Grantmakers Advancing Economic Equity

Research, solutions and inspiration, delivered.

The Bulletin

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

March 18, 2026

> In our network – among our members and in our regional chapters, we believe the truth is: **If we do not step up to this challenge consistently as the herald of change over the next decades, who will?**

— JOSEPH A. ANTOLÍN

March 2026 Blog, *Philanthropy's Moment: The Herald of Change We Need*

Can you see a different future, one where the economy works inclusively for all of us? Are today's realities distracting, or are they clarifying what needs to change and the possible roles you can take? Is your institution focused on short-term responses, or are you also investing in the work that will redefine the next few decades?

Continue reading Joe's March message >>>

Igniting Change Starts Here.

Early-bird registration for AFN's 2026 National Grantmaker Conference is **now open to all funders.** This October 6–8 in Philadelphia, as the nation marks its 250th anniversary, join peers at *Igniting Change for Inclusive Prosperity*—a peer convening to forge the connections, strategies, and actions that will define this era of equitable wealth building.

Register by April 16 to lock in early-bird pricing. In past years, the conference reached capacity during early-bird—**don't wait.**

REGISTER NOW

New Publications and Resources to Inform Your Work

St. David's Foundation: From Healthcare Workforce Pipeline to Economic Stability

Healthcare workforce investment has long been measured by credentials completed and regional shortages filled. But what if the right question is whether those careers actually lead to multigenerational financial security?

In this latest Members Making Impact, **St. David's Foundation** shares how shifting that frame led to a $10 million initiative building differentiated pathways into family-sustaining healthcare careers for communities most often left out—and what health-focused funders can learn from centering worker economic outcomes alongside labor market needs.

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

Investing to Preserve Wealth in New Jersey: What Funders Need to Know About Heirs' Property

Heirs' property sits at the intersection of housing stability, wealth preservation, and intergenerational equity, yet it remains one of the most underfunded areas in philanthropy.

In a new AFN blog, **Ruth Gao of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation** reflects on AFN New Jersey's January convening, drawing on newly developed New Jersey–specific SROI analysis to show how targeted legal interventions can generate returns of up to $40 for every dollar invested—and why, in one of the nation's most expensive housing markets, the cost of inaction is too high to ignore.

Growing Together: Investing in Rural Early Childhood on Its Own Terms

Rural communities are not smaller versions of urban ones. Closing the child care gap requires investments designed for their specific circumstances.

Members **Perri Rosheger of the H.E. Butt Foundation and Alice Jewell of The McKenna Foundation** reflect on key insights from the AFN San Antonio Area Chapter Summit, held February 6 in Boerne, Texas, that explored how funders can better support rural early childhood ecosystems through business infrastructure, nontraditional partnerships, and policy activation.

Upcoming AFN Events

NATIONAL WEBINAR: **Scaling Children's Savings for Lifelong Wealth: Lessons From Two Decades of Philanthropic Investment and Growing Momentum**
April 23, 2026 | 2:00 pm - 3:15 pm EST | REGISTER

Momentum again is building around Children's Savings Accounts. The foundation for this work has been two decades in the making, with documented impact on changed outcomes.

Join AFN and practitioners **Debra-Ellen Glickstein** (NYC Kids RISE), **Rebecca Loya** (San Francisco Treasurer's Office), **Colleen Quint** (Alfond Scholarship Foundation), and **Rubi Hernandez** (Dollars for College) to explore what the data tell us about effective CSA design, how those lessons apply to new tools and a shifting landscape, and where funders can act to move the field forward.

Webinars Coming Soon!

- An Asset Funders Guide to Supporting Immigrants and Refugees in an Era of Harm
- Survivor-Informed Grantmaking Strategies that Advance the Economic Security of Gender-Based Violence Survivors
- Introduction to CDFIs for Asset-Building Funders: Philanthropy's Role in Supporting Youth and Young Adults to Build Wealth

AFN UPCOMING EVENTS

RECORDED WEBINARS

AFN Welcomes Rachel Wick to the Board of Directors

Rachel Wick
Blue Shield of California Foundation

AFN is pleased to welcome **Rachel Wick**, senior program officer at Blue Shield of California Foundation, to our Board of Directors.

A long-time champion for asset building and financial security for survivors of domestic violence in California and across the country, Rachel leads the Foundation's work to strengthen economic mobility for Californians of color with low incomes — advancing health equity, building economic security, and asset building for survivors.

Welcome, Rachel!

Member News and Announcements

- AFN welcomes the following new members to its network: **Nathan Cummings Foundation** (AR), **Latino Community Foundation** (CA), **Barra Foundation** (PA), **Anchorum Health Foundation** (NM), and **Benwood Foundation** (TN).
- **Gary Community Ventures**, in partnership with The Aspen Institute Financial Security Program, has released a new report, Tenant Equity Vehicle: A Pioneering Approach to Renter Wealth Creation, documenting Colorado Renter Rewards — a first-of-its-kind publicly funded program that helps renters build wealth alongside housing stability, made possible by Colorado's Proposition 123.
- The AFN Bay Area chapter and members — including **Blue Shield Foundation of California**, **California Wellness Foundation**, and the **San Francisco Foundation** — are highlighted in a recent *Inside Philanthropy* piece highlighting the philanthropic sector's response to escalating immigration enforcement, including a coalition declaration of a public health emergency and sustained funder support for communities maintaining essential services amid fear and uncertainty.

Insights and Opportunities From the Field

- A new Work Shift report on California's Apprenticeship Innovation Funding Program — **the largest pay-for-performance apprenticeship model in the nation** — finds that completion bonuses successfully accelerated growth in nontraditional sectors, offering a blueprint for the U.S. Department of Labor's $145 million federal pay-for-performance apprenticeship initiative.
- A new Economic Policy Institute analysis clarifies that the 2025 tax bill did not eliminate **taxes on overtime** — it created a temporary deduction only on the premium portion of overtime pay under the FLSA, leaving most low-income workers with little or no benefit and more than 90% of U.S. workers, who don't receive overtime pay, with none at all.
- Fifty years of state income data show that **educational attainment** is the strongest predictor of rising household incomes — and that a growing foreign-born population is positively associated with income growth — while higher or lower state taxes show no association at all, challenging the conventional wisdom that tax cuts drive prosperity, per this Urban Institute analysis.

— Median age of first-time homebuyers.

The median age of first-time buyers has reached 40, up from 31 in 2015 and nearly a decade older than the typical first-time buyer in the 1980s, according to a recent survey from the National Association of Realtors. Rising home prices, stagnant supply, and student loan debt mean Americans are taking longer to reach the point at which homeownership becomes viable — a shift with real implications for wealth building and economic mobility across generations.

Source: National Association of Realtors, Annual Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers

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 openings below and share with your networks!

- New York Program Officer
- North Texas Program Officer
- Communications Manager

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.

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