



## Workforce Strategies for a Thriving Region: Housing and Childcare

June 10 | 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Northwest Arkansas Community College

Shewmaker Center for Workforce Technologies, Walmart Auditorium  
(900 SE Eagle Way, Bentonville, AR 72712)

- 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.**                      **Networking, Check In, & Breakfast**
- 8:30 - 9:00 a.m.**                      **Bring It Home: A Housing Conversation**  
*Sophie McAdara, Programs and Operations Manager of Bring It Home*
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.**                      **Child Care Works: Rethinking Childcare**  
*Alyssa Coffey, Child Care Works Specialist at Community Partnership of the Ozarks*
- 9:30 - 9:45 a.m.**                      **Open Q&A with Keynote Speakers**
- 9:45 - 10:00 a.m.**                      **Break**
- 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.**                      **Housing Panel**
- *Grandon Gray, SVP & Chief Operating Officer of The P3 Group*
  - *Marlee Stark, Chief Housing Officer of the City of Fayetteville*
  - *Duke McLarty, Executive Director of Groundwork*
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**                      **Childcare Panel**
- *Julie Humphrey, Owner at Red Roof Learning Center*
  - *Michelle Wynn, Co-Director of NWA Childcare Aware*
  - *Alison Williams, Coalition Director at Excel By Eight*
- 12:00 - 12:30 p.m.**                      **Networking with the Experts (Optional)**  
*Participants will have the opportunity to engage with speakers, connect with one another, and cultivate new opportunities*





## Meet Our Speakers



**Sophie McAdara** brings a strong background in city planning and housing advocacy to the Bring It Home team. A University of Arkansas graduate, her passion for equitable, attainable housing was shaped by work at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and local housing organizations. She also serves as Executive Director of the Emerging New Urbanists. Sophie is committed to helping communities grow in ways that honor their people, places, and natural beauty.



**Alyssa Coffey** is the Child Care Works Specialist with Community Partnership of the Ozarks, serving Southwest Missouri. With more than a decade of experience in the child care field and firsthand perspective as a parent, Alyssa is passionate about supporting families and strengthening access to quality early childhood care. She is proud to be part of Child Care Works, an innovative program designed to help working families manage the rising cost of child care while supporting employers and child care providers.



**Grandon Gray, PCED** serves as the SVP & Chief Operating Officer for The P3 Group, Inc, a minority owned real estate development firm specializing in Public-Private Partnerships. Based in the AR/TN Delta, Grandon is a community and economic developer known for driving infrastructure, healthcare, and educational projects. In 2024, he formed Gray Consulting LLC, a boutique consulting firm that assists public and private entities with business development, community and economic development and government affairs. Grandon is a member of the Urban Land Institute Memphis, a DRA Delta Leadership Institute Executive Academy graduate and an advisor for the Southeast Rural Power Coalition.



**Marlee Stark** serves as the City of Fayetteville's first Chief Housing Officer. She also serves as the Director of Fayetteville's Housing and Community Services Department. Marlee is a former Governor's Fellow for Social and Economic Recovery for the State of Connecticut. A Fayetteville native, Marlee holds a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University's School of Business and a master's in public policy (MPP) from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government where she focused on equitable economic growth in the south.



**Duke McLarty** serves as the executive director of Groundwork. In this role, Duke works with community partners to advance innovative housing solutions. Duke joined Groundwork after serving as the senior director of government affairs and community relations for AIR Communities. Prior to joining AIR Communities, Duke served the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Housing Administration focusing his work on government insured lending and government & industry relations. Duke served in the White House prior to his time at HUD. Duke earned his bachelor's degree from Missouri State University and Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law.



**Julie Humphrey** is the owner of Red Roof Early Childhood Learning Center and Child Care Consulting, LLC, based in Neosho, MO and serving southwest Missouri families. Julie worked for the Educare program for 22 years providing training and technical assistance to childcare providers in rural counties in southwest Missouri. Julie is an adjunct instructor for the University of Cincinnati in the College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services & Information Technology and has previously been an adjunct instructor at Crowder College and NWACC. She has a bachelor's degree from Missouri State University and a master's from the University of Arkansas.



**Michelle Wynn** serves as the Co-Director at Child Care Aware of Northwest Arkansas. Michelle's two decades of dedication stem from a deep belief in the power of knowledge and empathy to drive meaningful change. Michelle has witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by early childhood educators, from workforce shortages and low compensation to a lack of resources. Recognizing that the well-being of these educators directly impacts the children and families they serve, she has worked tirelessly to advocate for support, collaboration, and solutions that empower providers and families alike.



**Alison Williams** is Excel by Eight's Coalition Director. She was formerly the Chief of Staff to Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson. She also led the Arkansas Women's Commission. Before returning to Arkansas, Alison worked in the Washington, D.C., area in the public and private sectors. As a federal civil servant, she served in several agencies and managed external affairs portfolios. In the private sector, she consulted with both start-ups and Fortune 100 companies in the defense and homeland security industries. Early in her career, she worked with former Congressmen Asa Hutchinson and John Boozman. She is a University of Arkansas graduate and holds a MBA from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business.