing young people, their families, and communities around the world. The RFA Senior Fellows bring a wealth and diversity of experience and perspectives from the highest ranks of public service, and a strong understanding and support for practices, policies and programs that use evidence and data to achieve positive results. Through research and public engagement, RFA Senior Fellows engage in policy discussions around "what works" approaches for addressing the most important issues facing our nation and the world.



Melody Barnes

Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director (President Obama)



John Bridgeland

Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director (President G. W. Bush)



Robert Doar

Former NYC Human Resources Administration Commissioner (Mayor Bloomberg)



Michael Gerson

Former Assistant to the President for Policy and Planning (President G.W. Bush)



Linda Gibbs

Former NYC Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (Mayor Bloomberg)



Kevin Madden

Former Senior Advisor & spokesman, MA Governor Mitt Romney (2012 and 2008); Former Press Secretary House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)



Cecilia Muñoz

Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director and Intergovernmental Affairs Director (President Obama)



Bruce Reed

Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director (President Clinton)



Raj Shah

Former U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator (President Obama)



Jim Shelton

Former U.S. Department of Education Deputy Secretary and COO (President Obama)



Melody Barnes

Former Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council (Obama Administration)

Melody Barnes is Co-Founder and Principal of MB2 Solutions LLC, a domestic strategy firm, and Vice Provost for Global Student Leadership Initiatives at New York University. Barnes serves on the Board of Directors of Ventas, Inc., an S&P 500 company, the Marguerite Casey Foundation and Year Up. She also chairs the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions and Opportunity Youth Incentive Fund. From January 2009 until January 2012, Barnes was Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council. Prior to her service in the White House, Barnes was the Executive Vice President for Policy at the Center for American Progress, a progressive research institute and think tank. From December 1995 until March 2003, Barnes worked for Senator Edward M. Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee; she served as his chief counsel from 1998 until she left the Committee in 2003. Her experience also includes an appointment as Director of Legislative Affairs for the U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and serving as a Principal at the D.C.-based consulting firm, The Raben Group. Barnes began her career as an attorney with Shearman & Sterling in New York City. Barnes is a native of Richmond, Virginia, and in 1986, she received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she graduated with honors in history. She received her law degree from the University of Michigan in 1989. Barnes' media appearances include This Week with George Stephanopoulos, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, Charlie Rose and Morning Joe.



John Bridgeland

Former Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council (G.W. Bush Administration); Member, White House Council for Community Solutions (Obama Administration)

John Bridgeland is the CEO and Co-Founder of Civic, Vice Chair of the Service Year Alliance at The Aspen Institute to make a service year a common expectation and opportunity for all 18-28 year olds, Co-Convenor of GradNation to reach a 90 percent high school graduation rate by 2020, and Vice Chairman of Malaria No More, a nonprofit working to end malaria deaths in Africa by the end of 2015. Previously, Bridgeland was appointed by President Obama to serve on the White House Council for Community Solutions. He also served as Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council, Assistant to the President of the United States, and first Director of the USA Freedom Corps under President George W. Bush. He is a member of the Bipartisan Policy Center's Commission on Political Reform. Bridgeland is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Virginia School of Law and has given commencement addresses at the College of William & Mary, Johns Hopkins University, Saint Anselm College, Hamline University and Ripon College. In addition, he was named a Non-Profit Executive of the Year in 2009 for his work in developing the Serve America Act that was signed into law.



Robert Doar

Former Commissioner of New York City's Human Resources Administration (Bloomberg Administration)

Robert Doar is the Morgridge Fellow in Poverty Studies at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he studies and evaluates how improved federal policies and programs can reduce poverty and provide opportunities for vulnerable Americans. Specifically Doar focuses on the employment, health, education, and community participation of low income Americans and their children. Before joining AEI, Doar was commissioner of New York City's Human Resources Administration where he administered 12 public assistance programs including welfare, food assistance, public health insurance, home care for the elderly and disabled, energy assistance, child support enforcement services, adult protective services and domestic violence assistance, as well as help for people living with HIV/AIDS. Prior to joining the Bloomberg administration, Doar was New York State commissioner of social services where he helped to make New York a model for the implementation of welfare reform. Since joining AEI he has written for the Wall Street Journal, the National Review, and Real Clear Markets. Doar is a graduate of Princeton University.



