

Chelsea Kelly-Reif

Senior Director of Engineering

Engineering Leader · Public-Interest Platforms · Still Close to the Code
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SUMMARY

Engineering leader with a decade building public technology millions rely on and the teams behind it. I lead a 53-person organization delivering workforce and healthcare platforms behind \$100M+ in awarded federal prime work. I stay close to the architecture: as engineering lead and principal engineer for MyCareer.NJ.gov, I took a statewide platform from prototype to production for 1.7M residents. I pair people and technical leadership with revenue ownership: \$150M+ in 2024 federal contract wins at a 70%+ win rate. Across workforce and health, I use shared standards, including CTDL and FHIR, to make public data portable instead of siloed. I came up inside California state government before working as a vendor.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Business & scale:** lead a 53-person engineering organization with 22 direct reports; helped win \$150M+ in 2024 federal contracts at a 70%+ win rate and carry delivery responsibility behind \$100M+ in awarded prime work.
- **People leadership:** grew engineering from 39 to 53 with high retention through company-wide change; promoted 9 engineers into senior and leadership roles, including 4 to Director/Principal.
- **Responsible AI:** shipped shared AI infrastructure for MyCareer.NJ.gov, then independently built 6 primary and 13 secondary proofs of concept pending pilot approval. A 50-state scan found no equivalent resident-facing grounded career coach.
- **Healthcare at scale:** own engineering for CMS MDCT; under my oversight, the team took the new RHTP reporting app from zero to production in about 14 weeks in 2026. I oversee MDP, where a partner leads day-to-day engineering.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Coforma | Senior Director of Engineering

Apr 2025 - Present

Civic-tech digital services firm (8(a) / SDVOSB) · Remote · Principal Engineer | Director | Senior Director since Sep 2022

- **Lead a 53-person engineering organization** with 22 direct reports from Directors to mid-level ICs; grew the org from 39 with high retention and promoted 9 engineers, 4 to Director/Principal. As Engineering BD lead, helped win \$150M+ in 2024 federal contracts (multi-year ceilings, 70%+ win rate) across VA, CMS, IRS, and HHS.
- **Engineering lead & principal engineer, MyCareer.NJ.gov:** took New Jersey's bilingual workforce platform from a 400-file prototype to production for 1.7M residents. Drove test coverage from zero to 93-96%, cut security vulnerabilities 94%, reached a 100 Lighthouse accessibility score, and published 3,800+ training programs through CTDL.
- **Own engineering for CMS MDCT:** the Medicaid & CHIP Data Collection Tools suite states and territories use for programs serving tens of millions. Under my oversight, the team took RHTP from zero to production in about 14 weeks in 2026. I oversee Medicaid Drug Programs (MDP), where a partner leads day-to-day engineering, and lead Coforma's FHIR specialization.

California State Government | Lead / Principal Engineer & Architect

2016 - 2022

CA Energy Commission · CA Public Utilities Commission · CA Dept. of Social Services

- **Built public systems across three California agencies:** an AWS energy-data reporting platform and Title 20 appliance-efficiency database at CEC; transportation-carrier permits and telecom-access claims portals at CPUC; and at CDSS, the Home Care Aide Registry covering 170,000+ caregivers plus fee payments for 140,000+ facilities, bridging modern web to a Natural/ADABAS mainframe.

EDUCATION, RECOGNITION & SKILLS

M.S., Software Engineering | CSU Fullerton

2021-2023

B.S., Computer Science | University of Oregon · ITIL Foundation Certification (PeopleCert)

- **Recognition:** MyCareer.NJ.gov covered by Fast Company and the Royal Statistical Society; Harvard Kennedy School called Training Explorer a "promising potential model"; NASWA Workforce Innovation Award nominee.
- **Technical:** TypeScript, Python, C#, SQL; React / Next.js, Node, FastAPI, .NET; AWS (Bedrock, Lambda, DynamoDB), GCP; PostgreSQL / pgvector; RAG, responsible-AI evaluation, CTDL, FHIR; FedRAMP, HIPAA, Section 508, WCAG 2.2 AA.