



August 2024 Newsletter

This is a monthly newsletter of updates from OpenRG Experts.

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Don Boyd

Don is Co-Director of the State and Local Government Finance Project at Rockefeller College, SUNY Albany, and a consultant, Open Source Policy Center.

- Continued investigation into an enhanced microdata file for input to Tax-Calculator and related policy analysis tools.
- Continued work with the Society of Actuaries on how structure and parameterization of economic scenario generators can alter assessment of funding risks for pension plans.
- Continued a project examining how rural school districts with declining enrollment are affected by legacy costs such as pension funding and debt service.

Jason DeBacker

Jason is an Associate Professor of economics at the University of South Carolina and a core maintainer of the open source models [Cost-of-Capital-Calculator](#), [Tax-Calculator](#), and [OG-USA](#), which model business taxes and macroeconomic effects of tax policy, respectively.

- Completed the first phase of overlapping generations model training in South Africa, Indonesia, and the Philippines, in partnership with the United Nations DESA.
- Released OG-Core, version 0.12.0.
- Drafted a proposal to study behavioral responses to benefits policies, with Max Ghenis and Matt Jensen.

Max Ghenis

Max is co-founder of PolicyEngine and a core maintainer of their open source projects, including the [policyengine-us](#) tax-benefit microsimulation model.

- Released reports on US impacts of Child Tax Credit proposals from [JD Vance](#) and [Kamala Harris](#).
- [Analyzed](#) the effects of Kamala Harris's 2019 Rent Relief Act on sample households.

Jonathan Pycroft

Jon is an economic modeler and public finance economist based in Seville, Spain. He has experience building and working with computable general equilibrium models, overlapping generations models, and microsimulation models of tax and pension policies in Europe and Africa.

- Designed simulations that explore the potential for continued reductions in gender gaps in the labor market to improve fiscal sustainability in EU countries over the coming decades, as part of revisions to a paper submitted to the journal Economic Modelling.