

PARTICIPANTS

Suzan Bateson has been executive director of the Alameda County Community Food Bank since 2001. During this time, the food bank has nearly quadrupled its budget from \$3.7 million to \$13.5 million, doubled its roster of employees, and doubled its annual food distribution to 32 million pounds. She formerly served as board chair of the California Association of Food Banks and is a member of Feeding America's Policy Engagement and Advocacy Committee. She also serves on the advisory committees for Food Day and Junior League of Oakland–East Bay. She attended California College of the Arts and was a participant in the executive program for nonprofit leaders at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.

Sarah Bohn is a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California and the PPIC Higher Education Center. A labor economist, she focuses on how policy affects individual and family economic well-being, with particular attention to low-income and vulnerable populations. Her recent research focuses on social safety net policy and job training through public career technical education. She has published research on poverty, income inequality, the workforce skills gap, and California's community colleges. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Liza Bray is executive director of Partners for Children South LA, which works to improve developmental outcomes for children from birth to age 5 and to reduce their risk of involvement with the child welfare system. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of the initiative, including project and committee management, cross-agency care coordination, fund development and budget management, partnership development, evaluation, strategic planning, and external communications and coordination. She has over 24 years of nonprofit experience, working specifically with at-risk youth and families in the South Los Angeles community. She has a BA in communications from Howard University.

Caroline Danielson is a senior fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her research focuses on multiple dimensions of the social safety net, including its role in mitigating poverty, program access and enrollment, and the integration and governance of programs. Before coming to PPIC, she was a principal analyst at the University of California's Welfare Policy Research Project and a faculty member in the Department of Politics at the State University of New York, Potsdam. She holds a PhD in political science from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND graduate school.

Deborah Gonzalez is director of government affairs at PPIC. She and her staff work to connect PPIC research with policymakers and community leaders. A longtime Capitol staffer, she served as policy and fiscal director for six legislative leaders and worked on a wide variety of issues—including the state budget, education reform, infrastructure funding, and public safety. She holds a law degree from the McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific, and a BA from Claremont McKenna College, where she majored in international relations.

Sabrina Kelley is a resident services manager at the Fresno Housing Authority and a research fellow for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Leaders program. Her work for the past six years has focused on equitable community development, neighborhood revitalization, and resident empowerment. Whether it has been advocating for access to quality, affordable rental housing and fresh food, or improvements to pedestrian infrastructure, green space, and quality education, she has been a leader in developing and empowering residents to lead community change efforts. She holds a master's degree in public health from California State University, Fresno.