Research, solutions and inspiration, delivered.

The Bulletin

Discover new ways to advance equitable wealth building and economic mobility.

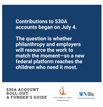
July 27, 2026

> The promise and resilience of our asset-building field has been, and continues to be, **its ability to see the possibility and design an effective response that philanthropy helped fund** to work for those who become engaged.
>
> **—JOSEPH A. ANTOLÍN**
> **July 2026 Blog**, *Every Child Deserves a Fair Shot: What Philanthropy Does Next with 530A*

This month, 530A accounts arrived—a new federal tool to build wealth for every child, and a choice about who it reaches. As designed, they do the most for families who already have wealth. Directed with intentional equity, they're a platform philanthropy has long wanted: one we can match, expand, and open to low- and moderate-income families. AFN members are already at work.

Continue reading Joe's July message >>>

New Publications and Resources to Inform Your Work



ICYMI | 530A Account Roll-Out: A Funder's Guide

AFN, in partnership with the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**, has released a guide to help funders shape how 530A accounts reach children the default design overlooks.

With contributions now open, philanthropy has a real window to shape one of the largest federal investments in early wealth building in decades. The guide offers a practical roadmap for acting now—and over the coming months—to widen the tool's reach and strengthen its impact.

AFN *Short Takes* - Insights and Perspectives from Recent AFN Programming

From Surviving to Thriving: What Survivors Say Funders Need to Know About Economic Security

Economic abuse is one of the most common forms of gender-based violence, and money is what survivors most often need to reach safety.

In a new AFN blog, **Rachel Wick of Blue Shield of California Foundation** and **Sojourner Rivers of the New York Women's Foundation** recap a recent webinar and the launch of AFN's new brief, *Advancing the Economic Security of Gender-Based Violence Survivors, developed in partnership with FreeFrom.*

Inclusive Prosperity for All: Why Asset Funders Belong in This Work

For asset funders, immigrant economic inclusion isn't a side cause—it's central to the financial stability their work depends on. In a new Short Take, **Léa Tienou-Gustafson of World Education Services** recaps the *Inclusive Prosperity for All* webinar, featuring leaders from GCIR, the Appleseed Network, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

The discussion accompanies *An Asset Funder's Guide to Supporting Immigrants and Refugees in an Era of Harm*, developed with GCIR, and shows there's a way into this work from nearly any portfolio—with concrete strategies to help families protect their assets.

Upcoming AFN Events

From Ideas to Action: Inside the AFN 2026 Conference Agenda

Still deciding? Consider what a room like this makes possible. You'll be with 250 of your peers, plus more than 80 speakers—practitioners, researchers, and community leaders—sharing bold ideas, the latest research, and proven strategies for advancing equitable wealth building at a time when cross-sector collaboration has never been more important.

Check out the full agenda and speaker line-up.

Too many good sessions to choose from? Bring your team. Colleagues from the same organization are welcome—and so are your board and trustee members. And don't forget to reserve your hotel room when you register—the block is filling fast!

REGISTER NOW

NATIONAL WEBINAR: ***AI, Economic Security, and the Choices Facing Policymakers and Philanthropy***
July 29, 2026 | 2:00 - 3:00 pm EDT | REGISTER
Co-hosted with the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, this session draws on current research and past economic transitions to examine why the distribution of economic gains has always turned on policy and structural choices rather than technology itself. Join us to explore where the leverage points sit today, and the distinct roles philanthropy and policy can play in ensuring AI benefits workers equitably.

IN-PERSON (BAY AREA AFN): ***In Conversation: Dr. Darrick Hamilton on Inclusive Economic Rights in California***
Aug. 6, 2026 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm PDT | REGISTER
Join us for an intimate dinner for funders, continuing the paradigm-shift conversation we began last November. Over an unhurried evening with Dr. Darrick Hamilton, we'll explore what his Power, Paradigm, and Political Economy framework could mean for the Bay Area and California, where wealth inequality runs so deep.

NATIONAL WEBINAR: **What the Research Shows: AI, Workers, and Small Business—A Briefing with the San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank**
Aug. 19, 2026 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT | REGISTER
AI is reshaping the labor market and small business landscape, reaching directly into the communities asset-building funders serve. Researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco share their latest findings and what they mean for grantmakers shaping whether AI expands or contracts economic mobility.

