

Jessica Edmond is the Program Director for South Shore Works. A native Chicagoan, Jessica has worked in Southern Illinois addressing the unique needs of rural communities who are disproportionately affected by high rates of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, homelessness, crime and violence. She understands the process of improving the social, economic, and cultural conditions of an area begins with good community health. This knowledge has led Jessica to advocate for healthy communities where all residents have access to quality health and education, sufficient employment, and transportation.

Jessica is passionate about maternal and child health, literacy, and social justice. She uses her voice to empower other women and encourages everyone to become involved in their community. Jessica believes every problem has a solution and everyone has equal rights to discover the solution of any problem troubling the world.

Jessica is a 2020 IWILTA (Illinois Women in Leadership Training Academy) Fellow. She has been interested in politics since her senior year of high school when she completed an internship at the United States Supreme Court. Her focus on community collaborations has led her to numerous volunteer opportunities and community leadership roles. Jessica is also a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated.

“My parents were always philosophizing about how to bring about change. To me, people who didn’t try to make the world a better place were strange”

- Carol Moseley Braun