The Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation

Description: The Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation is an interactive educational tool that allows participants to learn why communities of color are twice as likely to experience hunger and poverty. The simulation outlines 13 federal policies and their use of racial discrimination in creating the wealth, income and hunger gaps we see today. Each policy card provides the quantitative impact of racial inequity, causing participants to lose or gain a series of money, land, and opportunity lost cards.

At the end, there are small and large group discussions, allowing participants to walk away understanding the role of race. In addition, participants gain an appreciation of why it is important to incorporate a racial equity lens into their anti-hunger and anti-poverty work if they are committed to ending hunger and poverty in the U.S.

Objectives: This simulation has been presented across the country, to many audiences—all with varied understandings of racial inequity—including service providers, faith leaders, policy-makers, community activists and private partners. Participants are encouraged to use this tool to help their organization, non-profit, school, community, or church understand racial inequity and how it was formed. In doing this, we can see a shift in non-profits, service providers and policy makers deciding to implement racial equity in the policies they inform/support and the practices they engage in moving forward.

Meet the Creator: Marlysa D. Gamblin is the Domestic Advisor for Policies and Programs for Specific Populations at Bread for the World, where her expertise is providing research and analysis to end hunger and poverty among communities of color.

In addition to her economic portfolio at Bread, Marlysa previously chaired the Economic Empowerment work for the NAACP DC Branch, where she empowered and built capacity in the Black business and low-income Black residential community in D.C. Prior to joining Bread for the World, Marlysa was a Program Manager at Prosperity Now, where she built capacity in non-profits working to close the racial wealth divide.

Marlysa holds her Master in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. with honors from the University of California, Berkeley.