REGIONAL WEBINAR (BAY AREA): ***Land, Labor, and Local Wealth: A Funder's Introduction to Community Ownership in California***
Aug. 25, 2026 | 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm PDT | REGISTER
Joined by TFN's Smart Growth California, this funder-focused 101 provides an introduction to community ownership of land, housing, businesses, commercial space, and worker-owned enterprises. Join us to explore who owns assets, who makes decisions, and how economic value stays rooted in communities—and to help shape where this conversation goes next.

IN-PERSON (NM AFN): **New Mexico Thriving Families Forum**
Aug. 31, 2026 - Sept. 1, 2026 | REGISTER
Hosted by the New Mexico AFN chapter, the New Mexico Thriving Families Forum brings together policymakers, advocates, and community and business leaders to advance economic justice for working families. The Albuquerque convening explores living wages, affordable housing, access to capital, equitable healthcare, education, and workforce development—building toward a comprehensive, inclusive economic security agenda.

IN-PERSON (AFN Louisiana): **Invested in the South: CDFIs Building Assets, Strengthening Communities**
Sept. 15, 2026 - Sept. 16, 2026 | REGISTER
Invested in the South is a first-of-its-kind gathering of CDFIs, philanthropic partners, and policy leaders from across the South. An initiative of AFN South—a regional collaboration of the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Memphis Asset Funders Network chapters—and a partnership with Propeller, this convening catalyzes coordinated action on small-business capital access, affordable housing finance, and CDFI ecosystem strengthening.

NATIONAL WEBINAR: **In It Together: How Funders and CDFIs Can Advance Shared Prosperity Now**
Sept. 17, 2026 | 1:00 - 2:00 PM EDT | REGISTER
CDFIs are proven partners for advancing financial health, small business growth, and affordable homeownership—yet philanthropy has only begun to tap their potential. In this webinar, we'll launch a new AFN brief and explore how funders can partner with CDFIs across grantmaking, mission-aligned investing, and convening to advance wealth equity.

AFN UPCOMING EVENTS **RECORDED WEBINARS**

Member News and Announcements

- **The GitLab Foundation** and the Families and Workers Fund launched Round 2 of the Powering Economic Opportunity Fund, a $4M open call supporting organizations building pathways in employer-side practice change.
- A Shelterforce article spotlights Memphis's Klondike Partnership, which uses a community land trust to keep housing permanently affordable while advancing health, economic development, and environmental work. Anchored by capital from the **Community Foundation of Greater Memphis**, the effort is a bet that a neighborhood can come back without pushing out the people who stayed.
- **Southern Bancorp Community Partners** is answering questions about the new student loan regulations, outlining the elimination and cap of PLUS loans, stricter aggregate borrowing limits, new repayment plans, Pell Grant eligibility, and what all these changes mean.

Insights and Opportunities From the Field

- The Roosevelt Institute highlighted New York City's upcoming "Click to Cancel" rule, which bars deceptive subscription designs that trap customers in recurring charges for gyms, streaming, and more. Effective October 1, it's the kind of common-sense local policy AFN members can champion to ease an unnecessary drain on household income.
- Earlier this year, UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute and UnidosUS released "Sueño Incompleto: A History of the Latino Wealth Gap in the U.S.", documenting how decades of public policy have shaped economic opportunities for Latino communities across generations, including sections on "Land Loss and Barriers to Homeownership" and "Unfair Pay and Labor Market Discrimination."
- Facing unprecedented demand for energy in Virginia, officials imagined a decentralized network that aggregates energy savings or output of devices such as electric vehicle chargers and appliances. Read WHRO Public Media's new piece on "virtual power plants" to learn how home and business owners would be rewarded for participating.
- Vermont was the first state to write a child care entitlement into law. A New America report reconstructs the decade-long campaign behind Act 76 and how implementation is unfolding, giving advocates elsewhere a model to study.

Catch up on past stories in our newsletter archive.

AFN NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

The conversation doesn't stop here. Join us on LinkedIn for real-time ideas, conversations, and voices shaping the future of equitable wealth building—**follow AFN!**

ASSET FUNDERS NETWORK
Grantmakers Advancing Economic Equity

The Asset Funders Network engages philanthropy to advance equitable wealth building and economic mobility.

We're sharing this email with you because you registered for an Asset Funders Network event or are interested in asset building news & events.

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Asset Funders Network
2045 W. Grand Avenue, Suite B 50387
Chicago, IL 60612-1577

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