

Presenter Bios

Christina Szczepanski: Ms. Szczepanski is responsible for implementation and day-to-day program management of The Reinvestment Fund's healthy food retail financing programs including the Pennsylvania Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI) and the New Jersey Food Access Initiative (NJFAI), and providing consulting and technical advisory services to peer CDFI's in New Orleans, LA, New York, and other regions who have created supermarket financing programs mirrored off of the success of PA's FFFI. In addition to rolling out these new public-private food access programs, Ms. Szczepanski is responsible for underwriting loans for supermarket operators and developers within TRF's footprint, with a focus on New Market Tax Credit eligible projects. Prior to joining TRF in June 2008, Ms. Szczepanski was an Active Equity Research Associate at TIAA-CREF in New York. Ms. Szczepanski is a Chartered Financial Analyst, has a Masters in City and Regional Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelors of Science in Construction Science and Management from Clemson University.

Lance Loethen: As a Research Associate of Policy Solutions at The Reinvestment Fund, Lance Loethen works in the area of data gathering and analysis, with a strong expertise in visually compelling geospatial displays. Since joining TRF in 2003, Mr. Loethen has been instrumental in tracking and assessing the social and economic impacts of TRF investments. As part of this work, he is responsible for the architecture and maintenance of an extensive database of transactional outcomes that includes geospatial data analysis. Among Mr. Loethen's more recent research projects was a study funded by the CDFI Fund to better understand the lack of supermarkets in distressed urban areas and to evaluate the role of smart subsidies in developing supermarkets in underserved places. In order to assist economic policymakers and improve economic development planning strategies, Mr. Loethen has developed automated methods for assessing regional employment impacts and industry location quotients. Prior to joining TRF, Mr. Loethen was an underwriter of financial products for General Electric Capital. He holds a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Kansas.