



# NORTH TEXAS



## Financial Security for All

The North Texas Asset Funders Network is a collaborative effort that brings local funders together to share and learn around the topics of asset building and financial capability. Our network is comprised private, family, community and corporate foundations as well as public sector funders and financial institutions from across the region. Funders in our network support opportunities that promote the economic stability and mobility of low-wealth individuals and families in the North Texas in a variety of ways, including: helping families build and access credit, build savings, invest in higher education, a home, or a small business, as well as programs that integrate financial stability and asset building programs across sectors.

## Benefits of Membership

North Texas AFN is a must for funders concerned about creating better outcomes for low-income families. Benefits of membership include:

### BROADEN YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Learn about promising solutions, ideas to advance best practices, the latest key issues, collaborations and emerging innovations: approaches that could be leveraged in North Texas.

### JOIN TOGETHER

Funders share their intellectual capital and expertise in the area of economic stability and engage in a discussion about challenges and learnings to date, both successes and failures.

### EXPAND YOUR PROFESSIONAL NETWORK

North Texas AFN convenings attract funders from all over the region. Funders from a variety of disciplines are welcome, including health, early childhood education and workforce/economic development, just to name a few.

### CONNECT TO A NATIONAL NETWORK

North Texas AFN membership connects you to national developments and updates through webinars, conferences and research publications.

### North Texas AFN STEERING COMMITTEE

Rose Bradshaw  
North Texas Community Foundation

Grant Coates  
The Miles Foundation

Sarah Cotton Nelson  
Communities Foundation of Texas

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Susan Hoff  
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Megan McTiernan  
Thomson Family Foundation

Alfreda B. Norman  
Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Kathy Smith  
Meadows Foundation

Debbie Taylor  
Citibank

Michelle Thomas  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Annika Little  
Project Manager



North Texas AFN is helping funders learn from each other's successes and challenges.



collaboration  
in action

North Texas AFN served as a forum to bring grantmakers together to support the pilot expansion of lending circles in Ft. Worth. Poor credit and the high utilization of payday loans are significant barriers for many low-income working families in Dallas and surrounding communities. Lending circles have been successfully leveraged in the San Francisco area as a way to off-ramp individuals from payday loans while also building credit.

After learning about lending circles through AFN's regional programming, local funders became

interested in exploring ways to scale that approach in North Texas. Building on national funding from the Citi Foundation and the JPMorgan Chase Foundation, the United Way of Tarrant County, the Thomson Family Foundation and the Communities Foundation of Texas collaborated to issue an RFP for local nonprofits interested in embedding lending circles into their service model. The Thomson Family Foundation and the United Way of Tarrant County will begin funding three Fort Worth area agencies to pilot lending circles in the Fall of 2014.

## ENGAGE NOW

- **FUNDERS FORUM**

Funders Forums occur quarterly. Funders and practitioners engage in joint learning around unique and vital topics while obtaining new insights, tools, resources and contacts to leverage, advance and accelerate their organizations' efforts.

- **FUNDERS EXCHANGE**

Funders-only bimonthly gatherings facilitate regular communication between interested grantmakers, promoting the sharing of ideas, increased collaboration and integrated strategies among grant makers. Through discussion and collaboration, funders elevate and illuminate promising practices and promote collective impact.

- **JOIN US!**

We continue to be generously supported by a core group of foundations committed to the vision of building a regional network whose impact is greater than the sum of its parts. Contact Annika Little, [annika@assetfunders.org](mailto:annika@assetfunders.org), to learn more about upcoming events and to receive our newsletter, highlighting upcoming Funders Forum and Funders Exchange convenings.

Asset Funders Network (AFN) is a membership organization of national, regional and community-based foundations and grantmakers strategic about using philanthropy to promote economic opportunity and financial security for all Americans. AFN increases the capacity of its members to effectively promote economic opportunity and financial security by supporting efforts that help low- and moderate-income individuals and families build and protect assets. AFN empowers foundations and grantmakers to leverage their resources to make more effective and strategic.

[assetfunders.org](http://assetfunders.org)