



The CCAA's Mission is to partner with other private and public organizations, including CSBG Grantees, serving low-income people, through advocating, communicating and providing educational and training resources.

June 16, 2020

STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

We, the Staff and Board of Directors of the Colorado Community Action Association (CCAA), express solidarity with the pain and outrage over the murder of George Floyd, which is just one of the most recent Black lives lost to police violence and structural racism. All people, regardless of race, class, creed, or birthplace, deserve the opportunity to thrive and to find equity and inclusiveness in their communities and institutions. For individuals like Mr. Floyd, and so many others, the systemic racism that has been in place for hundreds of years in this country has fostered an environment where ghastly crimes are committed often and pass with little accountability. We stand with the many Americans who have stepped forward these past few weeks and declared their commitment to racial justice.

The Community Action Network was born out of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, and for over 56 years, Community Action Agencies and Programs have emphasized the need for systemic and institutional change in communities to address the barriers to escaping poverty, which are often based on racist and classist rules and disproportionately affects minorities. Our network's values assert that "We believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed."

The CCAA, as an institution, is committed to building an inclusive Colorado of broad-based prosperity, and we will continue to do this through providing community education on the root causes and impacts of poverty, supporting and fostering local systems that are equitable in their distribution of resources and their treatment of the people and families they are serving, and maximizing participation of those experiencing poverty in the implementation of community strategies. The CCAA will strengthen our efforts to develop and provide tools and strategies for communities and local institutions to look inward on their own assumptions and processes to not only ensure non-discrimination, but to nurture justice. We will look inwards within our own network and strive to improve our own conversations through listening to the voices of those that are crying out for reform. We will seek input from all disenfranchised populations, whether it be based on race, age, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status, and address their concerns in our communications, advocacy, trainings, conferences, and convenings.

We are continually called to do better for our communities, to make concerted efforts to support equity and inclusiveness in our society and within the institutions that serve us, and to fight racial injustice wherever it is found. The time for silence is over. We end our statement with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We will overcome these injustices together.

Colorado Community Action Association Board of Directors, June 16, 2020

Colorado Community Action Association
PO Box 18321
Denver, CO 80218-0321
303.949.9934 Phone
CCAA@coloradocommunityaction.org
www.coloradocommunityaction.org

