

EQUITY AMPLIFIER

Asset Funders Network's Equity Amplifier for Economic Security (EA) is a new series highlighting organizations or nonprofits focused on building economic security/asset building in communities of color. EA's intent is to:

- **Amplify** the voices of organizations led by people of color.
- **Reduce** systemic biases and barriers within philanthropy.
- **Encourage** AFN membership to broaden and deepen their commitment to supporting economic security and asset building strategies that target diverse communities.

EQUITY AMPLIFIER IS
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JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.,
METLIFE FOUNDATION, AND
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Southern University Center for Social Research



Where are you headquartered?

Baton Rouge, LA

What is your organization's mission or vision?

The purpose of the Southern University Center for Social Research (CSR) is to contribute to the enhancement of the community by addressing social, economic and policy issues affecting children, family and the community. The Center recognizes the complex and multi-faceted array of factors associated with family stability and self-sufficiency. In response, the CSR works collectively with individuals and community groups and organizations to implement a variety of programs supporting housing, family economic stability and workforce development.

CSR is unique in that it's applied research programs are supported by sound-theoretical underpinnings. Utilizing modern methods and techniques, conducting both basic and applied research, in structured and formalized investigations by faculty, staff and students, the Center complements and supports the University's threefold mission of education, research and service.

The creation and application of new knowledge to the problems confronting communities are essential to a viable and sustained research and service mission. CSR not only supports community development; it provides research opportunities that draw faculty and students into active work on solutions to community concerns.



Southern University Center for Social Research

Which area(s) of service BEST describes your organization?

CSR focuses on a wide array of asset building initiatives including:

- Community revitalization projects such as home construction and housing stabilization programs
- Quality-of-life improvement programs such as entrepreneurship training, life skills training, job-readiness training, technical-skills training, certification and job placement.

Does your organization identify as a BIPOC led? What does that look like within your organization?

Yes, CSR is a part of Southern University and A&M College, a four-year Historically Black College and University (HBCU) that offers graduate, professional, and doctorate degree programs. The University today is part of the only historically black Land Grant university system in the United States

Provide an example of a program or initiative that your organization is spearheading that works to advance economic opportunity and prosperity for BIPOC communities?

CSR is leading a statewide Individual Development Account (IDA) Program that reduces poverty by assisting low-income families with the first-time purchase of a home, college education, or start a business.

How does your work impact communities and populations that are historically marginalized, underserved and/or under-resourced?

IDAs make it easier for low-income families to build financial assets. Populations that have benefited from our IDA program include former welfare recipients, youth, and the working poor.

What are some specific barriers or biases from within philanthropic organizations that you believe are hindering BIPOC led or BIPOC serving organizations in accessing adequate funding or support?

HBCU's have historically been viewed as inadequate and this has stalled progress for schools and students. HBCUs are often not funded at the same rate as compared to that of predominantly white institutions (PWI) because of lack of access to philanthropic networks.

Name one thing funders need to be cognizant of when connecting or partnering with BIPOC led or organizations and communities?

Funders must be cognizant of the discrepancies faced by communities of color. They must also recognize the strong two generation impact that HBCUs have in the community when funding is made available.



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HOW FUNDERS CAN GET INVOLVED

As a benefit of AFN membership, funders may nominate local nonprofits focused on building economic security/asset building in communities of color to highlight as part of the EA series, allowing your organization to showcase innovative models and best practices to help build a more secure future for diverse communities. [Click here](#) for more information or to nominate an organization or nonprofit led by people of color for the AFN EA.

Funders who wish to learn more about Southern University Center for Social Research, contact Kristie_Perry@subr.edu and visit www.subr.edu/socialresearch