

UNLOCKING EQUITABLE WEALTH: EIGHT PATHWAYS TO ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Asset building is how individuals, families, and communities gather the resources that will move them towards economic well-being, for now and for years to come. The Asset Funders Network promotes the inclusion of philanthropic strategies across our eight issue areas, recognizing their interconnected impact. **Here are eight comprehensive approaches:**



EDUCATION

Post-Secondary Completion Without Debt

- Advocate for low/no-debt tuition paired with scholarships and wraparound support
- Support Children's Savings Accounts
- Promote high school dual-enrollment/credit
- Facilitate work-based learning
- Address inequities in post-secondary education



BUSINESS OWNERSHIP

Establish and Expand Individual and Employee-Owned Businesses

- Increase equitable capital access through banks, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), and other financing ecosystems
- Develop employee or community ownership via business conversions and cooperatives
- Expand technical assistance and support for women and business owners of color
- Address local tax, legal, zoning, or other barriers to ownership expansion



EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

Quality Jobs, Talent Pipelines, and the Care Economy

- Normalize high-road employment benefits like retirement accounts and paid leave
- Advocate for livable wages and essential worker supports, including access to affordable childcare
- Promote employer-approved upskilling programs and credential to career pathways
- Implement guaranteed income initiatives
- Expand state EITC and childcare tax credits



FINANCIAL HEALTH

Systems and Strategies for Inclusive Financial Management

- Develop and expand access to anti-racist financial systems
- Incubate and scale responsive financial tools that build financial stability, including short and long term savings, debt reduction, and predatory debt refinancing
- Offer culturally-relevant financial coaching and outcome-focused counseling, both in person and online
- Protect consumers from financial scams
- Reduce or eliminate fines and fees that exacerbate cycles of debt and hinder economic stability





HEALTH

Invest in Health as an Outcome

- Remove barriers to care by expanding access to health insurance and affordability
- Eliminate medical debt and reform processes to sell medical debt to collectors
- Increase access to green spaces and tree canopies
- Address food deserts, increasing access to affordable healthy foods
- Mitigate extreme climate change stressors and local disasters



HOUSING

Expand and Preserve Homeownership Opportunities

- Expand purchase opportunities through innovative financing, equity-focused down payment and closing cost assistance
- Expand shared equity ownership strategies
- Protect homeownership through targeted rehabilitation and property tax assistance
- Reform policy, educational, and legal services to help families manage and preserve inherited property
- Reform zoning to permit owner-occupied rentals and accessory dwelling units
- Reduce the cost of starter home building



CLIMATE

Advance Climate Resilience and an Inclusive, Affordable, Clean Energy Transition

- Expand climate-related good jobs for communities with low wealth
- Invest in climate-resilient affordable housing and renovations
- Support CDFIs and community lenders offering affordable climate-friendly products
- Invest in job training and water infrastructure
- Address health impacts of extreme weather
- Strengthen equitable preparedness and community recovery from climate disasters.
- Drive system changes in insurance, migration, energy, and finance



A JUST ECONOMY

Reimagine Systems Contributing to Racial and Gender Wealth Gaps

- Implement policy and structural interventions underpinned by targeted universalism
- Rebuild an inclusive and clean energy economy
- Expand availability to Baby Bonds of at least \$3,000 at birth for low- to middle-income children
- Utilize dual-generation strategies
- Expand access to wills and estate planning to provide for generational wealth transfer
- Provide reparative strategies to reverse the effects of past economic discrimination
- Promote digital equity
- Invest in citizenship as an asset

About the Asset Funders Network

The Asset Funders Network engages philanthropy to advance equitable wealth building and economic mobility. Our network of grantmakers—private, public, corporate, and community foundations—invest in policies, programs, and financial products as tools for confronting economic injustices.

Learn more at assetfunders.org.