

Inside Access

Financial Security For All



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Angela Glover Blackwell Testifies Before Congress on Economic Opportunity for African Americans



On Tuesday, July 29, 2014, PolicyLink Founder and CEO Angela Glover Blackwell testified before the Joint Economic Committee in the U.S. Congress at a hearing focused on "Increasing Economic Opportunity for African Americans: Local Initiatives that Are Making a Difference." In her testimony, she emphasized the importance of creating and

expanding opportunity for African Americans in the places where they live, especially at a time of rapid demographic change when people of color are fast becoming the majority.

Her testimony called on Congress to connect low-income African Americans to meaningful work, build sustainable communities of opportunity, and invest in policies that close the racial wealth gap. To read her remarks and to access a full copy of the testimony, [click here](#).

Southern Regional Asset Building Coalition Annual Conference



Join the SRABC for engaging discussions on concrete steps to ensure economic inclusion and wealth building for all at the seventh annual conference. The conference, titled *Closing the Racial Wealth Gap: Innovative Solutions for Change*, will take place **September 24 - 26, 2014 at the Astor Crowne Plaza French Quarter Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana.**

The conference will bring together a diverse group of practitioners, researchers, policymakers, funders, and other stakeholders from the economic development and asset-building fields to discuss challenges and solutions for economic growth for the southern region. Keynote speakers include Michael Sherraden, Tom Shapiro, and Rev. William Barber.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

IMF, OECD, and S&P Raise Concerns for Growing Wealth Gap; Call for Expanded EITC, Higher Minimum Wage, and More Education



Recent reports from international financial institutions on the negative economic consequences of inequality have been drawing media and policymaker attention. [An International Monetary Fund \(IMF\) report](#), published in April 2014, recommended expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and increasing the minimum wage as powerful anti-poverty strategies that will help many low-income Americans access economic

opportunity. [The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development \(OECD\) working paper](#) (July 2014) also recommended expanding the EITC to non-custodial parents and raising the minimum wage. [The Standard and Poor's \(S&P\) report](#) (August 2014) recommends increasing education in order to help a larger share of the population earn higher wages and to significantly grow the GDP.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

New Report: Delinquent Debt in America



A [new report by the Urban Institute](#) shows that 35 percent or more than one-third of Americans have delinquent accounts in collections. The type of debt ranges from membership fees and credit cards, to child support debt and medical bills. Of Americans with credit files — credit files being past-due, non-mortgage debt not necessarily in collections — 77 million have past-due accounts that amount to an average debt of \$5,200. The report also notes

that past-due debts are concentrated in the South.

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