AFN ASSET FUNDERS NETWORK | Grantmakers Advancing Economic Equity

Research, solutions and inspiration, delivered.

The Bulletin

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

June 25, 2026

> Together, we will keep progressing, **without fear but with purpose and resolve**, toward **the better, more just, and inclusive results** we desire and are committed to achieve.

— JOSEPH A. ANTOLÍN
June 2026 Blog, *Seeing Clearly, Building Patiently and Boldly*

Building an economy that works for all of us is the work of a decade, not a month. Still, this month shows it moving—members creating tools to measure wealth, accounts to grow it, and guidance to make sure everyone is included. There is room, and real need, for all of us in it.

Continue reading Joe's June message >>>

New Publications and Resources to Inform Your Work

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

AFN, in partnership with the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**, has released a new guide to help funders shape how 530A accounts (Trump Accounts) reach the low- and moderate-income children who stand to benefit most.

With contributions set to begin in July 2026, funders have a unique opportunity to help shape one of the most significant federal investments in early wealth building in decades. The guide offers a practical roadmap for how philanthropy can act now and in the months ahead to help maximize the impact and potential reach of this new early wealth-building tool.

Aspen FSP Releases New Essential Wealth Metric: AFN Members Discuss

Income matters, but wealth is what makes progress durable—and the field has never had a shared way to answer a basic question: how much wealth is enough, and enough for what?

In a new blog, **Paula D'Ambrosia of Prudential Financial** and **Julie Stone of Gary Community Ventures** introduce the Aspen Institute Financial Security Program's new essential wealth metric, the field's first shared definition of "enough." It offers funders a shared target and a common language, and lays out three ways funders can be early adopters and put the metric to work.

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

A Field Built on Evidence: Two Decades of CSA Lessons in Early Wealth Building

Long before 530A accounts arrived, Children's Savings Account (CSA) programs spent two decades proving that an account seeded early—even with a small amount, held in trust, and paired with a message of belief—can change the arc of a child's life.

In a new Short Take, **Greg Mangum of United Way of Metropolitan Dallas** recaps an AFN webinar of CSA leaders whose programs reach more than half a million children, drawing on what their evidence means as 530A accounts roll out—from the power of automatic enrollment to helping families seed the accounts as their own.

Upcoming AFN Events

AFN's 2026 Biennial Conference is filling up—and with 80% of seats filled, *now* is the time to register.

Join your fellow funders in Philadelphia, October 6–8, for three days of bold ideas, candid conversation, fresh research, and the peer energy that turns big plans into real action. It's shaping up to be AFN's best biennial yet!

Don't wait too long to grab your spot—it's filling fast, and trust us, you don't want to land on the waitlist! >>> See the full agenda and speaker line-up.

Did you know? We welcome members of your board to attend the conference. A gathering this intimate is exactly where the AFN network comes to life. Bring or invite a trustee or board member to attend, and they'll sit alongside peers wrestling with the same questions, see the network in action, and head home with the relationships, research, and ready-to-use models that turn engagement into momentum for your institution's work.

REGISTER NOW

NATIONAL WEBINAR: **From Surviving to Thriving: What Gender-Based Violence Survivors Say Funders Need to Know About Economic Security**
June 25, 2026 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST | REGISTER
If your grantmaking touches credit, savings, debt, or housing, it already reaches survivors of gender-based violence. Nearly 1 in 2 women and more than half of transgender people in the U.S. experience intimate partner violence, and up to 99% of survivors face economic abuse. Join AFN and FreeFrom for a new brief offering a survivor-informed roadmap from crisis response to long-term wealth creation.

REGIONAL WEBINAR (CT AFN): **AFN Connecticut Funders Meeting: Current Research on Baby Bonds In Connecticut**
June 26, 2026 | 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm EST | REGISTER

NATIONAL WEBINAR: **Asset Protection Under Threat: Philanthropy's Role in Combating Financial Scams Across the Lifespan**
June 30, 2026 | 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST | REGISTER
Financial scams are eroding hard-won assets and undermining decades of wealth building, with older adults among the most frequently and severely targeted. AFN will convene a conversation on the scale of the threat, the current landscape of consumer protections at the federal, state, and institutional levels, and where philanthropic investment in education, prevention technology, advocacy, and victim support can have the greatest protective impact.

