PolicyEngine Atlas

Letters of Support

Public Benefit Innovation Fund - Summer 2025 Application

The following organizations have provided letters of support:

- Georgetown University - Better Government Lab (BGL)
- Vanderbilt University - Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center
- Benefit Kitchen
- National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
- Urban Institute
- University of Southern California
- Policy Simulation Library (PSL)

Note: These letters reference "Policy Library" as the project was renamed to "PolicyEngine Atlas" after the support letters were requested.

Better Government Lab

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY & UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

To Whom It May Concern:

The Better Government Lab at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy is pleased to collaborate on the PolicyEngine Policy Library project, an initiative to create a permanently archived collection of safety net policy documents.

Our lab is currently contracting with PolicyEngine to encode historical benefit program rules for 2018 and adjacent years, demonstrating our commitment to building robust policy infrastructure for research. As part of this collaboration, we will:

- Contribute policy documents from our research on SNAP, Medicaid, CHIP, TANF, and other safety net programs to help seed the Policy Library

- Test the Policy Library platform to ensure it meets academic research needs

- Provide feedback on document organization and metadata standards based on our extensive work with administrative data

The Policy Library addresses critical challenges our researchers face: policy documents frequently disappear from government websites, making it impossible to conduct longitudinal analysis or verify historical eligibility rules. Beyond supporting rules-as-code development, this infrastructure will enable new research methodologies including: providing authoritative context for LLMs analyzing policy impacts, documenting implementation variations across jurisdictions, tracking policy evolution over time, and preserving implementation memos that reveal administrative intent. This infrastructure will be invaluable for our work measuring participation gaps and analyzing policy impacts.

We look forward to this collaboration and believe the Policy Library will become essential infrastructure for the safety net research community.

Sincerely,

Eric Giannella
Associate Research Professor
Better Government Lab, Georgetown University

prenatal-to-3 policy IMPACT CENTER

RESEARCH FOR ACTION AND OUTCOMES

August 16, 2025

Dear PBIF Review Committee,

The Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center at Vanderbilt University supports PolicyEngine's application for the Public Benefit Innovation Fund to develop the Policy Library. As a research center dedicated to evidence-based policy solutions for infants, toddlers, and their families, we recognize the critical need for accessible, permanently archived policy documentation.

Our Challenge

Our research frequently requires accessing state childcare subsidy policy manuals and other benefit program documents. Managing these documents, tying them to the rules we encode, and monitoring for policy updates is a significant challenge. We also regularly encounter broken links and disappeared documents that hinder our ability to track policy evolution and provide accurate guidance to policymakers.

Partnership Value

The Policy Library would solve this shared challenge by:

- Permanently archiving the documents we need for research
- Enabling us to track policy changes over time
- Providing reliable access to source materials for our analyses

We look forward to contributing documents from our research and testing the library's utility for academic work. This collaboration would complement our existing use of PolicyEngine's API for state tax credit rules in our Policy Impact Calculator, for which we also research and encode benefit programs such as childcare subsidies.

We are excited to partner with PolicyEngine and other organizations to build this essential infrastructure for America's safety net programs.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Osborne
Professor of Early Childhood Education and Policy
Executive Director, Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center
Vanderbilt University
pn3policy.org | cynthia.osborne@vanderbilt.edu

August 15, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing in support of Policy Engine's PBIF application to build a Policy Library.

Benefit Kitchen relies on authoritative, up-to-date policy documents (state plan amendments, agency guidance, eligibility manuals, and other primary sources) in our work estimating benefit eligibility nationwide.

Unfortunately, these resources often disappear from agency websites without notice, links break, and search interfaces are inconsistent. This isn't just a problem for Benefit Kitchen. It also creates costly duplication of effort across the field as peer organizations struggle to locate and preserve the same documents.

Policy Engine's proposed infrastructure would save significant time, reduce research costs, and improve accuracy in benefit eligibility tools like ours.

I strongly encourage PBIF to fund this project and commend Max's team for their thoughtful approach and commitment to collaboration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Beeby

NBER | **NATIONAL BUREAU** *of* **ECONOMIC RESEARCH**

James M. Poterba
President and CEO

August 15, 2025

Mr. Max Ghenis
Chief Executive Officer, PolicyEngine
max@policyengine.org

Dear Max:

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) enthusiastically supports the proposal that PolicyEngine is developing for the Public Benefit Innovation Fund to request support for a Policy Library. I understand that this library will serve as a permanent archive of benefit policy and tax documents. This is a terrific plan – the Library will contribute great value to the research and practitioner communities.

