How Maryland Is Using Tax Policy to Boost Families

About the Network

More than 250 members

Goals

- Reducing the tax burden to improve outcomes
- Expanding access to federal and state tax credits
- Removing financial, system, and process burdens

We focus on

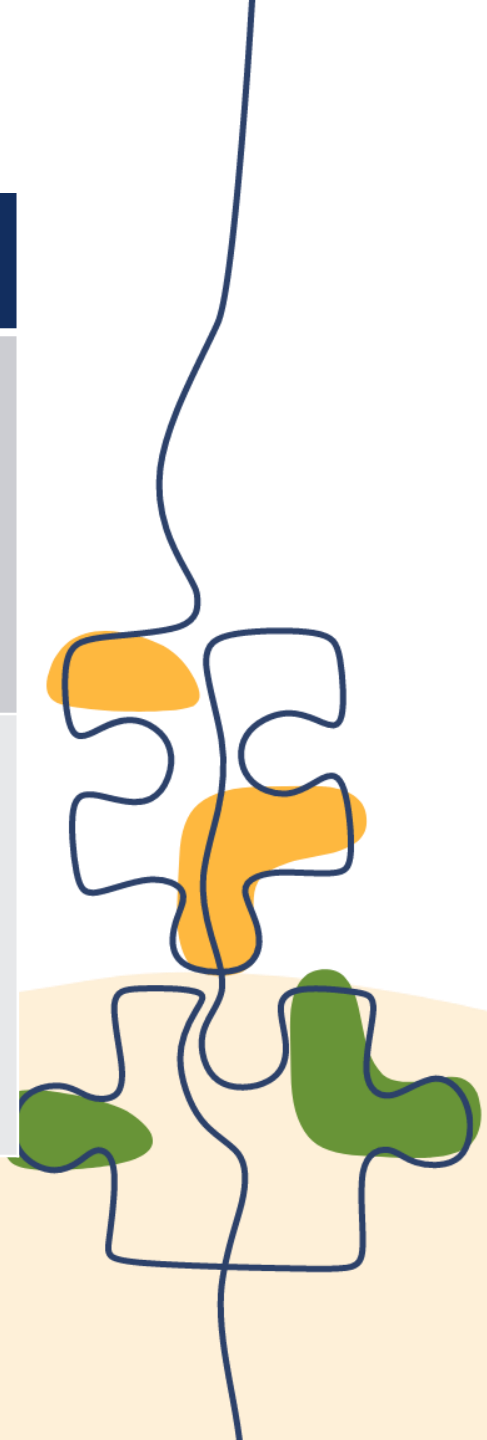
- **Connecting-** by fostering greater connections and collaboration among our members
- **Strategizing-** by holding space for members to create
- **Building-** by removing financial, system, and process burdens

A more equitable tax code and tax system is a way to address inequities that have negatively impacted millions of individuals and families.

A. Financial burden, cash in the pocket, and wealth accumulation
B. Upside down tax code
C. Unequal and biased processes

Variety of Funding Strategies

	Cash in the Pocket/Tax Credits	Revenue for Family Serving Programs	Tax Systems
Program	• Outreach materials/ social media • Translation • Trusted messengers • Research	• Research • Awareness raising	• Availability of free and low-cost tax preparation • Technology advances • Awareness raising
Policy	• Policy/advocacy to expand, modernize, defend federal and state tax credits • Coalition building • Communications and narrative	• Policy/advocacy to improve equitable, robust revenue systems • Coalition building • Communications and narrative	• Advocacy to change federal and state tax administration programs • Audit equity and accountability



TAX EQUITY | Funders Network

The tax system and health

Did you know…

Research has shown that the EITC reduces the risk for low birth weight, likely by enabling families to seek better insurance coverage, decreasing risky behaviors such as smoking and increasing prenatal care. Larger credits, as would be the case if EITC recipients also received a CTC, lead to larger health improvements.

The tax system and poverty

Did you know...

In December 2021, the Treasury Department issued a monthly Child Tax Credit payment to 61.2 million children—which was estimated to keep 3.7 million children out of poverty and reduce the monthly child poverty rate by 29 percent.