NATIONAL WEBINAR: **The Important Role Employee Benefits Play in Financial Health & Asset Building**
July 9, 2026 | 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm EST | REGISTER
A job alone is increasingly insufficient to build financial security, let alone sustainable wealth—especially for low- and moderate-income workers. On July 9, AFN will convene a conversation on the workplace benefits landscape, employer strategies to strengthen workers' financial health, and where philanthropy can catalyze action. Confirmed speakers include **Malavika Krishnan** (JPMorganChase), **Tracey Durner** (Commonwealth, and **Don Baylor** (Worker Solutions).

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 EST | REGISTER
Artificial intelligence is reshaping the labor market and small business landscape, reaching directly into the communities asset-building funders serve—six million lower-income workers already hold highly AI-exposed jobs. In this briefing, researchers from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco share their latest findings on AI's real-time impacts on lower-income workers and small businesses, and what they mean for grantmakers shaping whether AI expands or contracts economic mobility.

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, academics, community leaders, and business professionals 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 South): **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 Community Development Financial Institutions (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.

AFN UPCOMING EVENTS **RECORDED WEBINARS**

Member News and Announcements

- AFN welcomes the following new members to its network: **The Leon Levine Foundation** (NC & SC) and the **Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation (LANL)** (NM).
- **The James Irvine Foundation** is partnering with the Greenlining Institute and its coalition to help communities of color shape how AI data centers are built in their neighborhoods—a fight against what Greenlining calls a new frontier of redlining that risks deepening environmental burdens and widening the racial wealth gap.
- Featured in the Daily Yonder, **St. David's Foundation** is investing $4.6 million in community-based organizations to expand culturally responsive maternal health care in rural Central Texas, where care is scarce and the state's maternal mortality rate ranks among the nation's highest. The grants fund group prenatal care, midwifery, and wraparound support for underserved women, especially women of color.
- In the latest episode of *Pass the Sopapillas*, part of the **W.K. Kellogg Foundation**'s *Every Child Thrives* series, host Manuel González explores how New Mexico became a national leader in early childhood education and care. Advocates and providers trace the organizing and public investment behind the state's universal child care—and why investing early strengthens families, the workforce, and the economy.
- When Hurricane Helene upended daily life across the region, the financial fallout followed—draining savings, deepening debt, and disrupting the wealth-building families rely on. **Dogwood Health Trust** documents what it faced, how it responded, and what it learned in a new recovery playbook: essential reading for community and regional funders as another hurricane season begins.
- A new report from the **Pew Charitable Trusts** examines preapproved building plans—reusable, pre-vetted blueprints cities offer builders to cut permitting delays—finding they can lower development costs by 1%–2% ($5,000–$10,000 on a $500,000 home) and speed production, an emerging tool for expanding housing affordability.

Insights and Opportunities From the Field

- A Roosevelt Institute interview series, *How Childcare Happens: Lessons from Frontline Implementers*, speaks with the practitioners building public childcare systems to show what universal access actually takes—resourced public infrastructure and a government committed to improving people's lives. The first installment features Kristin Spanos, CEO of First 5 Alameda, on moving childcare from concept to public good.
- A recent Justice in Aging blog details how SSI's asset limit—just $2,000 for an individual and unchanged since 1989—penalizes the lowest-income older adults and people with disabilities for saving, trapping them in poverty. Bills like the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act would raise and index it, a long-overdue fix AFN has championed for more than a decade.
- Tech optimists cast AI as the next great equalizer—but *AI in the Racial Wealth Gap: Deciding Our Future* from The Leadership Conference's Center for Civil Rights and Technology, argues the opposite: without legal safeguards and corporate responsibility, AI will widen the racial wealth gap, not narrow it. The report presses funders to act now, not later.

Careers at AFN

AFN Welcomes New Regional Director Overseeing North Texas AFN Chapter

Ashley McIver
AFN Regional Director

In May, AFN welcomed **Ashley McIver** as **Regional Director,** overseeing the North Texas AFN Chapter and leading our national income and employment strategies, with a special focus on youth and young adults.

Ashley joins AFN after serving two years as Co-Chair of the North Texas Steering Committee. She sits on the boards of Tarrant To & Through Partnership (T3) and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, and is co-author of *I Said What I Said*, an anthology centering Black women in nonprofit leadership. Her leadership will help carry forward North Texas's work as a hub for funders advancing economic opportunity across the region—while shaping AFN's national strategies on income and employment pathways for the next generation.

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!**

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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