

How State and Local Governments Can Help Build Employee Wealth

Speaker Biographies

Alison Freas is the President & CEO of The SOURCE, a non-profit organization that provides wrap-around support to employees within the SOURCE employer network, helping people stay employed and advance in their careers by leveraging a vast array of community resources. Her professional journey began as a high school business teacher before transitioning to HR roles at a global furniture manufacturer, where she led various educational and workforce development initiatives for a decade. Since joining The SOURCE in 2021, Alison has focused on expanding and diversifying the organization to increase its positive impact across Michigan.

Sid Pailla is the Founder & CEO of Sunny Day Fund, a pioneer and leader in workplace emergency savings and actionable financial wellness. Sid and the Sunny Day Fund team are pursuing this mission driven by their own personal experiences with financial hardships. Prior to Sunny Day Fund, Sid was as a Technology Strategy Executive and Innovator of the Year at Accenture. Sid received his PhD, MS, and BS in Systems Engineering and MBA – all from the University of Virginia. Sid, his wife, and two daughters live in Fairfax, VA.

Shreenath Regunathan is the founder of Starlight, a company focused on improving access to government benefits. Currently serving as a Product Fellow at Robin Hood, they engage in building innovative solutions to address economic inequality. Previously, Shreenath held various roles at Google, including Product Manager and Global Operations Lead, where they specialized in partnerships and data-driven decision-making. Shreenath also gained experience at The Coca-Cola Company and CRA International, where they contributed to business analysis and strategic growth initiatives after earning a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Lizbeth Schoon MPA, GBA, administers the employee health and wellbeing program for the City and County of Denver. She began working in the office of human resources as an intern in 2013, tasked with redeveloping the city's wellness program with health equity in mind using a data driven approach to address social drivers of health. In the 12 years of leading the city's wellness program, Lizzie has partnered with non-profits, vendors, and universities to continuously improve the city's health and wellness resources rooted in innovation and data driven processes. Lizzie was born in Colorado and lives with her nine-year-old son in Aurora, where she loves to read, eat at local restaurants, and listen to live music.

Monica Stone is a seasoned public-sector leader and strategist with more than 35 years of experience driving policy innovation, organizational transformation, and people-centered program design. Her career began in government in the energy sector, where she became a recognized expert in energy policy, innovative finance, and the commercialization of emerging technologies. Inspired to help organizations innovate from within, Monica founded a consulting firm focused on supporting businesses and governments in developing forward-looking strategies rooted in environmental sustainability, workplace excellence, and financial resilience. Returning to state government, she now serves as the Deputy Director of Community Access and Eligibility at the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. In

this role, Monica focuses on strengthening economic mobility supports and building navigation structures that center on people rather than programs. Her work aims to create a more seamless, compassionate, and effective experience for lowans seeking support. Throughout her career, Monica has been guided by a commitment to questioning the status quo, collaboration, and building systems that help people and communities thrive.

Brett Theodos is the director of the Center for Local Finance and Growth at the Urban Institute. He is a leading researcher in mission finance, small business outcomes, place-based development, and wealth-building tools. Theodos is regularly called upon by practitioners and policymakers to inform how to better expand prosperity in the US. Theodos serves on the board of directors with the Center for Community Progress, the Douglass Community Land Trust, Grounded Solutions Network, and the Housing Authority of Prince George’s County, Maryland. Theodos received his BA from Northwestern University, MPP from Georgetown University, and PhD in public policy from the George Washington University.