



IMPACT Community Action stands with black communities and all communities of color in the fight against racial and economic injustice. Racist violence against black and brown communities, reinforced by systems of inequality, should not be tolerated nor excused under any circumstances. As an agency in the fight on poverty, we know the inherent intersection between race and poverty. The nexus between racial justice and economic justice can't be ignored.

Race is a social construct created to oppress certain groups of people, while giving advantage to another group. Instituted in the U.S in the 1600's to justify the slave trade, racism has provided the economic injustice that has shaped multiple systems including access to: housing, employment, capital, health care, food, as well as the criminal justice system. Our hearts ache as we grieve the death of George Floyd, Aumaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Henry Green and countless black Americans who have suffered indignities, violence, and disregard for their rights. To our black colleagues, allies, supporters, partners, and clients; we stand with you!

When opportunity isn't equal, when the color of one's skin makes it four times more likely that this person will face poverty- racism is at play. Racism is both a moral blight on our community and a drain on our resources. It requires a large and multifaceted system that works around the edges of inequity, providing limited support to help those caught in the trap of persistent poverty. IMPACT Community Action reaffirms our commitment to be that support, that hope— because the community we believe in lies not in denying injustice but in declaring our willingness to fight it; not in excluding our neighbors but in elevating their voices.

It is encouraging to see how people all around the world, of all races and ethnicities, all ages, have taken to the streets in protest and have declared that enough is enough. As a community, we will no longer turn a blind eye or deaf ear to social and economic injustice. Black Lives do matter. Despite this time of great social unrest, we are encouraged by the broad cross section of advocates and in particular, the young people who are finding their voice and courageously challenging the status quo. Together we can transform our society and live up to the ideals imbued in the American Dream.

Three things you can do to join the fight:

1. Franklin County Public Health Dept, Franklin County Board of Commissioners, and the City of Columbus have declared racism to be a public health crisis. Support the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus' efforts to pass a similar resolution in the State of Ohio.



2. Volunteer with IMPACT and/or the NAACP. We must elevate our civic engagement strategies by providing education and training for community members who are the driving forces of change at the local and state levels.
3. Advocate for policies and solutions that eradicate poverty and racism in our city. Two advocacy issues impacting our communities center on the Eviction Crisis and Gentrification. We support U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown's rent/mortgage assistance program and we are fighting to protect the integrity of the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). To combat racial and economic discrimination in the housing and finance sector, the CRA was established to regulate financial institutions to serve the needs of local communities. The Trump administration's proposed changes would be devastating to communities of color and would accelerate gentrification and displacement of low-income people.