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Taifa Smith Butler Deputy Director

As GBPI's deputy director, Taifa provides strategic direction on public policy research and data analysis. She leads a team of four analysts covering a wide range of policy areas including tax and economic development, health care, education, social services and economic security.

Taifa brings more than 15 years of experience in strategic communications, public policy research and data analysis in the public, nonprofit and private sectors. Prior to joining the GBPI team, she served as the policy and communications director for Georgia Family Connection Partnership where she co-managed the Georgia KIDS COUNT project and monitored public policy and its impact on children, families and communities. Additionally, Taifa has held various positions with the Georgia Academy for Children and Youth Professionals and MBIA Muni Services/Municipal Tax Bureau Company in Philadelphia.

Taifa was an education policy fellow with the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education's Class of 2009 Education Policy Fellowship Program, and is a graduate of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. She has served on various statewide and national steering committees, advisory boards and coalitions. Taifa holds a bachelor's in politics and economics from Mount Holyoke College and a master's in public management and policy from the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University, with a concentration in economic development and financial management. She has been quoted in both state and national publications, including The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Macon Telegraph, NPR Atlanta and Georgia Trend magazine, to name a few. Most recently, Taifa was named 5 under 40 by H Magazine in Henry County, Ga.

Policy Areas:

- *State Budget*
- *Federal Budget*
- *State Taxes*