WEALTH AND HEALTH EQUITY
INVESTING IN STRUCTURAL CHANGE

Tuesday, September 29th | 12-1 pm ET
WEBINAR CONTROL PANEL

PARTICIPATE

*During the presentation – Type your question in the QUESTIONS BOX to be addressed during discussion breaks or during Q/A*
Working Together to Achieve Economic Security for All

As the only membership organization for grantmakers focused on advancing economic security, the Asset Funders Network connects philanthropic leaders to drive greater impact where it’s needed most.
HEALTH AND WEALTH ACROSS THE GENERATIONS
“The reality is that much of what makes us healthy and financially secure is rooted in our community conditions and not individual behaviors, and the conditions across communities are not equitable”
ADULT WEALTH AND HEALTH – WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH TELL US?

- **Wealth matters more than income** when it comes to health...
- Adults with wealth have **better mental health** – less stress, anxiety and depression
- Adults with wealth have **better physical health** – healthier blood pressure, body mass, and inflammation levels, and they live longer
- **Liquid assets** are particularly strongly associated with better health
WEALTH INEQUALITY GETTING WORSE, AND AFFECTING OUR HEALTH

Wealth disparities are massive and growing in the United States.
RACIAL WEALTH INEQUALITY IS THE HEALTH CHALLENGE OF OUR TIME

Wealth inequality is deeply racialized, rooted in historical and structural conditions.

(Duncan et al., 2018)
COVID-19, RACE, WEALTH, AND HEALTH

- Black mortality is more than twice that of White mortality
- Not because of genetic disposition or individual choices and behavior but....
- Underlying poverty and racism related health conditions
- Overcrowded housing, no outdoor space, use of public transportation, reliance on public-facing jobs, lack of leave, and health care options
DEBT – GOOD FOR SOME, DISASTROUS FOR OTHERS

People who are burdened by unaffordable debt:

• Experience more depression, anxiety, and anger, are more likely to feel suicidal, and more likely to have substance use problems

• Are in worse general physical health, more likely to be obese, and die earlier
STUDENT LOAN DEBT

STUDENT LOAN DEFAULT RATES IN BLACK-MAJORITY ZIP CODES DOUBLE THOSE IN WHITE-MAJORITY ZIP CODES

Borrowers in Default, 2019:Q3

SOURCES: New York Fed Consumer Credit Panel / Equifax; Census Bureau.

NOTE: Borrowers are grouped by the racial majority in their zip code and represent area composition because individual information is not available (for example, in majority-white zip codes, 50 percent or more of the residents are white).
PROMISING PROGRAM LEVEL PRACTICES

- Integrating support with finances into health care settings
- Evolving interventions based on data
- Building trust and developing relationships
- Simply providing dollars for those who have too little
• “Interventions that focus primarily on individual behavior, such as diet, physical activity or alcohol consumption, have shown little progress in reducing health disparities, in part because members of health disparity populations often live in environments that are not conducive to maintaining behavioral changes.” (Baum et al 2014)

• “There are no actions that Black Americans can take unilaterally that will have much of an effect on reducing the racial wealth gap. For the gap to be closed, America must undergo a vast social transformation produced by the adoption of bold national policies, polices that will forge a way forward by addressing, finally, the long-standing consequences of slavery, the Jim Crow years that followed, and ongoing racism and discrimination that exist in our society today.” (Darity et al 2018)
THIS IS A TIME LIKE NO OTHER –

A TIME FOR BOLD, TRANSFORMATIONAL, STRUCTURAL CHANGE

- **Equity and redistribution** – redistributing wealth and addressing inequitable wealth
- **Increased economic security** – guaranteeing income, housing, and food security,
- **Employment and small-business** – promoting livable waged employment and supporting self-employment
- **Health and resilience** – healthy homes and neighborhoods, guaranteed health care, and supporting the work-life balance
- **Financial tools** – a financial services marketplace that works for everyone
The Racial Wealth Divide

Dedrick Asante-Muhammad
Chief of Race, Wealth and Community
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
The Foundation of Racial Inequality

“The foundation of racial inequality is racialized economic inequality and the foundation of economic inequality is wealth inequality.”

- Race and Economics in the US:
  - Racial Inequality has always had economic inequality at its foundation.
TEN SOLUTIONS TO BRIDGE THE RACIAL WEALTH DIVIDE

1. Baby Bonds
2. Guaranteed Employment & a Higher Minimum Wage
3. Invest in Affordable Housing
4. Medicare for All
5. Postal Banking
6. Raise Taxes on the Ultra - Wealthy
7. Turn Upside Down Tax Expenditures Right Side Up
8. Congressional Committee on Reparations
9. Improve Data Collection on Race and Wealth
10. Racial Wealth Analysis

Need a multifaceted approach, a better understanding of wealth and economic development, and a progressive economy to address racial wealth divide.

The Freedom Budget: Abolition of poverty; Full employment; Full production / high economic growth; Adequate minimum wage; Farm income parity; Guaranteed income for those who can't work; Decent homes for all; Modern health services for all; Full educational opportunity for all; Better social security and welfare; and Equitable tax and money policies.
6 Steps to Address Racial Economic Inequality at the Local Level

1. recognize the racial economic divide within the organizations and institutions that are supposed to address economic insecurity
2. organize a cohort of institutions of color who through coalition can strengthen advocacy and programmatic work
3. develop a project that will keep these institutions of color engaged
4. strengthen and share understanding of racial economic inequality and the challenges of financial security for communities of color
5. use research of racial economic inequality to attract local resources to address the deep economic insecurity in communities of color including strengthening institutions of color
6. integrate the goals of addressing racial economic inequality and strengthening institutions of color into the non-profit community, business leaders and associations, city leaders and agencies, foundations, community leaders and Institutions
The Racial Wealth Divide Amidst the COVID Recession

In April of **2020** 41% or **440,000** Black businesses were **found to have closed amid** the Covid recession while only 22% of businesses nationwide closed at this time.

The five sectors most impacted by COVID-19 closures represent almost 40% of revenues for black-owned businesses. These five sectors are leisure and hospitality, retail trade, transportation and utilities, constructions, and “other services” such as drycleaning and laundry, personal care, pet care, or photofinishing services.

**38% of Black workers are employed in essential industries**, compared to 27% percent of whites.

**30% of workers can work from home & only 20% of Black workers**

61% of Latino households and 44% of Black households have had a job or wage loss due to the pandemic, compared to 38% of white households.
FUNDER PERSPECTIVE

Joelle-Jude Fontaine
The Kresge Foundation
Q & A

CHRISTI BAKER
ASSET FUNDERS NETWORK

ANNIE HARPER, PH.D.
PROGRAM FOR RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH, YALE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEDRICK-ASANTE-MUHAMMAD
NATIONAL COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT COALITION

JOELLE-JUDE FONTAINE
THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

CONTROL PANEL

QUESTIONS
Click the QUESTIONS box to share a question for the presenters.
Thank you for attending today’s **Asset Funders Network** presentation

**PLEASE FILL OUT OUR SURVEY**

The survey will pop up on your screen momentarily and will also be sent to you via email

**WE VALUE YOUR TIME, AND YOUR RESPONSES WILL INFORM OUR FUTURE PLANNING**