



Center for Budget Equity and Innovation

Budget Equity and Innovation

Across the nation, a national awakening to systemic injustice has highlighted historical disparities and magnified the need for innovative strategies to bring greater equity into our communities. In response, state and local governments are now sharpening their focus on how to apply and advance emerging equity-based tools and practices in service delivery, budgeting, and capital investment to help drive positive change.

PFM's Center for Budget Equity and Innovation (CBEI) stands at this intersection of equity, policy, operations and finance – engaging communities and stakeholders across the country – to make a difference across all communities.

Insights to Meet the Moment

Governments carry an enormous burden and opportunity to impact the lives of residents and stakeholders. Yet, without a clear perspective on equity, elected officials and administrators can too often overlook important barriers to access and miss opportunities to apply resources more efficiently and effectively. PFM's Center for Budget Equity and Innovation stands at the ready to assist public sector leaders with these challenging concerns.

Our team brings an analytical, financial and strategic policy approach to advancing equity. Through thoughtful and place-based strategies that meet state and local governments where they are today, the Center offers a variety of services and tools, including:

- Equity-based budgeting practices (operating and capital)
- Tax, fee and tax incentive analysis from an equity perspective
- Equitable recovery strategies and long-range financial plans
- Equity and "Triple Bottom Line" (social, environmental, financial) impact analysis of major projects and investments
- Stakeholder and community engagement
- Development of equity metrics
- Spatial analysis and GIS mapping

With our comprehensive framework and approach, PFM's goal is to support our clients as they address institutional and structural barriers, evaluate burdens, benefits, and outcomes, and create solutions that promote growth in economic opportunity with a strengthened sense of community belonging.

What is Budgeting for Equity?

Adjusting budget processes for more efficient, effective, and equitable generation and allocation of resources

Setting/resetting and aligning budget goals and priorities to reverse historical disparities

- Operating Budgets
- Capital Investment
- Tax/Fee Policy
- Long-Range Financial Plans

Identifying and overcoming barriers to equitable services (e.g., language and literacy, culture and trust, the digital divide, location and physical access, income and cost of services, work schedules and childcare demands)

Effectively using more granular data to set metrics and track progress

Improving equity reporting to gain deeper insights for informing decision making



Placing Equity and Innovation into Practice

PFM’s Management and Budget Consulting professionals bring hands-on experience and analytical expertise in the emerging fields of Budget Equity and Innovation with a record of producing impactful results for our clients, for example:

- **Investing in Danville** is a community-driven strategy for Danville, VA, to identify equitable uses for a major new revenue source. As the project lead on behalf of the City, PFM identified guiding principles, facilitated community engagement, conducted equity mapping, and helped to align community feedback and best practices to develop actionable recommendations for investment.
- **City Budgeting for Equity and Recovery** is a nationwide initiative of the Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works Cities program. As a technical assistance provider to nine participating cities across the country, including New Orleans, LA, Tampa, FL, and Chula Vista, CA. PFM is supporting the development and implementation of diverse plans to drive financial recovery and equity across city governments.
- **San Antonio’s “Future Ready Plan”** is a multi-stakeholder commitment to improving racial and ethnic equity for youth in education and employment outcomes, two linked domains that are vital to both recovery and mobility. PFM is leading the financial coordination and sustainability components of this regional effort.
- **Philadelphia’s Poverty Action Plan** is a City Council initiative to lift 100,000 residents out of poverty through comprehensive investments in jobs and education, housing and social safety net partnerships for change. PFM worked closely with City Council to develop the Plan’s final strategies and call to action.



If you are interested in learning more, please contact the CBEI team members listed below. We look forward to working with you!

PFM’s Center for Budget Equity and Innovation Team

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