Michael Gerson

Former Assistant to the President for Policy and Strategic Planning (G.W. Bush Administration)

Michael J. Gerson is senior advisor to the ONE Campaign and a nationally syndicated columnist who appears twice weekly in the Washington Post and in nearly 100 other newspapers. Gerson is the author of *Heroic Conservatism* (HarperOne, 2007) and co-author of *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era* (Moody, 2010). He serves on the Initiative for Global Development Leadership Council, and the boards of the U.S. Center for Global Leadership, The News Literacy Project and the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics. He is the 2015 Pamela and Jack Egan Visiting Professor at Duke University. He appears regularly on the PBS NewsHour, Face the Nation and other programs. Until 2006, Gerson was a top aide to President George W. Bush as Assistant to the President for Policy and Strategic Planning. He was a key administration advocate for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the fight against global sex trafficking, and funding for women's justice and empowerment issues. He served in the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Presidential Speechwriting and Assistant to the President for Speechwriting and Policy Advisor. Gerson joined Bush's presidential campaign in early 1999 as chief speechwriter and a senior policy adviser. He was previously a Senior Editor covering politics at U.S. News and World Report. Gerson is a graduate of Wheaton College in Illinois.



Linda Gibbs

Former New York City Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (Bloomberg Administration)

Linda Gibbs is a principal with Bloomberg Associates. She served as New York City Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services from 2005–2013. Supervising the city's human service, public health and social justice agencies, she spearheaded major initiatives on poverty alleviation, juvenile justice reform and obesity reduction. "Age Friendly NYC", a blueprint for enhancing livability for older New Yorkers; and "Young Men's Initiative", addressing race-based disparities facing Black and Latino young men in the areas of health, education, employment training and the justice system, are two of the collaborative efforts she shaped to address significant social challenges. Gibbs also improved the use of data and technology in human service management and spearheaded efforts to improve contract effectiveness and create evidence-based program development. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Mayor, Gibbs was Commissioner of the New York City Department of Homeless Services and held senior positions with the Administration for Children's Services and the Office of Management and Budget. Gibbs is a graduate of CUNY Buffalo School of Law and she currently resides in New York City, NY.



Kevin Madden

Former Senior Advisor and spokesman for Governor Mitt Romney (2012 and 2008 presidential campaigns); Former Press Secretary to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)

Kevin Madden is a nationally recognized communications strategist, having served as a senior counselor to some of the nation's top leaders in both the public and private sectors over the last 15 years. Kevin served as a senior advisor to and spokesman for Governor Mitt Romney's 2012 and 2008 presidential campaigns. Prior to joining Governor Romney's campaign, Mr. Madden served as Press Secretary to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH). Before his work as a top leadership aide on Capitol Hill, Mr. Madden served as the Department of Justice's national spokesman on issues ranging from national security to litigation before the federal courts. During the 2004 presidential campaign cycle, Mr. Madden served as a Bush-Cheney campaign spokesman for regional, national and international news organizations. Kevin serves on the advisory board of Georgetown University's Institute for Politics and Public Service and on the Board of Directors for the Bipartisan Policy Center Advocacy Network.



Cecilia Muñoz

Former White House Domestic Policy Council Director and Intergovernmental Affairs Director (Obama Administration)

Cecilia Muñoz is Vice President for Public Interest Technology and Local Initiatives at New America. Before joining New America in 2017, she served on President Obama's senior staff, first as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for three years, followed by five years as Director of the Domestic Policy Council. She served for 20 years at the National Council of La Raza (now UNIDOS US), the nation's largest Hispanic policy and advocacy organization, where she was Senior Vice President for the Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation. She received a MacArthur Fellowship in 2000 for her work on immigration and civil rights, and serves on the Boards of the Open Society and Kresge Foundations, as well as the nonprofit United to Protect Democracy. In 2018, she joined Results for America as a Senior Fellow to help policymakers at all levels of government use data and evidence to deliver better outcomes for the people they serve.