If PolicyEngine proceeds with this initiative, the NBER will contribute the historical tax form archive that Dan Feenberg has created in connection with TAXSIM modelling work. The NBER would not require any monetary compensation for providing this archive to PolicyEngine, but we would like the source of this tax form archive to be acknowledged as the NBER with particular credit to Dan.

Please let me know if I can provide you with any further information or details. Good luck with your grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Cc: D. Feenberg

8/14/2025

To Whom it May Concern:

The Urban Institute is supportive of engaging in the development of the PolicyEngine Policy Library project as PolicyEngine seeks funding from the Public Benefit Innovation Fund, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Ballmer Group, and Families and Workers Fund.

The proposed project, the Policy Library, will create a permanently archived, AI-powered collection of policy documents (statutes, regulations, implementation memos, and forms) for safety net programs across all 50+ U.S. jurisdictions.

Should the grant be awarded, we would explore opportunities for collaboration, which may include Urban contributing policy documents assembled for microsimulation modeling and other Urban research projects to seed the library, comparing such documents with those collected by other organizations, testing the platform to ensure it meets researcher needs, and potentially entering into a subgrant arrangement to formalize these contributions.

Sincerely,

Catalina Carrizosa

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Contracts Administrator

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USCPrice
Sol Price School of Public Policy

Matthew Unrath, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

8/15/2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to collaborate on the PolicyEngine Policy Library project, an initiative to create a permanently archived collection of safety net policy documents.

I am currently partnering with PolicyEngine to model effective tax rates across multiple benefit programs including SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, WIC, SSI, and housing assistance for historical years. This existing partnership demonstrates our investment in comprehensive policy modeling infrastructure. As part of the Policy Library collaboration, we will:

- Contribute policy documents from our research archives to help seed the library
- Test the platform for academic use cases, particularly multi-program interaction analysis
- Provide feedback to ensure the library serves researchers studying participation gaps and benefit cliffs

The Policy Library solves persistent problems in our research: the disappearance of historical policy documents essential for understanding program evolution, and the lack of structured context for AI-assisted policy analysis. Beyond our immediate needs for rules encoding, permanent access to these documents will enable new research approaches: using LLMs with authoritative policy context to analyze participation gaps, documenting state-level implementation differences, studying how policies evolve in response to economic conditions, and preserving the full context of policy intent through implementation guidance. This will significantly enhance our ability to study safety net program effectiveness and multi-program interactions.

We support this important infrastructure project and look forward to collaborating on its development.

Sincerely,

Matthew Unrath
Assistant Professor
Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California

Letter of Support - Policy Simulation Library

August 16, 2025

Public Benefit Innovation Fund
Re: PolicyEngine Policy Library Application

Dear Review Committee,

The Policy Simulation Library (PSL) strongly supports PolicyEngine's Policy Library application. As maintainers of Tax-Calculator and other open-source policy models, we understand the critical need for reliable policy documentation.

Our Documentation Challenge: Tax-Calculator primarily references a small set of federal tax documents - IRS forms (1040, schedules), annual revenue procedures with inflation adjustments, and tax code updates. Yet even this limited documentation constantly breaks: IRS reorganizes websites, old revenue procedures disappear, and historical forms become inaccessible. We waste significant time updating broken links instead of improving our models.

Why This Matters: The Policy Library would provide:

- Permanent archives of IRS forms and revenue procedures
- Version tracking for annual parameter updates
- API access to retrieve specific tax documents programmatically
- Historical documentation enabling accurate backcasting

Our Contribution: PSL will share our collection of federal tax forms and IRS tax parameter update documents. We'll also explore integrating Tax-Calculator with the Policy Library API, demonstrating value for all rules-as-code projects.

This infrastructure is essential for reproducible policy research. When researchers can't access the original IRS documents underlying our parameters, they can't validate or extend our work.

We enthusiastically support this application.

Sincerely,

Jason DeBacker
Associate Professor of Economics, University of South Carolina
Leadership Council Member, Policy Simulation Library