# Elizabeth Lower-Basch
## Gray Cat Policy

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## Profile

Strategic policy advisor with 25+ years of experience in nonprofit and government settings transforming public benefit systems. Proven track record guiding states and localities in modernizing service delivery across Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, and other programs to improve access and customer experience.

- Uniquely skilled at connecting big-picture vision and strategy with deep policy expertise and attention to implementation details.
- Demonstrated ability to manage complex stakeholder relationships across government agencies, legislative bodies, and community organizations.
- Thoughtful about state and programmatic contexts, and how to take them into account in applying lessons learned from one jurisdiction to another.
- Adept at translating research findings into actionable recommendations that drive positive social impact.

**Policy areas of expertise include:**

- Public benefit programs (TANF, SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, EITC/CTC, guaranteed income) with a focus on cross-program alignment
- Work requirements, workforce development, job quality and the low-wage labor market
- Immigrant inclusion in social support systems

## Services

**Strategic Advisory and Technical Assistance**

- Support state and local agencies in modernizing and improving benefit delivery systems.
- Identify opportunities based on analysis of potential funding streams, program requirements and opportunities for flexibilities or waivers.
- Guide program design and implementation based on research on best practices and lessons learned from other jurisdictions and/or other programs.
- Incorporate equity in policy design and implementation, including through stakeholder engagement.

**Advocacy Campaigns and Coalitions**

- Navigate and influence regulatory and legislative processes.
- Connect organizations to advocacy ecosystem, allowing them to contribute in the most effective ways.
- Develop high-functioning collaborations and coalitions, including across sectors, to advance policy goals.
- Mentor staff in developing and implementing advocacy strategies.

**Policy Analysis and Communications**

- Analyze complex federal and state policies to identify requirements, opportunities and risks.
- Create accessible materials that explain technical policies to diverse audiences, including:
  - Testimony for legislative bodies.
  - Regulatory comments.
  - Presentations and trainings for community members
  - Policy manuals and guidance.
  - Articles, reports and fact sheets.

## Professional Experience

**CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL POLICY (CLASP)**
*National, nonpartisan, anti-poverty nonprofit advancing policy solutions for people with low incomes.*

**Deputy Executive Director for Policy, 2022-2024**
**Director, Income and Work Supports, 2013-2022**
**Senior Policy Analyst, 2006 – 2013**

- Developed and led innovative cross-organization areas of work, including incorporating the expertise of people with lived experience of poverty into policy development, feedback and advocacy as part of our racial and gender equity commitment. Designed scenario planning process to identify partnerships, research and other activities to undertake based on emerging opportunities and challenges.

- Led major project on large scale transformations of the delivery of public benefits so people with low income can receive the full range of supports for which they are eligible, with dignity and minimal burden. Provided technical assistance to diverse state and county agencies on federal policies, requirements and flexibilities, performance measurement, and best practices from other states and the use of design-based innovation process mapping, and rapid cycle testing to improve access to Medicaid and SNAP. Built learning community on state-based administrative advocacy in 15 states, resulting in improvements to policies, client communications, and technology, increasing enrollment and reducing churn.

- Together with partners at CLASP and the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), conceived, launched and implemented the multi-sector [Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF)](Protecting Immigrant Families (PIF)) campaign in response to threats to low-income immigrant families' access to health care, nutrition, and other benefits. Set ambitious goals for both quality and quantity of comments on the public charge proposed rule, resulting in over 260,000 comments and substantive comments from many sectors that were important in litigation that delayed implementation of rule. Built political power to successfully advocate for new Administration to prioritize repealing harmful public charge rule and finalizing a new rule that does not consider non-cash supports. Transitioned PIF to become an independent coalition that works on multiple campaigns at federal and state levels.

- As appointed member of U.S. Department of Agriculture's Equity Commission, educated fellow members on systemic barriers to access to nutrition programs for communities of color. Developed actionable recommendations that would have meaningful and lasting impact that were unanimously included in report. Led Income and Work Supports team to identify racial equity as a core goal of our work and to develop the knowledge and self-awareness needed to speak about racism in public benefits programs.

- During the Great Recession, identified that states were leaving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Fund money on the table. Conducted real-time research and delivered intensive technical assistance and advocacy, resulting in states drawing down the full $5 billion, twice as much as the Congressional Budget Office originally estimated. Resulted in families receiving cash assistance and more than 260,000 low-income parents and youth being hired in subsidized jobs.

**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION (ASPE)**
**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
**Policy Analyst (1996 - 2006)**

- Assessed proposed TANF and job training policies to support senior officials across administrations. Based on assessment of upcoming issues, developed and managed portfolio of research on programs that affect families with low incomes. Synthesized research on AFDC waivers and TANF "leaver" studies, including first analysis of differential outcomes for Black and Latino/a parents leaving cash assistance.

## Education

**Master of Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University**
    Kennedy Fellow; Thesis: Employment in the Health Care Industry as an Economic Resource for Boston
**Bachelor of Arts, Yale University**
    Phi Beta Kappa, Magna cum laude and with Distinction in History.