

## **Fred Karnas**

### **Senior Fellow Health, Human Services**

Fred Karnas is a senior fellow at The Kresge Foundation where he serves as an adviser to the foundation on issues related to housing. He brings a wealth of experience to the role, specifically at the intersection of housing, health and human services, with a special focus on addressing the needs of homeless persons, older Americans and persons with disabilities.

Prior to joining Kresge, Fred was president and CEO of St. Luke's Health Initiatives (now known as Vitalyst Health Foundation), a public foundation based in Phoenix, Arizona, focused on creating healthy communities.

Fred was appointed by President Barack Obama to the role of senior adviser to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, where he served as HUD's liaison to the Department of Health and Human Services and to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. In the Clinton administration, he served as deputy assistant secretary for special needs at HUD, director of the Office of AIDS Housing, and executive director of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. He also served in Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano's cabinet as director of the Arizona Department of Housing and the Arizona Housing Finance Authority. During his tenure with Gov. Napolitano, he staffed the Arizona Council on Medical Education and Research which she chaired, and served as co-chair of the Arizona State Interagency and Community Council on Homelessness.

Fred's nonprofit work has included service as executive director of several housing and human service organizations including the National Coalition for the Homeless, a Washington-based advocacy group. He currently serves on the board of Funders Together to End Homelessness, the executive committee of Funders for Housing and Opportunity, and the advisory committee for Home Matters. Fred holds a bachelor's degree in city planning from the University of Virginia School of Architecture, a master's degree in social work from Virginia Commonwealth University, and a Ph.D. from the College of Architecture and Urban Studies at Virginia Tech.