

# About the NYU McSilver Institute



## MISSION

The McSilver Institute for Poverty Policy and Research at New York University (NYU McSilver) is committed to disrupting generational poverty through research, policy and action.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### Saving Young Black Lives Podcast

McSilver-led research has uncovered alarming trends in the mental health of our nation's Black youth. To raise awareness, NYU McSilver partnered with the SAMHSA-supported Central East Mental Health Technology Transfer Center (Central East MHTTC) on a podcast series titled [Saving Young Black Lives: Reversing Suicide Trends](#). Launched May 2021, the 8-part series included interviews with survivor **Mike Veny**, parent **Tami Charles**, pro athlete **Kenny Stills** and mental health researchers and clinicians. **Dr. Michael A. Lindsey**, Executive Director of NYU McSilver, hosted each episode.

### Strategies to Reduce Inequality (SRI)

NYU faculty across schools and disciplines have come together to work on the [SRI initiative](#) to produce sustainable solutions to persistent inequality. The SRI group hosts discussions and leads inequality-focused courses at NYU. In addition, the New York City Reducing Inequality Network (NYC-RIN) is led by a group of scholars at New York University, Columbia University and the CUNY Graduate Center united to foster collaboration among scholars studying inequality around the city.

### McSilver Fellows-In-Residence

The [McSilver Institute Fellowship](#) engages nationally recognized poverty and social justice scholars across disciplines to conduct research projects, publish written work, lead courses, and participate in educational events. Fellows-in-residence have included political commentator **Dr. Christina M. Greer**, journalist **Harry Siegel**, public health expert **Dr. Gary S. Belkin**, and transportation policy expert **Henry L. Greenidge**

### Partnerships With Community Organizations

Partnerships with community organizations are a vital part of our work to address poverty and inequality. Some of NYU McSilver's recent partners include: the Greater New York Chapter of the Links, Inc., the Boys & Girls Club of Harlem, the Haitian Roundtable, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the New York Urban League.

## THE AI HUB AT MCSILVER

The [AI Hub at McSilver](#) was established to investigate how artificial intelligence-driven systems can be used to equitably address poverty and challenges relating to race and public health, and to provide thought leadership on the implications. NYU McSilver Chief AI Officer **Minerva Tantoco** leads the Hub. This work has been made possible by a \$5 million gift from donors **Martin Silver** and **Dr. Constance McCatherin Silver**.



## EVENTS & FORUMS

### She Leads with Black Women in Government

Each year the Greater New York Chapter of the Links and the NYU McSilver Institute co-host the "She Leads" community forum in celebration of Women's History Month. On [March 15, 2022](#), **Cheryl Wills**, *Spectrum NY1 News* anchor, moderated a one-on-one discussion with **Adrienne E. Adams**, New York City Council Speaker, followed by a panel with Council Majority Whip **Selvana Brooks-Powers** (31st) and Council Members **Kamillah Hanks** (49th), **Rita Joseph** (40th) and **Nantasha Williams** (27th). New York Urban League co-hosted. On [March 27, 2021](#), New York State Attorney General **Letitia James** spoke with journalist and 2018 McSilver Fellow-in-Residence **Dr. Christina Greer**.



### Haiti: Where Do We Go From Here? With Rep. Gregory Meeks

The McSilver Institute, in partnership with the Haitian Roundtable and the Greater New York Chapter of the Links, held a [policy roundtable](#) featuring U.S. Representative **Gregory W. Meeks** on October 20, 2021. Congressman Meeks, the Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, answered questions about the political and humanitarian crises impacting Haiti fielded by a panel of Haitian and Haitian-American thought leaders.

### Stand Up Against Street Harassment!

On February 25, 2021, the McSilver Institute and a broad coalition of partners held a [virtual community forum](#) featuring experts from Hollaback! to call attention to gender-based violence in public spaces as well as to share a set of tools to help reduce the prevalence of street harassment.

### Racial Trauma within Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities

As hate crimes and acts of discrimination against members of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities have risen, the McSilver-led Community Technical Assistance Center of NY (CTAC) organized a training responding to bias attacks. On June 10, 2021, **Dr. Doris F. Chang** led a [webinar](#) exploring anti-AAPI bias and its impact on mental health and well-being.

## THE MCSILVER AWARDS

Each year, [the McSilver Awards](#) recognizes outstanding individuals who are transforming systems to address the needs of individuals, families, and communities living in poverty, locally and globally. Among the past honorees are: **Yamiche Alcindor**, **David Banks**, **Tarana Burke**, **Anna Deavere Smith**, **Erica Ford**, **Malcolm Jenkins**, **Ana Oliveira**, **Rev. Al Sharpton** and **Robert "Meek Mill" Williams**.

