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.

August 5, 2025

Do you believe in the future of our nation—that our collective work can bring hope, improve economic circumstances, and expand opportunity for our youth and generations to come?

If so, we are allies.

This vision defines what we aim to accomplish and invest in—not motivated by scarcity or austerity—but by a mindset of abundance.

Read Joe's message here.

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

Community Land Trusts: Investing in Lasting Housing Affordability and Local Voice

In June, AFN Texas chapters hosted the first statewide Community Land Trust Summit, where funders and practitioners showcased how community land trusts (CLTs) preserve affordable housing by separating land ownership from homeownership.

AFN member Sarah Geer of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation and Katie Sirakos (AFN) explain in this month's *Short Take* how these community-rooted solutions offer a proven tool for lasting affordability and economic mobility.

Upcoming Events

Add to your GOOGLE calendar | Add to your OUTLOOK calendar

California Tax Equity Series for August: Tax systems Simplification/Direct File Updates
August 20, 2025 | 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm PDT | REGISTER

IN PERSON ***(AR AFN) Arkansas Builds Savings: A Conversation on Financial Well-being***
August 27, 2025 | 3:00 pm - 5:45 pm CDT | REGISTER
Join us for an in-person conversation on expanding access to savings tools in Arkansas, featuring cross-sector strategies in fintech, workplace savings, and community financial education.

Northeast Regional Renter Wealth Building Workgroup
September 8, 2025 | 10:00 am - 11:00 am EDT
AFN is launching a new Regional Renter Wealth Building Workgroup focused on Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York. AFN members interested in joining this conversation can contact Paula Dworek at paula@assetfunders.org to request an invitation.

IN PERSON ***(AR AFN) Arkansas Heirs' Property – Strategies to Preserve Wealth***
September 23, 2025 | 9:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT | REGISTER
Arkansas AFN is hosting an *Heirs' Property Convening* on September 23 in Little Rock for key stakeholders to learn about the current landscape of and opportunities related to heirs' property across the state.

AFN UPCOMING EVENTS | RECORDED WEBINARS

New Publications and Tools to Inform Your Work

Understanding Child-Focused Savings Accounts

With growing national attention on Trump Accounts—including a recent feature in *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* highlighting AFN's perspective—now is the time for funders to gain a clear understanding of how child wealth-building tools differ.

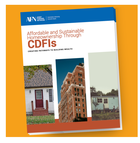
AFN's new fact sheet offers a practical, side-by-side comparison of CSAs, 529 Plans, Baby Bonds, and Trump Accounts to help funders invest, advocate, and design with equity in mind.

Explore the fact sheet and read the *Chronicle* article here.

New Brief: Partnering with CDFIs to Expand Homeownership

As homeownership grows increasingly out of reach for lower- and middle-income households, CDFIs are stepping up to help bridge the gap.

A new AFN brief—developed with support from the Walton Family Foundation and Citi Foundation—explores how philanthropy can back CDFI-led strategies to expand affordable homeownership and build generational wealth. The brief includes case studies, funding approaches, and actionable recommendations for grantmakers.



Member News and Announcements

Texas AFN Members Contribute $15 Million to Flood Relief in Texas

This summer's devastating floods in Central Texas displaced thousands of families and businesses. In response, AFN members across our Texas chapters showed what values-driven, responsive philanthropy looks like.

Within days, members contributed over $15 million to flood relief—and still growing—while lending staff support, deploying mobile banking units, activating volunteers, and sharing trauma-informed resources for families.

The Albuquerque Community Foundation Board of Trustees Welcomes Marisa Magallanez as President and CEO

Congratulations to AFN New Mexico Co-Chair Marisa Magallanez on her appointment as the next President and CEO of the Albuquerque Community Foundation, effective January 1, 2026. Marisa, currently COO, brings 20 years of nonprofit leadership and will succeed Randy Royster following his two decades of exceptional service.

Marin Community Foundation Commissions Climate Mitigation Report

Changing the Game, commissioned by AFN member Marin Community Foundation—along with the MacArthur Foundation and the Equation Campaign—finds that many community-based climate efforts can achieve substantial carbon reductions, often at a cost of less than $1 in philanthropic investment per metric ton mitigated.

Annie E. Casey Foundation Highlights Pioneering Wraparound Strategies in New Piece

Quanic Fullard of the Annie E. Casey Foundation co-authored a new article for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond examining how community colleges are adopting innovative approaches to embed wraparound supports—like housing, transportation, and child care—into their core student success strategies.

Insights From the Field

- As its five-year Justice and Equity Fund concludes, the **Packard Foundation has launched a new U.S. Racial Justice initiative**—deepening its long-term commitment to equity.
- **The California Black Freedom Fund has now evolved into Black Freedom Fund (BFF)**—California's first Black community foundation.
- **This blog from the Student Borrower Protection Center outlines how the federal budget bill will impact post-secondary education.** While some protections for Pell Grants and student borrowers were preserved, the law cuts $300 billion from higher education over 10 years and makes sweeping changes to federal aid, limiting forgiveness, capping loans, and extending repayment to 30 years.

Careers at AFN

AFN is Hiring: Join Our Growing Team!

Asset Funders Network is looking for committed, talented individuals who want to make a meaningful contribution to achieving economic justice. Explore our job opening below!

- Regional Events & Administrative Coordinator
- Membership Associate

Missed an Issue?

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.

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