



2026 BUDGET AND TAX BRIEFING

— March 26-27, 2026 | Arlington, VA —

2026 Watch Party Overview

What is a watch party?

EOF hosts an Annual Budget and Tax Briefing to provide funders with the opportunity to network with colleagues and learn about and discuss pressing political developments, federal and state budget and tax battles and opportunities, and how the current landscape impacts families, workers, and communities. It is the only event of its kind focused on philanthropy and budget and tax policy.

Since 2014, watch parties have been organized to expand our reach to funders unable to participate in person by web-streaming our plenary sessions on the federal and state budget and tax outlook.

The purpose of the watch parties is to help funders:

- Gain a better understanding of this year's pressing federal budget and tax issues and their impact on families, workers, and communities;
- Learn more about coordinated efforts underway to shape the budget and tax fights ahead; and
- Consider grantmaking strategies and opportunities for collaboration with like-minded stakeholders.

As a watch party host, you set up (and co-brand) registration for your watch party. EOF will share the Zoom livestream and recording links for registrants. **There are two options for structuring a watch party.**

1. **Offer a Supplemental Program:** This is a great way to add value for your attendees. After streaming our event, you can host an in-person or virtual discussion with local experts on how the federal budget and tax landscape impacts your state or area of interest (e.g. early childhood, workforce development, etc.). You can show the live stream/recording during your event or share the link with attendees as pre-viewing. You also have the option of sharing the state budget and tax outlook link as pre-viewing for your program.
2. **Webstream Viewing:** If you don't have the capacity to provide a supplemental program, you can simply share the provided Zoom link(s) with your registrants.

There is no fee to participate. All watch party hosts will be recognized on the EOF website and in meeting materials.

Why budget and tax policy matter to funders.

Charitable foundations are working hard to reduce poverty, increase housing stability, reduce hunger, increase access to quality affordable child care and health care, and much more. But philanthropic dollars only go so far. We need state and federal revenues and programs to be adequately and equitably funded to ensure systemic changes are possible.

Public budgets and the revenue systems that support them are some of the most important policy instruments of our government. They reflect our values and priorities through decisions on how to tax residents and businesses and spend these collective resources. These decisions impact what families have to spend on basic needs and invest in their future, define the size of the government and its role in the national economy, and affect the lives of all Americans.

A solid understanding of budget and tax policy within our current political and economic climate is crucial for anyone working in philanthropy.

Why federal budget and tax policy matters to state and local funders.

States get about one-third of their revenue from the federal government — funds that help pay for health care, schools, housing, roads, child care, job training, and a range of other programs. Unlike the federal government, most states and localities must balance their budgets every year and are directly affected by fluctuations in federal funding, presenting state policymakers with important choices regarding how to adjust their own spending in response.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act is a sweeping piece of legislation that will reshape the landscape of public funding and tax equity in the United States. It makes deep cuts to healthcare, housing, food assistance, and education while giving billions in tax breaks to billionaires and corporations. This law is highly regressive, increases the complexity of tax systems, grows the deficit and diminishes our ability to raise the revenue needed to provide services and good systems for the people who need it most. It also shifts significant administrative and eligibility burdens onto states, forcing lawmakers to make critical choices about cutting spending, tapping reserves, or increasing property and other state taxes.

Resources:

- This report from the National Association of Counties examines [how recent federal spending cuts and policy changes are shifting costs onto county governments](#).
- [Tracking the Fallout From State Tax Cuts](#): This resource from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities features stories, case studies analyses of the latest tax developments related to state tax cuts.
- [PEW Fiscal 50: State Trends and Analysis](#): This interactive resource from The Pew Charitable Trusts, allows you to sort and analyze data on key fiscal, economic, and demographic trends in the 50 states and understand their impact on states' fiscal health.

- [Urban Institute State Fiscal Briefs](#): National recessions and federal tax and spending changes can affect budgets in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. And big policy questions, such as whether to increase teacher salaries or expand health care access, can pop up in many states at the same time. But each state faces unique economic, political, cultural, and historical pressures that affect how fiscal issues emerge and how problems are resolved. That’s why the State and Local Finance Initiative put together these 51 briefs, detailing the dynamics that influence major policy issues in each state.

2026 Watch Party Overview

NEW THIS YEAR: We have added additional web-streamed sessions that may be offered as part of your watch parties.

WEB-STREAMED SESSIONS (MARCH 26)

March 26 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86823798926>

We are using the same Zoom link for all sessions being web streamed on March 26.

