



2020 Annual Report

Economic Opportunity Funders is an informal network of funders at the national, regional, and local levels working to advance economic equity and opportunity in the United States. We believe in building an economy that works for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, education, income, religion, gender identity, disability, or age. We support a strong public sector and policies that create a healthy, fair, and just economy where opportunity and prosperity are broadly shared. Economic Opportunity Funders (EOF) focuses its work in three key and intersecting areas: poverty and opportunity, protecting and supporting workers, and tax and budget policies. We provide a platform for funders to share information, exchange ideas and best practice, and collaborate around identified areas of interest.

Through its work, EOF aims to:

- **CONVENE:** EOF brings funders together through meetings and webinars to deepen their understanding of the cross-cutting issues of poverty and economic opportunity, support for low-wage workers, and adequate public resources.
- **CONNECT:** EOF makes connections among funders pursuing similar objectives or working in similar regions through strategic outreach, mapping efforts and a new award program recognizing organizations working to defend in law and social policy for low-wage workers' rights.
- **CATALYZE:** EOF supports the coordination and alignment of investments through funder networks and pooled funds.
- **COLLABORATE:** EOF regularly partners with other funder affinity groups on programming to highlight the intersectionality of our work, improve our reach, impact, and effectiveness, and to reduce duplication of efforts.

EOF is committed to building knowledge of racial, gender, and ethnic equity practices among funders. This includes dedicated programming on how race, gender, and ethnic equity play out in public policies, programs, and grantmaking as well as embedding an equity lens into our operations and events.

EOF is led by a Steering Committee that provides oversight and guidance for the group. Steering Committee members are volunteers and represent the needs and interests of the diverse range of philanthropic organizations that participate in EOF. Steering Committee members participate in monthly

conference calls, plan and carry out events, provide financial oversight, and attend an annual in-person Steering Committee meeting. 2020 Steering Committee members:

- Anna Wadia, Ford Foundation
- Cassandra McKee, Wellspring Philanthropic Fund
- Erin Currier, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Kit Judge, The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Ria Pugeda, Consumer Health Foundation
- Stephanie Davison, The Kresge Foundation

In 2020, EOF held 32 events, supported two funder networks, managed the EITC Pooled Fund and launched the Law & Social Policy Legacy Award. Participation significantly increased in 2020. EOF gained 161 new members, including representation from 65 new foundations, bringing total participation in the network to more than 400 funders, philanthropic advisors, and affinity group partners.

EOF staff shifted time, resources, and programming to address the challenges presented this year by COVID-19, the economic downturn and racial justice uprising. This included:

- A new [web page](#) was created, providing a curated list of rapidly developing resources and updates related to the pandemic, with a focus on equity, budget and tax policy, and the future of work. A list of emergency relief funds, related resources from PSO partners, and funder guidance was also provided. This was one of the most visited page on our website, second only to our home page, receiving more than 1800 pageviews.
- We [surveyed](#) members on how they were responding or thinking about responding to COVID-19, the ensuing economic crisis, and the impacts on the issues and populations they are most concerned about. Thirty-four members completed the survey.
- Members received weekly eblasts highlighting new events and resources.
- A new COVID-19 funder working group was established to support information sharing and learning. Thirty-eight funders participated in activities from April-September 2020.
- EOF staff significantly increased calls with partners and participation in partner events as a way to stay up-to-date and connected to partner learning and perspectives.
- The pandemic slowed down our ability to make EITC Pooled Fund awards and led to a temporary expansion in our RFPs to include efforts focused on the least restrictive forms of cash support and an increase in award amounts to incentivize community engagement partnerships.
- With the spotlight created on structural and systemic racism by COVID-19 along with the national uprising for racial justice after the murder of George Floyd, our commitment and focus on racial equity felt more important than ever. In addition to a [statement and curation of resources](#) on how philanthropy is responding to the call for racial justice, we developed several specific programs, including the October virtual funders meeting, [What do Taxes have to do With it? Connecting Policy and Grassroots Strategies to Advance Race, Gender and Immigrant Equity through Tax Policy](#), and the Post-Election Virtual Funder Learning Series webinar, [A National Reckoning on Race](#).

A list of major activities and accomplishments are outlined below.

Outcome 1: CONVENE: EOF brings funders together through meetings and webinars to deepen their understanding of the cross-cutting issues of poverty and economic opportunity, support for low-wage workers, and adequate public resources.

