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: We Need Rental Assistance and Services, Not Punitive Policies, to End Homelessness

Who's Reading It: Funders Together Staff

Peggy Bailey, Vice President of Housing Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, dives into how the Administration's intentions to abandon strategies that we know end homelessness, like Housing First, and policy proposals that favor criminalization over a focus on community-based health and social services, will not only thwart progress, but also have detrimental effects on people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, specifically people of color. She also makes a call to action for policymakers to "invest further in what works: permanent housing, rental assistance, and strong community support services tailored to meet people’s individual needs."

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.

After the holidays, Funders Together to End Homelessness met with Robert Marbut, the new USICH Executive Director, to give philanthropy's voice and support for best practices and proven solutions that will end housing instability and homelessness in the most effective and compassionate way. The meeting confirmed our concerns around the direction the Administration would focus efforts, such as the criminalization of people experiencing homelessness, use of vacant federal properties, and deregulation of the housing market. While news of a possible Executive Order dwindled, a letter from Sec. Ben Carson to Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti surfaced further confirming our suspicions of their focus and strategy. The Administration's deal would have strings attached and tie federal resources to certain local policy changes such as "empowering and utilizing law enforcement."

While we have many concerns, we find hope in the coming together and leadership of many stakeholders in the movement. Funders Together has continued collaborating with national partners on a strategy to both respond to the Administration's actions and narrative, and gain momentum on an offensive strategy to get ahead of where the Administration is moving and to build public and political will in communities that may be targeted to make a potential deal with the federal government.

In the coming months, we will be hosting a series of calls, sharing developments via email, and providing actionable resources on how philanthropy can engage and support communities as we collectively work to stop harm from this Administration and also mobilize local partners around a proactive strategy. We also welcome your thoughts, questions, and concerns as we continue to be active in strategy planning.

Below are resources that provide more context on where we are at now and what we can be thinking about:

- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: [Rental Housing Affordability Crisis Worst for Lowest-Income Families](#)
- Huffington Post: [California Governor Urges Trump Administration To Go Beyond Just Shelter For Homeless](#)
- Los Angeles Times: [Trump officials say they'll help on homelessness. But only if L.A. meets these conditions](#)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness: [New Homelessness Numbers Reflect Uneven Progress, Increased Urgency](#)
- National Low Income Housing Coalition: [Primary Causes and Solutions to Homelessness Fact Sheet](#)
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.

In this webinar, we explored where current Census operations are, why philanthropy investing in housing and homelessness programs should care about the count, what some of the concerns and barriers are to counting people experiencing homelessness, and how funders can be an integral part in fair and accurate Census efforts in their community. We also heard from the Polk Bros. Foundation in Chicago on its role in the Illinois Count Me In 2020 campaign, how it supports efforts outside of funding, and the importance of bringing in funders from other sectors through mindful collaboration and coordination.

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
- Sisters of Charity Foundation of Cleveland: Race equity and philanthropy - Asking ourselves tough questions

Field Resources
- Candid: Teaming Up for Advocacy - How to Effectively Use a Collaborative to Drive Change
- Philanthropic Initiative for Racial Equity: Grantmaking with a Racial Justice Lens

Member News
McGregor Fund commits $5M to homelessness
Traverse City Record Eagle
No on Measure C — Expanding convention center sidesteps homeless solutions for San Diego
San Diego Union Tribune

Campaign Launches To Promote 2020 Census In Undercounted King County Communities
The Seattle Medium

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!

Career Opportunities

Director, Funders Together to End Homelessness Chicago
Chicago, IL

The Director role is designed to leverage the collective impact of funders invested in preventing and ending homelessness. As housing is a cross-cutting health issue, Michael Reese Health Trust will leverage its incubation function to support the development of greater partnership between public and private entities working to end homelessness.
Learn more here.

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
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Greater Washington Community Foundation
Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
Orange County United Way
Pohlad Family Foundation

Funding Partner
Crankstart Foundation
Melville Charitable Trust
The Simmons Foundation

Funders Together would like to thank and welcome our newest full members: Block Leavitt Foundation, Crankstart Foundation, and The David & Lucile Packard Foundation! We look forward to the opportunity to work with you and support your efforts to prevent and end homelessness.
We look forward to the opportunity to continue working with you and supporting 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.

Funders Together to End Homelessness ·
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