Reimagining Public Benefits Access Ideas Showcase

March 26 | 11:00 AM–12:30 PM ET (*Note: Only the first 60 minutes will be broadcast and recorded. The final 30 minutes are reserved for table discussions.*)

What would it take to build a truly equitable and efficient public benefits system? One that streamlines access, reduces administrative burdens, and smoothly transitions individuals toward economic security. This session will showcase six future-focused program and policy innovations. We’ll start with quick, engaging Ignite presentations, followed by small group table conversations with presenters for deeper insight and connection-making.

- Moderator: **Tyonka Perkins Rimawi**, Managing Director of Programs, The Families & Workers Fund
- **Siran Cao**, CEO and Co-founder, Mirza: The Common App for public benefits: Transforming how families access safety net benefits.
- **Laura Glaab**, Chief Growth Officer, MyFriendBen: Medicaid Long-term Support Services (LTSS) Navigator: A digital guide protecting families’ homes, incomes, and dignity in long-term care decisions.
- **Nina Olson**, Executive Director, Center for Taxpayer Rights: Exploring automatic enrollment for tax and other public benefits.
- **Patricia Perozo**, Head of Delivery, Digital Public Works: DiCIT: Software that increases access to benefits by minimizing applicant burden.
- **Ash Taylor**, US Program Manager, GiveDirectly: Rx Kids: A prescription for health, hope, and opportunity.
- **Chelsea Mauldin**, Executive Director, Public Policy Lab: GovPay: A unified, privacy-first benefits payment platform.

Reimagining Revenue Systems Ideas Showcase

March 26 | 1:30–3:00 PM ET (*Note: Only the first 60 minutes will be broadcast and recorded. The final 30 minutes are reserved for table discussions.*)

What would it take to build a truly robust and equitable revenue system? One where everyone pays their fair share, no one pays more than they can afford, and enough revenue is raised to fund public goods that benefit us all, like childcare, education, housing, transportation, and health care? This session will showcase six future-focused program and policy innovations. We'll start with quick, engaging Ignite presentations, followed by small group table conversations with presenters for deeper insight and connection-making.

- Moderator: **Cuong Hoang**, Director of Programs, Mott Philanthropic
- **Simone Brody**, Senior Advisor, New Practice Lab at New America: Automatically returning money owed to families missing out on tax credits.
- **Amy Hanauer**, Executive Director, Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy: Enacting state wealth proceeds taxes.
- **Josh McCabe**, Director of Social Policy, Niskanen Center: Reviving America's contributory tradition by expanding payroll taxes as a foundation for public benefits.
- **Zorka Milin**, Policy Director, FACT Coalition: Using transparency to deter multinational corporate tax evasion and avoidance.
- **Chye-Ching Huang**, Executive Director, Tax Law Center at NYU Law: Remaking federal tax administration.
- **David Mitchell**, Senior Fellow, Washington Center for Equitable Growth: Reclassifying large passthrough businesses to strengthen equitable revenue systems.

WEB-STREAMED SESSIONS (MARCH 27)

March 27 Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88333300358>.

We are using the same Zoom link for all sessions being web streamed on March 27.

Safeguarding Medicaid and SNAP in the Wake of H.R. 1

March 27 | 10:00 AM - 10:45 AM ET

H.R.1 delivers sweeping tax cuts to corporations and high-income earners—while dramatically reducing funding for essential programs like Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). These cuts threaten the well-being of millions of families, children, and seniors, and shift the financial burden to already overstretched state and local governments. This session will provide an update on Medicaid and SNAP developments in states and potential short- and long-term interventions needed to safeguard these important programs.

- Moderator: **Katie Beckman**, National Policy Director, The David & Lucile Packard Foundation (*invited, pending confirmation*)
- [Joan Alker](#), Executive Director of the Center for Children and Families and a Research Professor at the Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy (*invited, pending confirmation*)

- [Crystal FitzSimons](#), President, Food and Research Action Center

Federal Budget and Tax Outlook

March 27 | 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM ET *(Note: Only the first 45 minutes will be broadcast and recorded. The remaining 30 minutes are reserved for table discussions.)*

Noted tax and budget policy expert Sharon Parrott will provide an overview of key provisions in the federal budget, discuss current and upcoming budget and tax debates, and offer insights on the potential impact on struggling families, workers, and communities.

- Moderator: [Shana Bartley](#), Policy Officer, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- [Sharon Parrott](#), President, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

State Budget and Tax Outlook

March 27 | 1:00 PM - 2:30PM ET *(Note: Only the first 45 minutes will be broadcast and recorded. The remaining 45 minutes are reserved for table discussions.)*

States are facing some of the most challenging fiscal conditions in recent memory. The combined impact of HR1 and declining revenue bases is setting the stage for intense budget debates that will significantly affect the capacity to fund programs serving children, families, and communities. Hear from experts about the key fiscal trends, battles, and opportunities shaping these debates, and what's at stake across the country.

