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.

October 14, 2025

Our members recognize that **wealth is a form of agency** in this economy, and it is time to dismantle the systems of scarcity that perpetuate advantage and deny working people the opportunity to build wealth.

An inclusive, abundant economy that provides pathways to lifelong prosperity for all does not squander talent. It invests in it. And builds from it.

Read Joe's October message here.

New Publications and Resources to Inform Your Work

The Winston Salem Foundation: A Community Foundation Approach to Housing Affordability and Access

Housing affordability and accessibility remain pressing challenges nationwide—and Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is no exception.

As a century-old community foundation, **The Winston-Salem Foundation** has shifted from funding individual housing projects to strengthening a coordinated local ecosystem—linking partners, capital, and strategies to advance lasting housing solutions.

Read the next in our Members Making Impact series.

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

Affordable Homeownership Through CDFIs: Creating Pathways to Building Wealth

Homeownership has long been a cornerstone of family wealth and community stability—yet for many families, it remains out of reach.

In a new AFN blog, **Citi Foundation's Kristen Scheyder** revisits July's AFN webinar and brief, *Affordable and Sustainable Homeownership Through CDFIs*, to spotlight how CDFIs are turning barriers into pathways for first-time and first-generation buyers—and how philanthropy can fuel their impact.

Upcoming Events

IN PERSON ***(Philadelphia AFN) Baby Bonds and Direct Cash Workshop***
October 23, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm ET | REGISTER

NATIONAL WEBINAR ***Beyond the Floodlines: A Three-Part Webinar Series on Funding Asset Preservation***
October 29, 2025 | 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm CT | REGISTER
This learning and action series will explore how philanthropy can help communities recover and thrive after disasters. The October 29 funder-only session offers a candid, peer-led conversation with leaders from Asheville and Houston, sharing hard-won lessons and strategies for philanthropy to help preserve community assets, prevent displacement, and build long-term stability.

NATIONAL WEBINAR ***Supporting the Homes that Support the Economy: Housing & Asset Solutions to the Child Care Crisis***
November 3, 2025 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET | REGISTER
Home-based child care providers are essential to families and local economies, yet rising housing costs threaten their stability. Debuting AFN's new brief, *Supporting the Homes that Support the Economy*, this webinar explores asset-based solutions that philanthropy can leverage to sustain this vital sector.

IN PERSON ***(AR AFN) Arkansas Savings, Wealth, & Opportunity Summit***
November 5, 2025 | 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm CT | REGISTER

IN PERSON ***(BAY AREA AFN) Inclusive Economic & Immigrant Rights Summit***
November 6, 2025 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm PDT | REGISTER

NATIONAL WEBINAR ***From Cradle to Capital: Philanthropy's Role in Advancing Baby Bonds and Early Wealth-Building Tools***
November 13, 2025 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET | REGISTER
Join AFN and The New School's Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy for the debut of *Cradle to Capital*, a new brief exploring how baby bonds can transform wealth trajectories from birth, spotlighting where baby bond policies are advancing, how they're being implemented, and what it will take—through philanthropy, policy, and field-building—to ensure these tools deliver lasting impact.

AFN UPCOMING EVENTS | **RECORDED WEBINARS**

Member News and Announcements

- **The Kresge Foundation** released a new series exploring how CDFIs are adapting to today's economic realities, featuring insights on state and local innovation, smarter capital strategies, and cross-sector collaboration.
- **JPMorganChase** designated October as *Wealth Building Month*, announcing $18 million in philanthropic funding and a $12 million loan to support small business succession, expand homeownership, prevent fraud, and build lasting wealth.
- A new op-ed in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* from **Robert Burns**, AFN Board Member and Director at the **Walton Family Foundation**, and **Cedric Williams**, Board Chair of AFN member **Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation**, calls on funders to listen to Delta voices, invest in Delta ideas, and stand with Delta communities.
- Today, **St. David's Foundation, Austin Community Foundation, and the H.E. Butt Foundation** are co-hosting a convening on how philanthropy can help congregations preserve and adapt church properties. With more than 100,000 U.S. churches projected to close in the next decade, funders have a timely opportunity to reimagine these spaces as community assets.
- Also today, **AFN Louisiana** hosts its inaugural *Wealth for All: Advancing Financial Health for a Prosperous Louisiana* convening in Baton Rouge. Sponsored by **JPMorganChase** and **Red River Bank**, the event brings together funders, CDFIs, and financial health leaders to advance equitable wealth-building and economic mobility across the state.

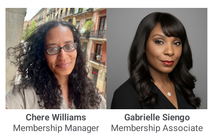
Insights and Opportunities From the Field

- **The Federal Reserve** has released results from its 2025 CDFI Survey, capturing insights from 448 mission-driven lenders nationwide.
- **Institute for Research on Poverty** hosts Dr. Jane Waldfogel to discuss global models of child benefits, making a strong case for a U.S. approach to support families and economic growth.
- **The Commonwealth Fund** explores how states can help curb rising medical debt amid federal coverage cuts.
- ***Shelterforce*** podcast spotlights a unique model in Redmond, Washington, where human services organizations are redeveloping office space to include affordable housing.
- **On November 4,** join leaders and evaluators of San Francisco's **Kindergarten to College (K2C)** program for a webinar exploring new research on how early savings boost college enrollment, especially for underrepresented students.

Careers at AFN

AFN Welcomes New Staff to Join Membership Team

AFN is excited to welcome Chere Williams and Gabrielle "Gabby" Siengo to our Membership Team. Both Chere and Gabby bring deep backgrounds in membership engagement and operations and will help enhance the experience and connection of funders across AFN's growing national network.



Chere Williams
Membership Manager

Gabrielle Siengo
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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