

James Yelen is the Director of Technical Assistance at Grounded Solutions Network, where he leads a small but mighty team in supporting the shared equity and community land trust field nationally. In his previous role as Senior Program Director on Enterprise's national Upward Mobility team, he focused on the role that community ownership, participatory development and inclusive capital strategies can play in advancing economic opportunity, resident power-building, and a sense of belonging. James has spent his career working at the intersection of public policy, technical assistance, capacity-building and advocacy in support of inclusive housing and economic development strategies.

James holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and Government from Wesleyan University and a Master of City Planning from the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently a member of the Illinois Community Land Trust Task Force and has served on numerous advisory bodies and boards related to community ownership models.