Shalini (Shala) Gagliardi
Chief of Staff
Choose New Jersey

Shalini Gagliardi, Esq. (Shala) is Chief of Staff at Choose New Jersey, where she leads internal operations, cross-functional coordination, and executive execution. She brings extensive experience as a senior public sector operator with a track record of managing complex government environments, leading high-performing teams, and aligning diverse stakeholders across government, business, and community sectors.

Prior to joining Choose New Jersey, Gagliardi served in senior leadership roles in the Office of U.S. Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill (NJ-11), most recently as District Director and previously as Deputy District Director and Constituency Services Manager. In these roles, she oversaw district office operations, managed constituent services strategy, and led crisis response efforts during major international events, while strengthening partnerships with federal agencies and local stakeholders across New Jersey.

Earlier in her career, Gagliardi practiced immigration law as Of Counsel and provided legal, advisory, and research support across private, nonprofit, and governmental organizations. Her experience includes work with Catholic Charities in Newark, the Indo-American Center in Chicago, the U.S. Embassy in Paris (Department of Commerce), Preston Gates & Ellis, Starbucks in Seattle, and GCI Group in New York. She holds a J.D. from Whittier Law School and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Southern California.

Gagliardi was raised in New Jersey and brings a deep personal commitment to advancing New Jersey's economic vitality and strengthening opportunities for future generations.