

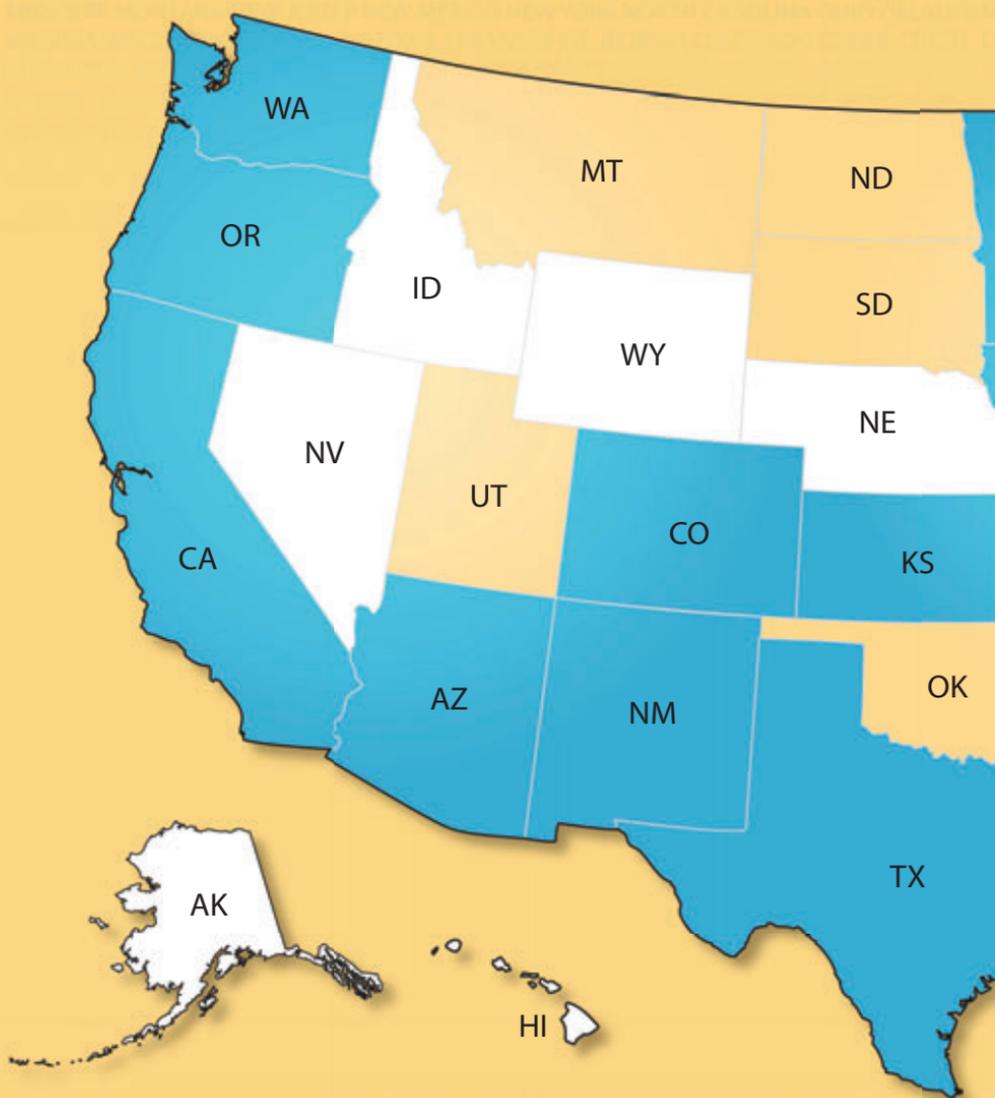
The State Fiscal Analysis Initiative

SFAI



A network of state-level nonprofit
policy organizations working for
equitable, responsible, and sustainable
budget and tax policies.

The State Fiscal Analy



A Growing Network

Launched in 1993 with member groups in 12 states, SFAI has since grown to 30 states and the District of Columbia with nine more under development as of January, 2011.

■ SFAI GROUPS (31)

■ SFAI IN DEVELOPMENT (9)

SFAI goals

Improve State Tax and Budgeting Systems

States need to raise adequate revenue in a fair, responsible, and sustainable manner in order to meet critical responsibilities such as education, public safety, and health care.



SFAI organizations analyze major tax proposals and develop and promote options to make tax systems better. They also assess how proposed changes in federal policies would affect state finances.

SFAI groups make sure policymakers and the public understand the implications of arbitrary spending limits and other budget gimmicks. And they identify long-term strategies for sound state budgets and strong state economies.

Strengthen Policies for Low-And Moderate-Income Families

SFAI groups work at the state level to improve economic security and opportunity. They do so by analyzing the barriers that can prevent low-income families from improving their lives and by identifying sound policy solutions, like fairer tax systems, better health care, affordable child care, work supports, and income assistance.



Expand Public Debates over Budget Issues

The budget is a state's single most powerful decision-making tool. But too often budgets are written and debated in terms that most citizens (and even many policymakers) cannot understand. SFAI groups provide the translation. They analyze budget trends and options to make clear the crucial choices that states face.

By widely disseminating their work and interacting with the news media, SFAI groups shape the debate and make it accessible to advocates and the public.



Making a Difference on State Fiscal Policies

SFAI groups shape budget and policy outcomes by providing reliable, timely, and accessible research to policymakers, the media, advocates, and the general public.

SFAI groups also conduct presentations and training on budget issues for anti-hunger organizations, business and professional groups, children's advocates, churches, community organizers, environmental advocates, labor unions, local governments, social service providers, service clubs...and many more.

SFAI: A Recognized Leader

The Council on Foundations presented its 2009 Award for Distinguished Grantmaking through Collaboration to SFAI's funders in recognition of what the network has accomplished "to help broaden the debate around budget and tax policy through public education and the encouragement of civic engagement."



Reliable

SFAI publications are factual and insightful. Even people who do not always share SFAI goals know that the analyses are accurate.



Timely

To maximize their impact on budget and tax policies, SFAI groups issue analyses at the same time policymakers are debating key issues.



Accessible

Tax and budget information often appears complex. This can discourage the public — and even some policymakers — from paying attention to these issues. SFAI materials are written in plain language that policymakers, the media, and the public can understand.

“The work of the Oregon Center for Public Policy is highly regarded by the legislature. The Center is frequently sought out for information and analysis.”

—Oregon legislator

“I count on the DC Fiscal Policy Institute for solid analysis and the real story behind the numbers.”

—District of Columbia council member

“All too often, people make a lot of wild claims with no grounding in the facts. The Commonwealth Institute has transformed the terms of debate.”

—Virginia political and policy blog

“The Missouri Budget Project is extremely helpful in our efforts... I simply don't know what we would do without them as a resource.”

—Director, Missouri disabilities organization

“The California Budget Project demystifies the budget process. The CBP opened up the process to grassroots and individual advocates.”

—Director, California WIC Association

“The Center for Public Policy Priorities’ educational presentations for the general public are excellent: knowledgeable, fair, practical, and balanced.”

—hospice director, Texas

The network is made possible by the generosity, vision, and ongoing involvement of seven national foundations, more than 150 state and regional foundations, and many individual donors.

The national funders:

Ford Foundation

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation

Open Society Institute

Public Welfare Foundation

Stoneman Family Foundation

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a research organization and strategic policy institute in Washington, DC, coordinates the SFAI network in addition to conducting its own analyses on state fiscal issues. The Center provides technical and organization-building assistance to SFAI groups through activities that include conducting trainings, disseminating model reports, and hosting conferences and networking opportunities.



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