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The Tax System:
A Tool for Improving Outcomes for Children and Families

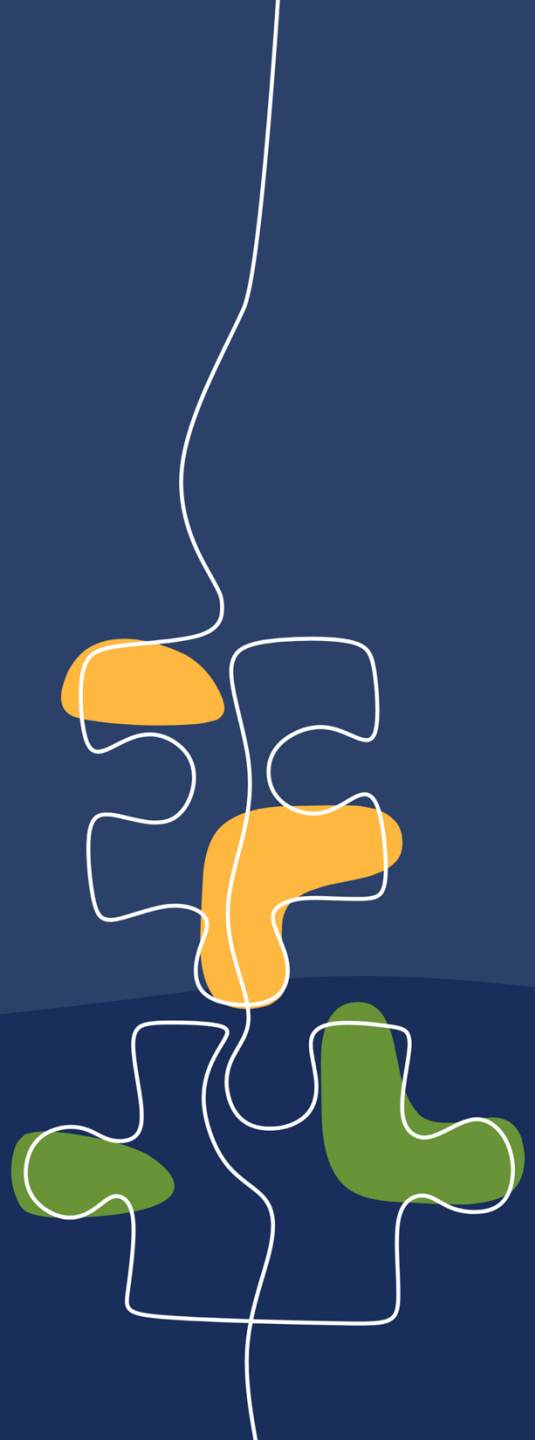
WHAT FUNDERS ARE SAYING

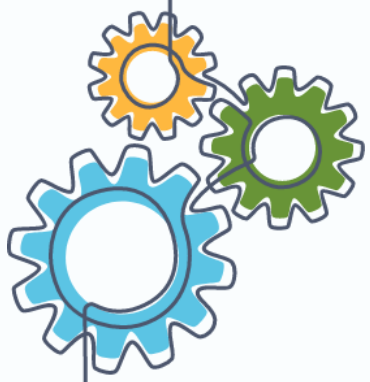
Danielle DePietro
Maryland Comptroller's Office

Ecosystem Approach

Janie McDermott, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

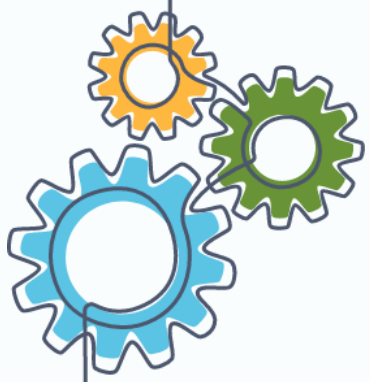
Melanie Styles, Abell Foundation





SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY-MAKE A RECOMMENDATION

- STEP#1: Introduce yourself to your tablemates in less than 60 seconds.
- STEP#2: Read the scenario. Then, take a look at the list of tax-focused investment areas and strategies listed below. Select one or more from the lists that your group thinks would be a good addition to begin, continue or improve this organization's grantmaking strategy. Then, write down your group's rationale for your selection.



A ROLE FOR PHILANTHROPY

What can funders do?

Foundations play a key role in advancing tax equity. From investing in equitable strategies to raising awareness of the importance of tax systems that work for all, there are a number of ways the philanthropic community can help move this work forward.

- **Learn**
  - More about the impact of the tax system on children and families
  - Strategies that funders are undertaking to connect the dots
- **Discuss**
  - Reach out to the Tax Equity Funders Network with questions!
  - Internally with your foundation colleagues
  - With your grantees
  - Funding Social Change Worksheet
- **Invest** in core components that help to improve tax policy and tax systems
  - Program investments
  - Policy and advocacy investments

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A Tool for Improving Outcomes for Children and Families

WHAT FUNDERS ARE SAYING

For More Information:

www.taxequityfunders.org

Email Deneisha (deneisha@taxequityfunders.org)

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