- Moderator: [Karina Jiménez Lewis](#), Associate Director of Policy Reform and Advocacy, The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- [Andrea Jimenez](#), Policy Specialist, Fiscal Affairs Program, National Council of State Legislatures
- [Whitney Jemison](#), Director of State Fiscal Policy Research, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

LOGISTICS

- Hosts set up (and co-brand) registration for your watch party. **Participation is restricted to funders and philanthropic advisors only.**
- There is no fee to participate.
- Hosts will share their logo with EOF for promotional purposes. All watch party hosts will be recognized on the EOF website and in meeting materials.
- Hosts are asked to confirm their watch party participation details within two weeks of the event. This includes:
 - Which sessions you will promote; and
 - Whether you are holding a supplemental program, and the date, time, and description of your program.
- EOF will provide Zoom links to share with registrants within two weeks of the event.
- Participants viewing the livestream can submit comments and ask questions via Zoom during the event. Contact Ami Nagle at 919-282-2710 with any issues on the day of the event.

- Recording links will be shared one business day after the event.
- Session recaps will be shared within 10 business days of the event.
- Hosts will share the total number of registrants for their event(s) with EOF for tracking and reporting purposes.

2026 Watch Party Hosts

1. Bay Area AFN
2. Council of New Jersey Grantmakers
3. Early Childhood Funders Collaborative
4. Grantmakers for Thriving Youth
5. Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania and United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
6. Indiana Philanthropy Alliance
7. New York Funders Alliance
8. North Carolina Network of Grantmakers
9. Philanthropy Missouri
10. Wisconsin Philanthropy Network
11. Workforce Matters

Host	Contact	2026 Status	
Tax Equity Funders Network	Deneisha Thompson deneisha@taxequityfunders.org	Cohosting the Meeting	N/A
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania	Emily SchmidlappEmily.Schmidlapp@unitedwayswpa.org	Decided to participate in Grantmaker's of Western Pennsylvania's viewing rather than host our own this year	N/A
Grantmakers for Thriving Youth	Kathleen Traphagen, KTraphagen@thrivingyouth.org	GTY will host a watch party (share livestream links to all sessions). https://thrivingyouth.org/event/gty-watch-party-2026-budget-tax-briefing/	- March 26: 15 registrants - March 27: 21 registrants

Indiana Philanthropy Alliance	John Ferguson jferguson@inphilanthropy.org	Hosting a watch party with all options included. https://inphilanthropy.org/events/2026-federal-budget-tax-briefings	
Philanthropy Missouri	Michelle Miller, michelle@philmo.org	Will host a Federal + State Budget Briefing closely following our program	
Bay Area AFN	Beth Yeap, beth@assetfunders.org Rebeca Rangel rebeca@assetfunders.org	Will host watch party and supplemental program on March 27 (federal session and maybe state).	
Workforce Matters	Loh-Sze Leung lohsze@workforce-matters.org	Will offer links and hold watch party/post event discussion for March 31 https://workforce-matters.org/event/2026-budget-tax-policy-and-implications-for-workforce-development/	
Early Childhood Funders Collaborative	Rena Large rena.large@ecfunders.org	Will offer livestreams (all sessions) and host watch party/post livestream huddle: Friday, March 27, 2:15pm-3:15pm ET	
Council of New Jersey Grantmakers	Chanika Svetvilas ChanikaSvetvilas@cnjg.org	Will provide livestream links to members. We will however not have a formal watch party. https://www.cnjg.org/events/2026-budget-and-tax-briefing-meeting-moment-shaping-future-day-1 https://www.cnjg.org/events/2026-budget-and-tax-	March 26: 4 March 27: 2

		briefing-meeting-moment-shaping-future-day-2	
North Carolina Network of Grantmakers	Megan Bostic mbostic@ncgrantmakers.org	Will share livestream link to federal session. https://www.ncgrantmakers.org/events/federal-budget-and-tax-outlook	Federal Session: 7
Wisconsin Philanthropy Network	Kristi Anderson kanderson@wiphilanthropy.org	Will share livestream links	4 registrants
Grantmakers of Western Pennsylvania	Amber Far, afarr@gwpa.org	Will share livestream links to all sessions.	10 registrants (all sessions)
New York Funders Alliance	Deryn Pomeroy deryn@nyfunders.org	Will share webstream of Federal and State Outlook sessions. https://www.nyfunders.org/event/2026-federal-state-budget-tax-briefing	March 26: 3 March 27: 13
Asset Funders Network	Annika Little, annika@assetfunders.org		
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy	Karla Fortunato, kfortunato@ctphilanthropy.org		
Florida Philanthropic Network	Geula Ferguson Geula@fpnetwork.org		
Grantmakers Council of Rhode Island	Courtney Bourns courtney.bourns@unitedwayri.org		
Louisiana AFN	Brandon Rap brandon@assetfunders.org		

