

NISKANEN

C E N T E R

Pathways to Enable Open-Source Ecosystems (POSE) program
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Ave
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Review Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for PolicyEngine's proposal to establish an Open Source Ecosystem (OSE) for their policy analysis platform. As the Director of Social Policy at the Niskanen Center, I have firsthand experience with PolicyEngine's capabilities and its potential to improve policy research and analysis.

The Niskanen Center has regularly used PolicyEngine in our recent work on tax and benefit reform. This includes three major reports and commentaries on federal and states policies:

1. "Building A Stronger Foundation for American Families" - This report used PolicyEngine to model the impacts of federal options for Child Tax Credit reform, including costs, poverty reduction, and distributional effects across income deciles.
2. Analysis of Virginia's family tax benefit policies - We used PolicyEngine to calculate the cost of the Commonwealth Kids Credit proposal.
3. Analysis of Illinois' options for Child Tax Credit reform - PolicyEngine's microsimulation model helped us estimate potential costs and distributional impact.

PolicyEngine's open-source model has been invaluable in our work, providing quick and accurate cost estimates for policy proposals, detailed distributional analysis, the ability to model complex policy reforms, and transparent assumptions and methodology. As PolicyEngine plans its transition to an OSE, the Niskanen Center is happy to contribute to this process. We are committed to:

- Participating in ecosystem discovery activities, such as surveys and focus groups;
- Providing insights into the needs of policy researchers and think tanks;
- Offering feedback on governance structures and community engagement strategies;
- Exploring potential collaboration models that could enhance PolicyEngine's impact.

As a current user of PolicyEngine, I would be glad to contribute ideas for future initiatives, such as collaborative research programs or other engagement strategies that could strengthen the ecosystem. The Niskanen Center looks forward to being an active participant in shaping PolicyEngine's evolution into a robust OSE.

The development of an OSE for PolicyEngine has the potential to greatly benefit the policy research community. By fostering collaboration, ensuring transparency, and increasing access to sophisticated policy analysis tools, We at the Niskanen Center are excited to be part of this ecosystem and look forward to the advancements PolicyEngine can make in evidence-based policymaking.

Best,
Josh McCabe
Director of Social Policy
Niskanen Center