



Rachel Heiligman

Senior Program Manager, Research and Development

Rachel Heiligman joined the Jim Joseph Foundation in 2023 as the Senior Program Manager of Research and Development. She oversees a broad funding portfolio seeding transformative research, experimentation, and developments to catalyze new possibilities for Jewish identity, expression, and community building with an increasingly diverse and divergent North American Jewish population.

Rachel brings a cross-sector skill set to the Foundation built on management of public-sector resilience initiatives, entrepreneurial non-profit leadership, and community organizing and advocacy. She previously led major infrastructure projects in the city of New Orleans post-Katrina. Rachel also helmed a multi-faceted artisanal cheese company and the creation and production of the country's largest cheese festival.

Rachel earned a Master of City Planning (MCP) degree from the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania. She holds a BA from Whittier College where she studied Sociology and Spanish. She now lives with her husband and two children in New Orleans, Louisiana where she serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Affordable Energy.