

The Future of Low Wage Work in Metropolitan America

*A conference for leading policymakers, scholars, and practitioners
to discuss cutting-edge topics on the state of low-wage workers in American cities.*

October 10 - 11, 2008

Friday, October 10

9:00 – 9.30 Welcome and Introduction Elebash Recital Hall

Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, Program Officer, Workforce Development, Ford Foundation
John Mollenkopf, Center for Urban Research

9:30 – 11:00 Session I Trends in Low-wage Work Across Metropolitan Labor Markets

Presenters: *Joseph Pereira* and *John Mollenkopf*, Center for Urban Research
Discussants: *Annette Bernhardt*, National Employment Law Project
Leslie McCall, Northwestern University/Princeton University

11:30 – 12:30 Session II

Plenary speaker: *Robert Weissbourd*, RW Ventures LLC, Chicago

2:00 – 3:30 Session III Perspectives on the Changing Labor Market Room 9204, 9th fl

Corporate Diversity Programs: What Firms Do and What Works,
Frank Dobbin, Department of Sociology, Harvard University

Black Workers and Labor-Community Alliances
Steven Pitts, UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education

The Coming Demand for Green Jobs
J. Phillip Thompson, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, MIT



Continued on other side...

Friday, October 10 (contd.)

4:00 – 5:30 **Session IV New York City Case Study** **Room 9204, 9th fl**

The Role of Workforce Programs in Reducing Poverty
Veronica White, Executive Director, NYC Center for Economic Opportunity

The Conditional Cash Transfer Initiative
Donna Wharton-Fields, Low-Wage Workers and Communities Policy, MDRC

Innovations in the Public Workforce Development System
Angie Kamath, NYC Department of Small Business Services

Comparison: What the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Model Has to Offer
Howard Wial, Metropolitan Studies Program, Brookings Institution

5:30 – 6:30 **Reception** **Room 9204, 9th fl**

Saturday, October 11

10:00 – 12:00 **Session I Where Should We Go From Here?** **Elebash Recital Hall**

Moderator: *Steven Greenhouse*, New York Times

Ex-offenders in the Workforce
Harry Holzer, Georgetown University

Immigrant Day Labor, Informal Work
Nik Theodore, University of Illinois at Chicago

Increasing Union Density
Kate Bronfenbrenner, Cornell University, Industrial and Labor Relations School

The New York Context
Marcia van Wagner, Deputy Comptroller, New York City

12:15 – 1:15 **Session II Closing Plenary**

Speaker: *Edward Montgomery*, Dean,
University of Maryland (former Deputy Secretary of Labor)

This conference is made possible by a grant from the Ford Foundation