EOF hosted or cohosted one in-person meeting, three virtual meetings, five webinars, and seven working group video calls where EOF staff had a primary role in planning and implementation. These events reached more than 1000 funders. Planning committees were formed for every event to engage EOF members, funder colleagues, and other affinity group leaders in the development of program agendas.

Date	Event	Registrants
March 2020	Meeting: Budget and Tax Briefing	43
	Budget and Tax Briefing Livestream Viewers	28
	Budget and Tax Briefing Watch Parties	75
March 2020	Webinar: Medicaid & Wealth Inequality: Meet the Researcher - Naomi Zewde	22
July 2020	Webinar: State Budgets Post-Crisis & Medicaid: What Families Can Expect	51
September 2020	Virtual Meeting: Scenario Planning Workshop	20
October 2020	Virtual Meeting: What do Taxes have to do With it? Connecting Policy and Grassroots Strategies to Advance Race, Gender, and Immigrant Equity through Tax Policy	78
October 2020	Webinar: State and Local Budgets – the Next COVID-19 Battlefield	149
October 2020	Webinar: Future of Child Care – Part 1: COVID’s Impact & Relief for the Field	12
	Webinar: Future of Child Care – Part 2: An Accessible, Equitable, High Quality, Child Care System	15
December 2020	Virtual Meeting: Post-Election Virtual Funder Learning Series: Philanthropy’s Road Forward Video	85
	Virtual Meeting: Post-Election Virtual Funder Learning Series: Who Voted and Why – Part 1: A Conversation with Public Opinion and Political Strategists	93
	Virtual Meeting: Post-Election Virtual Funder Learning Series: Who Voted and Why – Part 2: A Conversation with National and State Organizers	87

	Virtual Meeting: Post-Election Virtual Funder Learning Series: A National Reckoning on Race	113
	Five COVID-19 Response and Recover Funder Strategy Room Video Calls (April – September 2020)	85
	Two Post-Election Funder Strategy Room Video Calls (November – December 2020)	49
TOTAL		1005

See a detailed description of each event below.

- March 5-6, 2020 — Budget and Tax Briefing:** EOF hosted an annual Budget and Tax Briefing to provide funders and philanthropic advisors with a unique opportunity to learn about and discuss pressing political developments, federal and state budget and tax issues, and emerging advocacy and communications strategies for protecting programs and policies that support low-income families, workers, and communities. In addition to the in-person meeting, funders viewed the keynote presentation on the federal budget and tax outlook via web stream, and local viewing parties were held in six cities – Buffalo, Cleveland, Providence, Raleigh, Rochester, and St. Louis. Learn more [here](#).
- March 17, 2020 — Medicaid & Wealth Inequality: Meet the Researcher - Naomi Zewde:** This webinar was hosted by the Children Youth & Family Funders Roundtable in partnership with EOF and Grantmakers in Health. It provided funders with an opportunity to learn more about the non-health impacts of Medicaid and health policy. This webinar was part of the Children, Youth and Family Funders Roundtable conversation on [The Broad Reach of Public Health Insurance Programs](#), cosponsored with Economic Opportunity Funders, Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, and Grantmakers In Health.
- July 8, 2020 — State Budgets Post-Crisis & Medicaid: What Families Can Expect:** This webinar was hosted by the Children Youth & Family Funders Roundtable in partnership with EOF and Grantmakers in Health. It provided funders with the opportunity to learn more about the potential impact of the economic downturn on Medicaid and the implications for children and families. This webinar was part of the Children, Youth and Family Funders Roundtable conversation on [The Broad Reach of Public Health Insurance Programs](#), cosponsored with Economic Opportunity Funders and Early Childhood Funders.
- September 24, 2020 — Post-Election Scenario Planning Workshop:** Members of the EOF Funder Strategy Room came together to do scenario planning for either a Biden or a Trump presidency. The scenarios brought participants to election day 2022. The exercise asked participants to define what the challenges have been, how those challenges were overcome, and what shifts the EOF community should consider in its investment strategies. Learn more [here](#).
- October 14, 2020 — Future of Child Care – Part 1: COVID’s Impact & Relief for the Field:** This webinar was hosted by the Children Youth & Family Funders Roundtable in partnership with Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, EOF, Funders for a Just Economy, and Workforce

Matters. Speakers shared insights on the impact of the pandemic on the child care field. Learn more [here](#).

