

Deborah Bennett

Deborah E. Bennett has more than 18 years of experience as a community development practitioner. She is currently a Senior Program Officer at the Polk Bros. Foundation, where she is a program area leader for workforce development, affordable housing and community economic development.

Prior to joining the foundation, Deborah held several positions at Shorebank Corporation including senior consultant for Shorebank Advisory Services where she crafted housing, labor force and commercial development strategies for a variety of community development entities around the country. She has also worked as an economic development planner at the University of Illinois Center for Urban Economic Development and as director of an employment initiative for low-income women. Deborah has a bachelor's and master's degree in economics from Stanford and Kent State Universities, respectively. She has served on a number of non-profit boards and is currently a member of the Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund and the Chicago Neighborhood Stabilization Advisory Board.