Maine Philanthropy Center	Jeannette Andre jeannette@mainephilanthropy.org		
Northern California Grantmakers	Sarah Frankfurt sfrankfurth@ncg.org		
Philanthropy Ohio/Greater Cleveland Funders Collaborative	Adrienne Wells, awells@philanthropyohio.org		
Philanthropy New York	Marlon Williams mwilliams@philanthropynewyork.org Ariane Cruz acruz@philanthropynewyork.org		
Virginia Funders Network	Angela Molina angie@vafunders.org		
W. Clement & Jessie V. Stone Foundation	Sara Slaughter Sara@wcstonefnd.org Brandon Thorne Brandon@wcstonefnd.org		

Lessons Learned

- Helping members/funders see value and connection to budget and tax policy (and participating in watch party programming) remains challenging and takes time.
- Watch party audience sizes ranged from 5-25.
- Having local speakers is a big draw and adds value (and context) to watch parties.
- Co-hosting the event (or holding the event at a member/partner venue) can help boost participation.
- Several hosts noted they could have used more time for their local discussions (one hour was not enough).
- The additional tools provided (sample agendas, promotion text, connections to local SPP groups for local speakers, etc.) are useful.

- Weather can be a challenge for in-person gatherings. It would be helpful to have a weather contingency plan in place (e.g. virtual participation options).
- Technology (audio and video) issues occur most often during a live viewing. These occur despite technology tests and are user interface issues (not a result of the streaming technology). While viewing a recording eliminates most tech issues, there are other trade-offs to consider (more excitement around live participation, can interact in real time, and potential for recording to feel like old news as events can shift quickly).

Sample Promotion Language

1. **Watch Party with no Supplemental Program Examples**
 - Council of New Jersey Grantmakers: [Federal Watch Party](#); [State Watch Party](#)
 - Florida Philanthropic Network: [Federal Watch Party](#); [State Watch Party](#)
2. **Watch Party with Supplemental Program Example**
 - **Tax Equity Funders Network:** Tax Equity Funders Network members were invited to attend the in-person meeting or watch the livestream/recording and then join in a tax-equity specific conversation with funder colleagues about implications for their work. [Implications of the Federal Budget and Tax Debates: A Tax Equity Funders Network Discussion](#)

EOF Watch Party Contact

For more information, contact Cema Siegel at csiegel@eofnetwork.org or 202-379-2929.

Contact Ami Nagle at 919-282-2710 with any issues on the day of the event.

Sample Agenda

Virtual Budget and Tax Briefing for Grantmakers

[Date, Time]

[Host, Location Address]

5-10 minutes

Welcome and Introductions

35 minutes

Federal Budget and Tax Outlook + Preparing for the 2025 Tax Debates: Part 1

Noted tax and budget policy expert Sharon Parrott will provide an overview on the key provisions in the federal budget, discuss current and upcoming budget debates, and offer insights on the potential impact on struggling families, workers and communities.

- [Sharon Parrott](#), President, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

60 minutes

Funder Discussion

Local experts will share their perspective on [state's] fiscal landscape and how the federal budget and tax landscape will affect funding for critical programs and services serving children and families in [state]. We will then have an open discussion about what this means for our work as funders and for the work of our grantees.

Local speakers may include staff from the [State Priority Partnership](#) group in your state or other non-profit human services coalitions. Sample questions your follow-up conversation might explore:

- *How does the federal tax and budget landscape impact our state/locality?*
- *How do federal decisions impact the resources our state and local leaders can access for critical safety net human service, health and/or education services?*
- *If proposed federal changes go through, how does this impact the areas our foundations focus on and our grantmaking seeks to advance?*
- *What is the policy and advocacy infrastructure in our state/locality to help inform federal and state decisionmakers? How is it connected to federal and state tax and budget debates? What are its strengths and areas that need attention?*
- *How can we, as grantmakers, work collaboratively to ensure that decisions made about public funding impacting struggling populations and communities are informed by the best practices of our grantees?*

[Add speaker names here].

5-10 minutes

Closing Remarks/Adjourn