Research, solutions and inspiration, delivered.

The Bulletin

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

September 9, 2025

We all depend on the value of promises.

As a child – at home and in school – I learned the basic rule: if I promised something, I was expected to follow through. By the same token, I could rely upon those who made promises to me. For the most part, that worked.

As I grew older and learned the moral lessons of my religion, gained agency in society, developed maturity, and studied sociological constructs in college, I realized that our culture and civic society rely upon the same principle. To do otherwise was to embrace anarchy.

Read Joe's September message here.

New Publications and Resources to Inform Your Work

Prudential Financial: Unlocking Pathways to Financial Stability and Economic Empowerment

Opportunity youth—young people aged 15 to 29 who are not in school, training, or formal employment—represent one of the most promising yet underutilized talent pools in our global economy.

AFN member Prudential Financial is tapping into this potential through its Global Opportunity Youth Commitment, surpassing a $180 million investment to expand pathways to quality jobs, financial stability, and long-term wealth building.

Read the next in our Members Making Impact series.

A Funder's 5-Step Guide to State Debt Reform

Illinois' recent passage of SB1738 strengthens household debt protections and offers lessons for funders nationwide.

In a conversation with **John Bouman of Legal Action Chicago**, AFN unpacks how advocates secured this landmark reform, why debt reform is essential to asset preservation, and how funders can engage in similar state-level efforts.

Read the blog and explore the companion guide here.

AFN *Action Alert*

Protect Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)

The Department of Education has proposed a rule that would restrict PSLF eligibility for nonprofit and public service workers based on vague and subjective criteria. AFN is encouraging members to review the proposal and consider submitting a public comment by September 17 if appropriate for you or your organization.

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

Philanthropy's Critical Role at the Intersection of Housing and Immigrant Rights in Silicon Valley

Immigrant communities face dual threats of rising housing insecurity and intensified immigration enforcement.

A recent AFN Bay Area webinar highlighted how local organizations are responding with legal advocacy, mutual aid, and coordinated support systems—and the urgent role philanthropy can play in resourcing these community-rooted solutions.

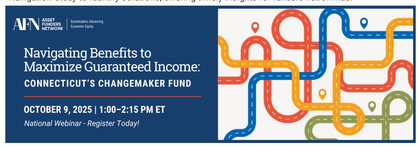
Upcoming Events

VIRTUAL** (BAY AREA AFN) **Impacts of Immigration Policies and Enforcement on Children
September 16, 2025 | 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm PDT | REGISTER

IN PERSON** (BAY AREA AFN) **Who Owes What? Lessons from Palm Springs on the Path to Reparations in Southern California
September 18, 2025 | 11:00 am - 12:15 pm PDT | REGISTER

IN PERSON** (AR AFN) **Arkansas Heirs' Property – Strategies to Preserve Wealth
September 23, 2025 | 9:00 am - 12:30 pm CDT | REGISTER

NATIONAL WEBINAR** **Navigating Benefits to Maximize Guaranteed Income
October 9, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm EDT | REGISTER
Guaranteed income programs increase financial stability and support mobility, but families can often risk losing vital safety-net benefits. Connecticut's Changemaker Fund and partners led a Benefits Navigation Study to identify solutions, offering timely insights for funders nationwide.



IN PERSON** (LA AFN) **Wealth for All: Advancing Financial Health for a Prosperous Louisiana
October 14, 2025 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm CDT | REGISTER

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

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

AFN UPCOMING EVENTS

RECORDED WEBINARS

Member News and Announcements

CFE Fund's Emergency Financial Empowerment Initiative

The Cities for Financial Empowerment (CFE) Fund is accepting applications for a new cohort to help local governments integrate financial empowerment into emergency preparedness and response. Selected cities or counties (50,000+ residents) will receive $150,000 over 24 months plus technical assistance. Applications are due November 10, 2025.

Meyer Memorial Trust Supports SAFE Grants in Oregon

With funding from Meyer Memorial Trust, Borealis Philanthropy has launched the Oregon round of SAFE (Security Action and Freedom for Everyone) grants. These **$5,000–$50,000** rapid-response awards are designed to help grassroots groups (budgets under $2M) protect staff, strengthen infrastructure, and respond to urgent threats. Eligible uses include legal defense, cybersecurity, safety equipment, hazard pay, relocation, and more.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Launches Medicaid Enrollment Data Tool

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the NYU Grossman School of Medicine have launched the Congressional District Health Dashboard, with 50-state Medicaid enrollment data and 40 health measures across five domains. Funders can compare districts, filter by domain, and explore economic and health factors shaping community well-being.

Insights From the Field

- **Carla D. Thompson Payton**, AFN's former board chair and Chief Strategist and Impact Officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, shares a powerful framework for effective leadership in *Forbes*: knowing when to shield and when to showcase, protect and project.
- **The Roosevelt Institute** has released a new fact sheet outlining systemic solutions to the cost-of-living crisis, offering blueprints for using public power to make essentials more affordable and build a more just economy.
- ***The New York Times*** recently highlighted the challenges student parents face balancing school, work, and caregiving—an issue also explored in a recent AFN webinar. Together, these insights point to how philanthropy can better support student parents with the resources they need to succeed.

Careers at AFN

AFN Welcomes Diana Lind, Philadelphia Program Officer

AFN is excited to welcome Diana Lind as our new Program Officer for the Philadelphia region. Bringing deep experience in urban policy, civic engagement, and economic development, Diana will lead regional efforts to support equitable asset building and wealth creation across Greater Philadelphia.

ENGAGE. INVEST. ACT.
OCT 6–8
Philadelphia, PA
2026

Save the Date

for AFN's national conference, October 6-8, 2026, in Philadelphia, PA!

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!**

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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