

Supporting Innovative State Policies: A Case Study of State EITCs

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Speakers:



Rachel Isacoff (Moderator)
Rockefeller Foundation

Rachel Isacoff is a Manager on the Equity and Economic Opportunity initiative at The Rockefeller Foundation, driving the Foundation's domestic energy justice work and serving as the relationship and grant manager for a portfolio of state coalitions, economic policy institutions, and grassroots organizations. She is also on the executive committee of RF's DEI Advisory Committee.

Previously, she collaborated with private, nonprofit, and public partners across sectors to develop tools and equity initiatives that support communities on the frontlines of climate change. Most notably she worked on key climate justice and equitable relocation projects at the White House Council on Environmental Quality under President Obama's administration, energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions at HUD, and 100 Resilient Cities and climate adaptation strategies at HR&A Advisors.

Rachel received a BS in architecture from the University of Michigan and a MS in preservation planning from the University of Pennsylvania, focusing on the intersection of cultural heritage and climate adaptation. Outside of RF, she is part of the network council for the Climigration Network and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at the Pratt Institute's Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment.



James Jiminez
New Mexico Voices for Children

James joined NM Voices in 2013 as the director of research and policy, becoming executive director in 2016. He also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico's School of Public Administration. In both positions he draws from his considerable experience in using the budget as a strategic tool while working in state and city government. James served as the chief of staff under Governor Bill Richardson from 2006 to 2008, and as Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Finance and Administration from 2003 to 2006. He was also city manager of Rio Rancho and serves on the boards for several nonprofit organizations.



Abby Levine
Bolder Advocacy

Abby Levine serves as Director of the Bolder Advocacy Program at Alliance for Justice. She provides legal guidance that encourages grantmakers to support advocacy and other nonprofit organizations to participate in policymaking decisions through an understanding of federal tax and election law. Abby's work includes creating curriculum, teaching workshops, providing technical assistance, writing plain-language legal guides, and describing federal legislative and regulatory developments that impact nonprofits.

Prior to joining Alliance for Justice in 2004, Abby served as the Public Policy Analyst at the National Council of Nonprofit Associations (NCNA). At NCNA, Abby monitored and analyzed issues affecting the nonprofit sector, such as challenges to nonprofit tax exemptions and advocacy, state budget cuts, government grants streamlining, and corporate governance.

Before working at NCNA, Abby was an associate in the tax department at Squire, Sanders & Dempsey in Cleveland, Ohio.

(B.A., American University; J.D., Case Western Reserve University School of Law)



Ami Nagle
EITC Funders Network / EOF

Ami is President of Nagle & Associates, a national consulting firm focusing on three areas: consultation and support to innovative charitable foundations, public policy analysis and field research for nonprofits and government agencies, and evaluation of community programs. She is also Co-Director of EOF, and Coordinator for the EITC Funders Network and Children Youth and Family Funders Roundtable. Throughout her career, Ms. Nagle has conducted strategic planning and initiative development authored numerous research and policy reports, implemented surveys, conducted focus groups, designed public information campaigns, and gathered data for a variety of private- and public-sector sponsored studies of human service, economic security, civic engagement, and education issues. Before founding Nagle & Associates, Ms. Nagle headed several major

research and public education projects for Voices for Illinois Children and the Illinois Facilities Fund. She holds a master's degree from Loyola University of Chicago (1994), where she was trained in research relating to family and child welfare, urban poverty, and nonprofit administration. She completed her undergraduate studies at Emory University (1990).



Emily Vyhnanec
Washington Budget and Policy Center

Working with a coalition of partners across the state, Emily manages the Working Families Tax Credit Campaign. This campaign seeks to help Washingtonians keep up with our state's rising cost of living by putting cash back in their pockets.

An advocate for tax and economic justice, Emily previously led the Free Tax Preparation Campaign at United Way of King County, a regional effort to increase access to powerful federal anti-poverty tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit. Emily also launched United Way's 2020 Census Education and Outreach strategy in partnership with a coalition of community leaders in King County.

Emily has a bachelor's degree in international studies from the University of Washington.