

Anthony Padgett
Director of Development and Partner Relations
Jump\$Start Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy

A native Chicagoan whose career has been devoted to nonprofit fundraising, Tony Padgett has extensive experience in securing philanthropic support for organizations in higher education, human services, healthcare, and now, financial literacy. A driven and enterprising professional, Tony has a strong background in major gift solicitation, event planning, donor relations, grant writing, and program management. He has a proven record of leading and mentoring high-performing teams, resulting in increased fundraising outcomes and strengthened organizational impact.

Tony joined the Jump\$Start Coalition in June 2025 as Director of Development and Partner Relations where he collaborates with teammates to secure financial resources for a wide variety of initiatives, as well as the organization's general operation. In this role, he works with Partner organizations – especially Jump\$Start Sustaining Partners – to encourage their ongoing commitment and to ensure that Jump\$Start is offering value for their support.

Tony holds a Master's degree in Nonprofit Leadership and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). He and his wife, Lagenia, are actively involved in their church community. They have three children and three grandchildren. In civic life, Tony serves on the Zone Planning Board for the Village of Hillside, Illinois, and previously was a member of the Housing Forward board and chaired the Hillside Community Relations Commission.