

Angela F. Williams
President and CEO
Easterseals, Inc.

Angela F. Williams is president and CEO of Easterseals, the nation's leading nonprofit provider of life-changing services and powerful advocacy for people with disabilities of all ages, including veterans and seniors. She is the first Black woman to hold this post and was hired in 2018 as a change agent in anticipation of Easterseals' 100th anniversary in 2019.

As Easterseals moves into its second century, Williams' goals are to increase its growth, bolster its impact, expand its services, and advance disability equity in health care, education and employment for people with disabilities in society. This vision is being driven by Williams' network-wide strategic plan to broaden inclusion, empowerment and access for the 1.5 million people Easterseals serves annually—and for the one in four Americans living with disability today. The plan includes strengthening Easterseals' National Network of 67 Affiliates to serve more individuals and families living with disability through expansion of services and heightened support from corporate, foundation and individual donors.

Additionally, Williams' strategic plan includes a stronger focus on advocacy at the federal and state levels, designed to ensure that people with disabilities have greater access to health care, education and employment opportunities. As part of that effort, through work with public and private entities technology has been elevated as a priority since the virtual world is increasingly the most essential point of access to services and inclusion for people with disabilities.

With more than 30 years of leadership experience in the nonprofit and corporate sectors, Williams brings a long history of purpose-driven work to her role at Easterseals. Most recently, she was EVP, general counsel and chief administration officer at YMCA of the USA. In her 11 years at the organization, she was instrumental in shaping strategy and developing resources to help 2,700 YMCAs across the country enhance outcomes for youth and families in 10,000 communities. While with the Y, she also had the unique opportunity to provide direct oversight in the construction of a \$130M mixed-use development project in Jerusalem, Israel to support its community services.

In 2006, directly before joining Y-USA, Williams was the interfaith liaison for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, a nonprofit organization formed to provide critically needed donations to assist the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. In this capacity, she was responsible for analyzing and ameliorating the impact of Katrina on the impacted areas' faith communities and overseeing the processing of \$25 million in grants to houses of worship.

Williams began her professional career as a U.S. Air Force officer, serving in the Judge Advocate General's Corps for seven years. This experience was foundational to her commitment to service and her belief in equity and inclusion for all Americans. Other leadership roles she held in government furthered her interest in protecting civil rights and achieving equity. These include serving on Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Senate Judiciary Committee staff as Special Counsel on Criminal Law and the National Church Arson Task Force as a Department of Justice prosecutor. She also spent a year as a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Florida.

In the corporate world, Williams was VP and deputy general counsel of litigation and government relations for Sears Holdings Corporation, where she also served as the company's chief compliance and ethics officer. She came to Sears after spending four years at the international law firm Bryan Cave. There she worked with senior executives undergoing investigations involving the Departments of Justice and Defense, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Williams is a 2005 Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute, a program dedicated to developing the next generation of community-focused, highly committed leaders by teaching them the values-based leadership skills needed to meet the challenges of corporate and civic leadership in the 21st century. Each year, 20 Crown Fellows are chosen from among young executives and professionals around the world who have already achieved considerable success in the private or public sector.

A native of Anderson, South Carolina, Williams earned a bachelor's degree in American government from the University of Virginia, a juris doctor from the University of Texas School of Law and a master's of divinity cum laude from the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University.

Williams resides in Chicago with her husband, the Reverend Roderick Williams. She is a volunteer pastor at Chicago Apostolic Center.