## POLICY & ADVOCACY

### Black Youth Suicide

Since 2019, NYU McSilver has been raising awareness about rising suicide attempt rates in Black youth with elected leaders, who have pursued legislation to address the problem. **Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman** and the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) have been important advocates at the federal level, through the CBC Emergency Taskforce on Black Youth Suicide and Mental Health. NYU McSilver Executive Director **Dr. Michael A. Lindsey** led a working group of experts who issued a seminal report to the taskforce, [“Ring The Alarm: The Crisis of Black Youth Suicide in America.”](#) A milestone in these efforts was reached in May 2021 when the U.S. House of Representatives passed the [Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act](#) on a bipartisan basis.

### School-Based Mental Health Support

Step-Up was a youth development and mental health support program that worked with students in New York City Department of Education schools. For over 12 years, Step-Up helped transform the lives of at least **800 students**, with a graduation rate of **98 percent**.

### Ranked Choice Voting

New York City uses [ranked choice voting](#) in municipal primaries and special elections, a preference-based method demonstrated to provide a more equitable path for candidates from Black, brown and low-income communities. NYU McSilver partners with the Committee for Ranked Choice Voting NYC (Rank the Vote NYC) in order to educate voters. NYU McSilver Chief Operating Officer **Rose Pierre-Louis**, also an Executive Board Member of Rank the Vote NYC, has participated in community forums and extended education efforts through op-eds in *City Limits* and *AM New York*, as well as media coverage by the *New York Post*, *Gotham Gazette* and *Bloomberg Radio*.

## RESEARCH & PROGRAMS

### Clinical Education & Innovation Department (CEID)

[CEID](#) focuses on a unique array of programs, trainings and tools to support practitioners and organizations working within poverty-impacted communities. To improve service delivery and business best practices within social service organizations, CEID uses a range of modalities, including in-person or online experiential trainings, learning communities, online self-paced courses, tool development and podcasts.

### Safe Mothers, Safe Children (SMSC)

Funder: Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)

Principal Investigator: Michael A. Lindsey, PhD

[SMSC](#) seeks to reduce the risk of repeat child maltreatment through a multi-pronged intervention that enhances the identification, case management and treatment of mothers receiving preventive services. In May 2021 it received funding of **\$3.5 million** over 5 years in an R01 grant from the NICHD, one of the National Institutes of Health.

### Making Connections Intervention (MCI)

Funder: National Institute of Mental Health

Principal Investigator: Michael A. Lindsey, PhD

A pilot randomized controlled clinical trial is studying the effectiveness of the [MCI](#) intervention in 60 Black adolescents who have depression symptoms and attend grades 6–12 within New York City Department of Education Public Schools. The intervention has been devised to address barriers to mental health treatment engagement, in youth, as well as their caregivers.



## TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The McSilver Institute-led [Technical Assistance Centers](#) (CTAC, MCTAC, TTAC and YTAC) are training, consultation and educational resources serving all mental health, substance use disorder and child welfare agencies in New York State, as well as infant and early childhood mental health providers in New York City.

Since 2011, through **1,879** events, we have reached **1,192** organizations representing an audience of **44,880** participants, providing training and technical assistance to **77 percent** of all New York State mental health, substance use and individuals with developmental disabilities organizations. The Centers are led by NYU McSilver Chief Program Officer **Dr. Andrew Cleek**.

### The Community Technical Assistance Center of New York (CTAC)

Funder: New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH)

CTAC ([ctacny.org](#)) advances the effective and efficient delivery of services to children, adults and families who rely on public sector services to meet their mental health needs. The Center offers a variety of trainings, tools and support to help improve direct services, program operations and development of the family and youth peer workforce.

### The Managed Care Technical Assistance Center of NY (MCTAC)

Funder: New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH)

MCTAC provides policy, administrative and implementation technical assistance to mental health, substance abuse and child welfare agencies transitioning to managed care and value-based payment systems.

### The NYC Early Childhood Mental Health Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)

Funder: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC DOHMH)

Partnership Lead: New York Center for Child Development

TTAC ([ttacny.org](#)) provides training and technical assistance to mental health professionals serving children ages 0–5 and their families in the NYC DOHMH-funded Early Childhood Therapeutic Centers, as well as professionals working in: New York City outpatient mental health clinics; Early Intervention, Universal Pre-K and ACS Early Learn sites; and other child-serving systems.

### The YouthACT Technical Assistance Center (YTAC)

Funder: New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH)

YTAC provides training and technical assistance to 14 teams across New York State that implement an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) programs for youth and their families. The Center works with providers, NYS OMH, Families Together of NYS and the ACT Institute to prepare these teams to address the needs of youth with significant mental health challenges and their families.

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