- **October 17, 2020 — What do Taxes have to do With it? Connecting Policy and Grassroots Strategies to Advance Race, Gender and Immigrant Equity through Tax Policy:** This virtual funder gathering was hosted by EOF in partnership with the EITC Funders Network, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, and Closing the Women’s Wealth Gap. It explored how charitable foundations are supporting policy and grassroots organizing strategies to increase equity in the tax code, offering learnings from concrete examples—especially for immigrant workers, education funding, and families with children—nationally and in states. Learn more [here](#).
- **October 19, 2020 — Future of Child Care – Part 2: An Accessible, Equitable, High Quality Child Care System:** This webinar was hosted by the Children Youth & Family Funders Roundtable in partnership with Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, EOF, Funders for a Just Economy, and Workforce Matters. It provided funders with the opportunity to learn more about a vision for a more affordable, equitable, and high quality child care system . Learn more [here](#).
- **October 20, 2020 — State and Local Budgets – the Next COVID-19 Battlefield:** This webinar, cohosted by EOF and the Funders’ Committee for Civic Participation, offered funders an opportunity to learn more about the state and local fiscal crisis, lessons learned from the Great Recession, key principles for an equitable response, and how state and local advocates were gearing up for the budget battles to come. Learn more [here](#).
- **December 2, 2020 — Philanthropy’s Road Forward Video:** This five-minute video kicked off the Post-Election Virtual Funder Learning Series and features three philanthropic leaders — Elena Conley, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Lisa Hamilton, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, and Carla Thompson Payton, W.K. Kellogg Foundation — reflecting on the post-election landscape and implications for philanthropy. Learn more [here](#).
- **December 2, 2020 — Who Voted and Why – Part 1: A Conversation with Public Opinion and Political Strategists:** This webinar was hosted by EOF and cosponsored by the Asset Funders Network, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, Funders of a Just Economy, Workforce Matters, and Youth Transition Funders Group. During this webinar, nationally recognized public opinion and political strategists shared insights on who voted, what issues and messages moved voters, the results from key races and ballot measure campaigns, as well as what the election outcomes mean for voter engagement and building public and political will for social and economic policy. Learn more [here](#).
- **December 3, 2020 — Who Voted and Why – Part 2: A Conversation with National and State Organizers:** This webinar was hosted by EOF and cosponsored by the Asset Funders Network, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, Funders of a Just Economy, Workforce Matters, and Youth Transition Funders Group. During the webinar, national and state organizers shared key strategies and outcomes from voter engagement efforts, insights on how to capitalize on the engagement infrastructure created during the election season, and opportunities and challenges funders should be paying attention to. Learn more [here](#).

- **December 17, 2020 — A National Reckoning on Race:** This webinar was hosted by EOF and cosponsored by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, Funders of a Just Economy, and Workforce Matters. During the webinar funder colleagues shared how they were responding to the call for action to build real power for Black communities and demand bold systems and institutional change. Examples of collective action, individual foundation initiatives, and centering grantmaking in racial equity were shared. Learn more [here](#).

EOF also cosponsored 16 webinars led by partner affinity groups (where EOF staff had a primary promotion role).

- Four webinars were hosted by Workforce Matters:
 - Power and Light: Enlightened Approaches for Accountable and Equitable Grantmaking, February 26
 - Towards an Equitable Response and Recovery: Grantmaking Strategy Under COVID-19, May 28 (with Workforce Matters, CYF Roundtable, FJE (Funders Together to End Homelessness), GCIR, HIP, YTFG)
 - Building CBO Capacity and Supporting Participant Success in Remote Learning, June 11
 - Digital Inclusion 101: Who has internet access, why, and what can funders do about it?, June 17
- Four webinars were hosted by the Funders' Committee for Civic Engagement:
 - COVID-19 and the Impact on 2020 Census Outreach: Shifting tactics to get out the count, May 15
 - Election Protection: Funding Election Protection and Wisconsin Lessons in Light of Changing Realities, May 27
 - Racial Gerrymandering: A Fundamental Threat to Equity, July 27
 - What 2020 Rapid Response Looks Like: Responsive Planning and Innovative State Mobilization Strategies, September 22
- Two webinars were hosted by Funders for a Just Economy:
 - Emergency Action to Protect Workers Amidst the Coronavirus Crisis, March 24
 - Safe and Just Return to Work, July 29
- Three webinars were hosted by Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees:
 - COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Immigrant Families and Communities, April 13
 - What's Next for DACA?, June 26
 - Philanthropy's Role in Fostering Grantee Resilience and Managing Secondary Trauma, September 24
- One webinar was hosted by Youth Transition Funders Group:
 - Towards an Equitable Response and Recovery for Young People: Funder Town Hall on Summer Jobs and Service Corps Programs, June 3
- One webinar was hosted by Children Youth and Family Funders Roundtable:
 - Data, Children, Families, & COVID: What We Know, September 30
- One webinar was hosted by Funders Together to End Homelessness:
 - Housing and Homelessness Narrative Change: From Research to Action, October 13

