



Mission

Workforce Matters is a peer network of funders that draws on expert and practitioner knowledge to strengthen workforce development philanthropy and advance equitable access to quality education and employment for young people and adults.

Vision

We envision a workforce development field where funders work effectively with community organizations, businesses, educators, labor, the public sector, and other stakeholders to ensure that every worker prospers and supports a vibrant economy.

Values

- **Collaboration** – Workforce Matters values collaborating with its members, other networks and leaders to advance equitable access to quality employment.
- **Learning** – Workforce Matters is committed to creating a space where our members can thoughtfully test ideas, be honest about failures, hear from experts, practitioners, and new voices, and embrace learning as part of a continuous growth process.
- **Equity** – Workforce Matters believes in the importance of ensuring that all individuals reach their highest potential. We seek to further equity¹ in all facets of our network, including our leadership, strategies, and goals, such that we improve employment outcomes and close gaps by race, gender, ethnicity, income, sexual orientation, disability, or other demographic characteristics.
- **Excellence** – Workforce Matters strives for excellence in everything we do.

Strategies

Workforce Matters engages in strategies to build and support a vital and dynamic network that advances equitable access to quality education and employment for young people and adults, including:

- Provide learning opportunities about new workforce research, practice, and policy developments, with a priority on those that reduce disparities in labor market outcomes and advance equity;
- Facilitate learning networks to build connections between funders, deepen understanding of topics of interest and support leadership development opportunities for its members;
- Support peer networking and sharing among national, regional and community funders;
- Foster collaborative approaches to grantmaking;
- Leverage and extend the efforts of individual members;
- Create partnerships with key leaders in the field and affinity groups with shared interests; and
- Build a community of workforce leaders that includes diverse viewpoints, regions, and populations.

¹ Workforce Matters believes that equity exists when one can no longer predict advantage or disadvantage based on race, gender, ethnicity, income, sexual orientation, disability, or other demographic characteristics. Furthermore, working toward greater equity includes improving overall outcomes and closing gaps between demographic groups.