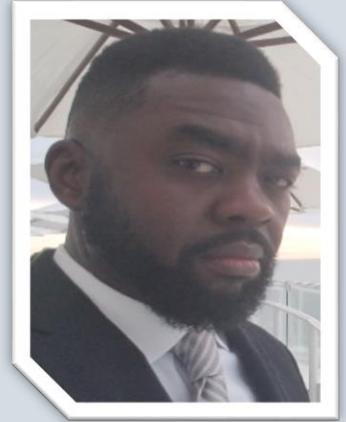


Biographical Summary

September 2018 marks the 26th year **Gary Ponder** has served as a community planning and economic recovery social science consultant. The scope of his public-sector work has involved developing, facilitating and evaluating publicly supported and funded programs throughout the United States.



Gary began working as a Community Organizer for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded Violence Prevention Education Program at Bowie State Univ. Since 1993, he has developed, managed, trained and evaluated public sector programs for law enforcement, FEMA, HUD, Dept. of Education, faith-based organizations and other community-based institutions in more than 17 cities.

In Annapolis, MD Gary worked alongside residents creating resident programs for adults and children while focused on cultivating a vibrant community for families. As a result, the community was recognized by HUD for developing innovative resident programs. HUD would soon replicate this *Neighborhood Networks* model in more than 300 communities. Aspen Systems [now **LOCKHEED MARTIN**] took notice and hired Mr. Ponder to evaluate and create HUD funded programs nationally. He briefly worked for **KPMG** as a consultant supporting the development, management and evaluation of public housing programs. Mr. Ponder later worked directly with HUD HQ to help lay the groundwork for Family and Supportive Services under HUD's \$6.7 billion HOPE VI Program. Mr. Ponder was a Community Builder Fellow for 2 years in the New Orleans HUD Field Office.



After his HUD fellowship, Mr. Ponder worked for the Washington, D.C. Office of Neighborhood Services during Mayor Anthony Williams tenure. As Neighborhood Services Coordinator Mr. Ponder was the team lead for a 12-member multi-agency task force.

“Liberating neighborhoods of crack houses and open-air drug markets has been a highlight of my work.”

He served for two years as the Regional Director for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition [Houston based]. Following Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Ponder was assigned as the economic development lead consultant for the St. Bernard Parish Long Term Recovery Office. He was later selected to manage the national mass care operations desk for the **American Red Cross** as *Special Liaison* to FEMA HQ. He has been involved in the response to 11 federal disaster declarations, including flooding, 9/11 and anthrax.

Mr. Ponder earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Bowie State University and completed the coursework for his Master of Science degree in Organizational Development from American University in Washington, DC. Mr. Ponder holds graduate level certifications from the Harvard University School of Public Health [Violence Prevention] and the J.F.K. School of Government [Community Building]. Mr. Ponder's work has been featured in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* newspapers.