Outcome 2: CONNECT: EOF makes connections among funders pursuing similar objectives or working in similar regions through strategic outreach, mapping efforts and a new award program recognizing organizations working to defend in law and social policy for low-wage workers' rights.

Strategic Outreach: EOF staff regularly updated the EOF website, launched a new Twitter account (@EOFnetwork), responded to requests for information, and published four member Q&A interviews to facilitate information sharing and collaboration among EOF members:

1. [Caitlin Hamood](#), Program Officer, Stoneman Family Foundations (March 2020)
2. [Padmini Parthasarathy](#), Senior Program Officer, Economic Security, Walter & Elise Haas Fund (May 2020)
3. [Jidan Terry-Koon](#), Director, People, San Francisco Foundation (August 2020)
4. [Tracy Williams](#), Director, Reimagining Capitalism, Omidyar Network (September 2020).

In 2020, the EOF website received 5821 visitors (86% new and 14% returning) and 17,304 views. The top five most visited pages of the website were: EOF website homepage (3725), COVID-19 Response and Recovery (1824), Annual Budget and Tax Briefing (905), Post-Election Briefings (775), and A National Reckoning on Race event page (561). EOF staff also responded to requests for information and maintained a private listserv to facilitate information sharing among members.

Planning committees were formed for every event and engaged EOF members, funder colleagues, and other affinity group leaders in the development of meeting agendas. Notably, nearly all events engaged one or more affinity group.

EOF Mapping Project. Since 2012, EOF has maintained an online mapping tool to help illustrate to funders where investments are being made in policy, advocacy, and communications work in the states, and to help foster connections across these efforts. While mapping continues to be of interest to EOF participants and collaborators, we have yet to really see broad use of our online tool and maps. After careful consideration and review of available data on the use of the mapping tool (including a member survey in 2019), the EOF Steering Committee agreed to discontinue updating the tool in 2020. We will explore whether there is renewed interest from our membership to update the mapping tool or to support other mapping interests in 2021.

Law and Social Policy Legacy Award: This award program was established in 2020 to recognize organizations defending and advocating for low-wage workers' rights. The Public Welfare Foundation spent more than a decade supporting public policy and system reforms to improve the lives of low-wage working people in the United States. This prize will commemorate and build on Public Welfare Foundation's support to the field and honor the critical role law and social policy organizations play in building an economy that works for all. A \$10,000 award will be given by EOF with support from Public Welfare Foundation annually until 2030, as a part of their legacy investment in the Workers' Rights field. The first awardee will be announced and recognized at EOF's Annual Budget and Tax Briefing in March 2021.

Outcome 3: CATALYZE: EOF supports the coordination and alignment of investments through funder networks and pooled funds.

Funder Networks. EOF supported two funder networks in 2020:

- **COVID-19 Funder Strategy Room (April – September 2020):** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its many impacts, EOF launched a funder strategy room in April 2020 to support information sharing and learning as well as the coordination and alignment of investments around economic security and support for low-wage workers. Thirty-eight funders participated in the strategy room. A google drive and listserv were created to support the working group. EOF also began curating and sharing resources on a COVID-19 Emergency Response and Planning resource page. Six video calls were held.
- **Post-Election Funder Strategy Room (November 2020 – February 2021):** Federal and state elections, regardless of outcomes, provide an important opportunity for philanthropy to assess the new environment and identify new windows of opportunity to work strategically and collaboratively. EOF established this funder strategy room to provide a table around which members can gather to share common questions, analyses of challenges and opportunities, and philanthropic strategies post-2020 election. Thirty-seven funders participate in the strategy room. Two video calls were held in 2020 and four video calls will be held between January and February 2021. A google drive and listserv were created to support the working group.

