

Economic Mobility Action Network

Project Summary

What is CFLeads?

CFLeads is the country's national network of community foundations committed to community leadership. Through CFLeads, hundreds of community foundations from across the U.S. come together to strengthen their community leadership muscle, share field innovations, and tackle the key issues of our time.

What is CFLeads' economic mobility work?

In 2023, CFLeads was generously awarded a \$4.8 million grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for our economic mobility work. This grant supports programming that will create peer learning opportunities for community foundations working to advance economic mobility and racial equity through community leadership practices within their region.

What is economic mobility?

Economic mobility refers to the ability of people to improve their economic status, have power and autonomy over their lives, and be engaged in and valued by their community.

What is the Economic Mobility Action Network?

CFLeads' Economic Mobility Action Network is a year-long learning network made up of ten community foundation teams, each working to advance economic mobility while reducing racial disparities.

Project Elements:

- Year-long learning network made up of ten community foundation teams
- Three in-person network meetings; one virtual orientation meeting
- Capacity-building grants to each participating community foundation
- Technical assistance resources and support
- Outside, independent evaluation

Project Design:

- Team-based, iterative, experience-driven network learning meetings, combined with content expertise; based on CFLeads' proven peer learning model
- Focus on advancing economic mobility using a racial equity lens
- Emphasis on CFLeads' five community leadership competencies

- Exploration of data tools and economic mobility best/promising practices

Project Goals and Outcomes:

- Develop and refine an economic mobility agenda in local communities.
- Apply a racial equity lens to each community foundation's economic mobility work.
- Demonstrate use of the five community leadership competencies (i.e. using data, engaging residents, working across sectors, marshalling resources and shaping public policy) and develop a plan and set of tactics for an expanded and more refined use of the five community leadership competencies to advance their economic mobility agenda.
- Demonstrate use of the resources and tools from Urban Institute, Opportunity Insights, and Results for America.
- Develop peer connections within the cohort that can be leveraged as they advance greater economic mobility in their communities.
- Establish a strong local-national partner relationship in tackling a complex issue.

Technical Assistance Elements:

- Design of a technical assistance (TA) component to strengthen the participating community foundations' capabilities and competencies to advance economic mobility in their communities.
- Assessment of information on the community foundations' technical assistance needs and priorities and a determination if there are shared interests.

Meeting Details

- **Cost to participants:** Free, pending approved application and signed Memorandum of Understanding
- **Financial aid:** CFLeads will provide a limited number of stipends to small and rural community foundations to help cover travel and lodging expenses
- **Target audience:** Community foundations committed to working on economic mobility
- **Target attendance:** 4-5 participants from 20 community foundations
- **Term:** August 2024 - December 2025, includes evaluation period

Current Content Partners

Participating community foundations will explore the ways in which community foundations can make use of data tools and resources to further their economic mobility work, as well as how they can facilitate the adoption of public goods by local decision-makers.

The public goods are as follows:

- [Urban Institute's Mobility Metrics Framework](#): This framework identifies key conditions within a community that have the power to propel people and families out of poverty and narrow racial inequities. The framework also provides a set of

interrelated, evidence-based metrics that community foundations can use to establish priorities, mobilize action, and assess their progress toward cultivating conditions that support greater mobility from poverty.

- [Results for America's Economic Mobility Catalog](#): This resource contains summaries of over 50 high-level strategies and nearly 200 specific practices and programs that have demonstrated positive results in advancing economic mobility. For every strategy, practice, and program, the Catalog synthesizes the relevant research, identifies best practices in implementation, and aggregates additional resources for users interested in learning more.
- [Opportunity Insight's Opportunity Atlas](#): This resource is a comprehensive Census tract-level dataset of children's outcomes in adulthood using data covering nearly the entire U.S. population. For each tract, the Atlas estimates children's outcomes in adulthood such as earnings distributions and incarceration rates by parental income, race, and gender. These estimates allow users of the tool to trace the roots of outcomes such as poverty and incarceration to the neighborhoods in which children grew up.

These public goods will be valuable resources for community foundations as they work to engage their local community around issues.

Application

Thank you for your interest in the CFLeads Economic Mobility Action Network. Applications can be submitted using the link below and are due on **June 28, 2024**.

[Apply HERE.](#)

More information and the link to apply are available on our [website](#).

If you have any questions about CFLeads' Economic Mobility programming, please contact Leonard Brock at lbrock@cfleads.org or 617-226-9903.