



**ANGELA F. WILLIAMS, J.D., M. DIV.
PRESIDENT & CEO OF 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 bolster its impact, expand its services, and advance disability equity. This vision is driven by Williams' network-wide strategic plan to broaden inclusion, empowerment, and access for the 1.5 million people Easterseals' 67 affiliates serve annually—and for the one in four Americans living with disability today.

Advocacy is Williams' critical focus at the federal and state levels to ensure that people with disabilities have greater access to health care, education, and employment. Technology policy is central to her engagement with public and private entities given that the virtual world is increasingly the 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 executive vice president, 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.

Williams was raised in a military family; her father, J.C. Williams, was commissioned as the 5th Black chaplain in the history of the U.S. Navy. She served in the Judge Advocate General's Corps for more than six years following her graduation from the University of Texas School of Law. During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, she was stationed in South Korea while her father was on active duty in the Mediterranean, and her brother was a U.S. Marine Corps Officer in Kuwait. This experience, when few Black women served in the JAG Corps, was foundational to her commitment to service, the principles of democracy and her belief in equity and inclusion for all Americans.

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Other leadership roles in government furthered her interest in protecting civil rights and achieving equity. These included serving on Senator Edward M. Kennedy's Senate Judiciary Committee staff as special counsel on criminal law, the National Church Arson Task Force as a Department of Justice prosecutor and an Assistant U.S. Attorney.

In the corporate world, Williams was vice president and deputy general counsel of litigation and government relations for Sears Holdings Corp. She joined Sears as the company's chief compliance and ethics officer after four years at the international law firm Bryan Cave. There, Williams counseled senior executives undergoing investigations involving the Departments of Justice and Defense, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 2006, directly before joining Y-USA, Williams was the interfaith liaison for the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund, a nonprofit organization formed by the two former U.S. Presidents 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 \$25M in grants to houses of worship.

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.

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