Bruce Reed

Former Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to Vice President Joe Biden (Obama Administration); Former Assistant to the President and Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council (Clinton Administration)

Bruce Reed is the CEO and Co-Founder of Civic. Reed served as a top White House policy adviser in both the Clinton and Obama administrations. As President Clinton's chief domestic policy advisor, he oversaw a host of domestic and social policies, including the landmark 1996 welfare reform law, the 1994 crime bill, and the Clinton education agenda. In the Obama White House, he served as assistant to the President and chief of staff to Vice President Joe Biden, working on economic and tax policy, education, youth smoking, food safety, and reducing gun violence. He previously served as executive director of the Bowles-Simpson deficit reduction commission and lead author of its report, *The Moment of Truth*. After leaving the Obama administration, he spent two years as the first president of the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, where he led nationwide efforts to strengthen public education in urban areas. The son of a former Idaho state senator, Reed has a long record of public service. He began his career as chief speechwriter for then-Senator Al Gore, policy director for then-Governor Bill Clinton at the Democratic Leadership Council, and deputy campaign manager for policy of the 1992 Clinton-Gore campaign. Reed was a longtime contributor to *Slate* and the *New Republic* and co-authored *The Plan: Big Ideas for Change in America* with Rahm Emanuel. He has a bachelor's degree in English from Princeton University and earned a Master of Philosophy degree in English studies as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.



Raj Shah

Former Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (Obama Administration)

Raj Shah is President of the Rockefeller Foundation and a Distinguished Fellow at Georgetown University. He served as Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) from January 2010 to February 2015, advancing its mission of ending extreme poverty and promoting resilient, democratic societies. He pioneered new public-private partnerships, catalyzed scientific innovation and enlisted the private sector and bi-partisan Congressional leaders to join in this cause. He also led the U.S. Government's humanitarian response to catastrophic crises around the world, including the Haiti earthquake, Typhoon Haiyan and the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. Previously, Shah served as Under Secretary and Chief Scientist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Prior to that, he spent eight years at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation from its inception, where he led efforts in global health, agriculture, and financial services. Originally from Detroit, Shah earned his M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and his Master of Science in health economics at the Wharton School of Business. He attended the London School of Economics and is a graduate of the University of Michigan.



Jim Shelton

Former Deputy Secretary and Chief Operating Officer, U.S. Department of Education (Obama Administration)

Jim Shelton is the President of Education at the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation. Shelton served as the former President and Chief Impact Officer of 2U former; the deputy secretary and chief operating officer of the US Department of Education. In this role, Shelton led a range of management, policy, and program functions in support of educational access and excellence. He has focused most of his career on accelerating and scaling innovation, most recently in the public and social sectors. While in government, he served as the executive director of the president's My Brother's Keeper initiative and served on and led multiple interagency efforts focused on poverty reduction, economic development, entrepreneurship, and increased opportunity, including the National Science and Technology Council. Shelton began his career developing computer systems and later served as a management consultant with McKinsey & Company. Shelton was also a partner at NewSchools Venture Fund and then the program director for education at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where he managed investments, such as Small Schools of Choice, which targeted increased high-school and college graduation rates. Shelton holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Morehouse College as well as master's degrees in business administration and education from Stanford GSB and GSE.

For more information about the Senior Fellows, please visit <https://results4america.org/senior-fellows/>, or contact Ben Harris, Results for America Chief Economist and Senior Adviser, at ben@results4america.org with any questions you may have.

About Results for America

Results for America is helping decision makers at all levels of government harness the power of evidence and data to solve our world's greatest challenges. Our mission is to make investing in what works the "new normal," so that when policymakers make decisions, they start by seeking the best evidence and data available, then use what they find to get better results.