



DR. RAQUEL HATTER

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National Human
Services Program*

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of Sarasota County

Dr. Raquel Hatter is managing director of the Kresge Foundation National Human Services Program which centers racial equity and racial justice to advance multigenerational family social and economic success. She's served families and communities for over 30 years in leadership and direct service roles across child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, and human service systems. She served as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Human Services. To improve systems, she partnered with her team, nonprofits, residents, executive branch colleagues, and legislators. Earlier in her service, as a clinician, she provided intensive and on-demand support to families in pain stemming from system failures. She was the first Black CEO of Whaley Children's Center in Flint, Mich.; the first Black CEO of Family and Children's Service in Nashville, Tenn. She was an adjunct professor at the undergraduate and graduate-level. She worked with indigenous communities in the Northern Territory Australia focused on systems change, family centered, and strength-based practices. She is known for being a person-centered systems change leader and practitioner, her real talk, levity, and a relentless commitment to families and communities. She's received many awards for her service including the Spirit of Crazy Horse Award for her Service to Children and The Casey Family Excellence for Children's Leadership Award.

Personally, she graduated from Head Start and Flint Public Schools. She grew up in a multigenerational family with her maternal grandparents until she was 8 years old when her mom secured a home. She was a student-parent in undergraduate and graduate school and received childcare assistance and SNAP. Her favorite roles in life include being a woman of faith, wife, mom, and nana. She comes from a family of struggle, service, and successes. In her words, "I know what it is to struggle and I know what it is to struggle less-I have learned to hold the hills and valleys at the same time!"

