

# Fund for Workforce Equity

# About Us

Workforce Matters is a **national network** of grantmakers that draws on expert and practitioner knowledge and works together to **strengthen workforce development philanthropy** such that it empowers workers, learners, and job seekers to realize their full potential; dismantles inequities based on race, gender, ability, and other individual characteristics; and **advances equitable education and employment** outcomes for youth and adults.

# Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Fund Overview + Q&A
- III. Funder Stories + Discussion
- IV. Wrap-Up and Next Steps

# Introduce yourself!

- Name
- Organization
- One thing you are currently working on with respect to centering workers and learners of color in your workforce portfolio

# Fund for Workforce Equity

<https://workforce-matters.org/the-fund-for-workforce-equity/>

# Overview

- A new funding collaborative launching in 2022
- Provide flexible resources and support to workforce development organizations seeking to pilot and learn from strategies that **center workers and learners of color in workforce policy and program design and implementation**
- Builds on recommendations in our [Racial Equity Framework for Workforce Development Funders](#)
- Round 1 Fundraising Goal: \$750,000



# Goals

- Support workforce organizations in developing and implementing strategies to engage workers and learners of color in informing workforce policy and program design and implementation, thereby making workforce programs and policies more responsive to their needs.
- Support learning among both funders and workforce organizations in order to expand the use of effective strategies to center and amplify the voices of workers and learners.

# Strategies

- **Grants.** Flexible grants of up to \$50,000/year to workforce organizations so they can pilot and learn from different ways of authentically engaging and centering workers and learners of color in program and policy design and implementation
- **Learning Community.** A learning community so organizations can learn from each other and disseminate methods and lessons learned.
- **Technical Assistance/Expertise.** Access to expertise and resources on human-centered design and other best practices for elevating worker and learner voice.
- **Evaluation and Learning.** An evaluation of the initiative and share learning with funders so they can further disseminate and invest in promising practices among their grantees.



# Timeline

- Round 1 Fundraising Complete – March 31, 2022
- RFP Released – May 2022
- Application Review – Summer 2022
- Grants Awarded – Fall 2022

# How to Contribute

- Contributions can be made through our fiscal sponsor, Funders Together to End Homelessness
- No minimum contribution
- Funders at \$25,000+ will be invited to join the Advisory Committee
- Contribute by March 31 for the first round of funding; contributions after March 31 will be held for a 2<sup>nd</sup> round

# Governance

- **Advisory Committee** – Determines strategy, priorities, learning goals, and provides feedback on grant docket. Made up of funders and stakeholders.
- **Selection Committee** – Subset of Advisory Committee that reviews grant applications and recommends grant docket for approval
- **Workforce Matters Steering Committee** – Approves all grants from the fund

# Applicants

- Identified through open RFP process
- May be nominated by Workforce Matters members, but do not have to be
- Should have a demonstrated commitment to utilizing a racial equity lens in their work and have completed racial equity training at the 101 level
- Can be working on skills training as well as job quality, worker voice and agency, worker power/organizing, and social determinants of work

# Fund Supporters to date

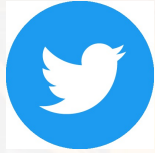
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Cognizant Foundation
- Siemens Foundation
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- WES Mariam Assefa Fund

# Funder Examples + Discussion

- **Adrian Esquivel**, Chicagoland Workforce Funders Alliance
- **Dina Emam**, Annie E. Casey Foundation



# Stay Connected



@WFMFunders



/workforce-matters-funders-network



[www.workforce-matters.org](http://www.workforce-matters.org)



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