EITC Pooled Fund: Economic Opportunity Funders and the EITC Funders Network administer and oversee the State EITC Rapid Response, Campaign and Policy Development Fund, and the Federal EITC Campaign Fund to advance tax fairness and economic opportunity for low-income workers and families through the promotion, protection, and expansion of the federal and state EITCs. The four funds – together known as the EITC Pooled Fund – are guided by an advisory group, supported by five national funders, and administered by EOF and the EITC Funders Network in partnership with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and The Hatcher Group. Participating foundations in the EITC Pooled Fund include: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Bernard and Anne Spitzer Charitable Trust, The Rockefeller Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and an anonymous donor.

In 2020, The Fund awarded \$30,000 in State EITC Rapid Response Funds to one state (NJ), \$595,000 in State EITC Campaign Funds to eight states (CA, CO, HI, MD, MA, OK, OR, NM), \$740,000 in State EITC Policy Development Funds to three states (FL, ID, PA) and \$150,000 in Federal EITC Campaign Funds to two national groups. The remaining funds were allocated to support staffing the administration of the project, technical assistance contracts, and an update of the EITC data interactive tool. To date, \$4,248,500 has been awarded to 35 networks.

Outcome 4: COLLABORATE: EOF regularly partners with other funder affinity groups on programming to highlight the intersectionality of our work, improve our reach, impact, and effectiveness and to reduce duplication of efforts.

EOF staff worked closely with and built stronger relationships with several affinity groups in 2020, including Asset Funders Network, Children Youth & Family Funders Roundtable, Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, EITC Funders Network, Funders' Committee for Civic Participation, Funders for a Just Economy, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, United Philanthropy Forum, and Workforce Matters.

Notably, almost all EOF events were cosponsored with partner affinity groups. By jointly sponsoring events, EOF was able to leverage additional financial support and attract a larger and more diverse group of participants. EOF staff also regularly reached out to other affinity groups to publicize EOF programs on their websites and newsletters. With the onset of COVID-19 and its many impacts, we also significantly increased our participation in partner events related to the pandemic, economic recovery, and the 2020 elections as a way to stay up-to-date and connected to partner learning and perspectives. This included:

- Participating in regular COVID check in calls hosted by the United Philanthropy Forum.
- Participating in periodic virtual meeting check in calls hosted by the United Philanthropy Forum.
- Participating in quarterly calls with an ad-hoc group of affinity group partners to coordinate COVID response and recovery activities (Communities for Just Schools Fund, Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, Funders for a Just Economy, Funders for Adolescent Science Translation, Funders Roundtable for Children Youth and Families, Funders Together to End Homelessness, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Grantmakers for Thriving Youth, Hispanics in Philanthropy, National Public School Education Fund, Workforce Matters, and Youth Transition Funders Group).
- Participating in calls hosted by field partners (such as Brookings, Groundwork Collaborative, Urban, CHN, Alliance for Early Success, Aspen, Community Change, Color of Change, and others) as well affinity group partner programming.

EOF also partnered with the Asset Funders Network to develop a primer to help deepen the understanding of funders on the intersectional and intergenerational issues related to the care economy, lift up key public policies, strategies, and programmatic solutions for building an equitable care infrastructure, and share opportunities for funders to address this issue. The primer will be completed in April 2021, followed by several activation events to highlight key recommendations.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

We faced many challenges and learned several lessons in our administration of EOF this year related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its many impacts:

- As noted earlier, EOF shifted staff time, resources, and programming to address the pandemic and its many impacts. This nimbleness is critical to meeting the needs of the network and is made possible by our flexible structure (supported by general operating support grants and guided by a volunteer Steering Committee).
- While we were able to hold an in person Annual Budget and Tax Briefing in early March, all subsequent meetings (including our October meeting on Equity and the Tax Code and November Post-Election Briefing) were shifted to virtual programs. Extensive time was needed to reconsider the goals, format, timing, and structure of these meetings. While going all-virtual created greater access for those who may not have been able to join us in person (we more than doubled registration in our programs), virtual meeting fatigue resulted in reduced event day participation and there were fewer opportunities for informal networking. Note: As EOF staff already worked remotely, we did not face any significant challenges related to closing offices or establishing new work environments at home.

- The pandemic slowed down our ability to make EITC Pooled Fund awards and led to several shifts in our next State EITC Campaign Fund (CF) RFP. These included a temporary expansion to support larger economic security policy campaigns that elevate tax credits in addition to other policies that are focused on the least restrictive forms of cash support (stimulus, emergency cash for front-line workers or immigrant families, but not Unemployment Insurance), and an increase in the amount of funding available (from up to \$75,000 to up to \$125,000) to incentivize community engagement partners.