When we named racial equity as a priority in our strategic plan, we also named it a value to start our own internal learning journey as an organization and as individuals. Each month, we feature a "What We're Reading" section in our Member News that highlights what people in the Funders Together network are reading to expand their understanding of racial equity. We hope this will spur inspiration for your personal or organizational racial equity work and that you'll learn alongside us.

What We're Reading: Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity - Grantmaking with a Racial Justice Lens

Who's Reading It: Adrienne Mundorf, Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland

Adrienne said: "I've been digging into PRE's Grantmaking with a Racial Justice Lens guide to help me think about what it means to move from racial equity work to racial justice. As part of Funders Together's Foundations for Racial Equity community of practice, we’ve been having conversations about power building and grantmaking practices, white dominant culture, and grantmaking practices. If you’ve also been thinking about these topics, I suggest you also check out the guide!"

If you have a resource you would like to feature in an upcoming Member News, please let us know! We'd love to share with the whole network.

Policy Alert

In February, the Administration released its FY21 proposed budget and much like in years past it includes significant cuts to homelessness and housing programs. In the midst of an affordable housing crisis and repeated attacks by the Administration on proven solutions to end homelessness, these cuts are further detrimental to people who are experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The proposed budget would cut overall funding for housing assistance and community development next year by $8.6 billion, including:

- cutting public housing funding by 43% from FY20
- decreasing homeless assistance grants by $4 million
- eliminating the National Housing Trust Fund, Home Investment Partnerships, Community Development Block Grant, and Choice Neighborhoods programs
- cutting funding for the Native American Housing Block Grant program by $46 million

It is critical for funders to stay engaged and active around federal funding and allocation towards these programs to ensure they receive the highest funding possible. Here are some ways to stay engaged:

1. Educate your policymakers to ensure they understand how critical adequate funding is for homelessness and housing programs.
2. Exercise your convening skills by allowing grantees to advocate by telling stories about what is working in the community and why federal funding is so crucial to local efforts to end homelessness.
3. Use your voice by writing op-eds on how federal funding for homelessness and housing programs are essential to your community and nationwide. Funders Together is here to help with messaging and dissemination.

Here are some valuable partner resources on the federal budget:

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: Budget Exposes Trump Administration’s Empty Rhetoric on Homelessness, Fair Housing
- National Alliance to End Homelessness: What Does the President’s Budget Proposal Mean for Homelessness Programs?
- National Low Income Housing Coalition: President’s Proposal to Deeply Cut Safety-Net Programs during a Housing Crisis

Funders Together will be providing updates on the federal budget as the process unfolds. In the meantime, please feel free to reach out with any questions or if you’d like assistance in crafting op-eds or statements on budget issues.
What the Martin v Boise Ruling Means for Ending Homelessness
By Maria Foscarinis, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

We are always looking to highlight the impact of our members. If you would like to feature your work in an upcoming blog, let us know!

Resources

Funders Together Resources
Access to the following Funders Together webinar recordings and event videos are only available to Full Members of Funders Together. If you are interested in joining to view these recordings as well as gain access to other Full Member benefits, contact Stephanie Chan, stephanie@funderstogether.org.

Resource: Funders Together Commitment to Racial Equity
This commitment articulates how Funders Together to End Homelessness has and will use a racial equity lens to support our members and the philanthropic sector to shift its practice, policy and grantmaking actions and how we will foster greater diversity, equity, and inclusion within FTEH as an organization. We encourage this document and its language to be a template or guide for funders to use in their own statements and work around addressing racial inequities in housing and homelessness.

Webinar Recording: Ending Homelessness Means Ending Urban Native Homelessness
During this webinar, we shared how the Coalition to End Urban Native Homelessness is partnering with nonprofit and Native organizations, government agencies, tribal leaders, and philanthropic partners to drive long-term systems change. Ending urban Native homelessness requires a culturally competent, collaborative approach, and this webinar will explore how AI/Ans have historically been undercounted and under-resourced, and what funders can do to support ending urban Native homelessness.

Webinar Recording: Authentically Sharing Power with Young People
This webinar explored how YouthPrise has engaged young people in their mission to reduce disparities with and for Minnesota youth, involved discussion about the range of ways foundations can share power with young people authentically, and shared lessons learned and opportunities in engaging young people in the decision making process.

Member Resources

- PetSmart Charities: Keeping People and Pets Together
- Raikes Foundation: Diversity will make women's philanthropy more impactful

Field Resources

- Center for Effective Philanthropy: Social Justice and a Relevant Philanthropic Sector: General Operating Support
- Community Solutions: Race and homelessness are inextricably linked. Here's what we're doing about it
- True Colors United & National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty: State Index on Youth Homelessness
- Urban Institute: How We Should Talk About Racial Disparities

Member News

Trump’s homelessness official questions housing-first in Denver, and that didn’t sit well with some local providers
Denverite
New initiative will provide housing for the most frequent users of emergency rooms and jails.

Dallas Observer

Achieving the Dream Announces New Racial Equity Leadership Academy

Diverse Education

Have news about your foundation’s or United Way’s work that we missed? Let us know and we would love to feature it next month!

Thank You!

Our work would not be possible without our generous supports of Funders Together. Thanks to the following organizations and individuals, who provided membership dues, donations, and grants in the past month:

Membership Renewal
Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation
May & Stanley Smith Charitable Foundation
Nord Family Foundation
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley
William and Dorothy O’Neill Foundation

Funders Together would like to thank and welcome our newest full members: California Health Care Foundation, Cedar-Sinai, Trinity Church Wall Street, and Youth Hope Foundation! We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and support your efforts to prevent and end homelessness.

Interested in becoming a full Funders Together member? Contact Stephanie Chan for more information.
Interested in supporting Funders Together by becoming a Funding Partner? Contact Lauren Bennett for more information.