



Sustained Commitment to Act Against Systemic Racism

As an organization working to help every child and youth in the United States grow up in strong, stable, nurturing families within thriving and prosperous communities, the Children's Trust Fund Alliance reaffirms our commitment to racial justice and to continue our efforts to become an anti-racist organization.

We have made progress during the past three years after publishing our initial commitment to act against systemic racism. We have expanded our understanding of the issues through training and education by a diverse group of well-established nationally recognized anti racist organizations, shared discussions about strategies for change, and increased the racial and ethnic diversity of our staff and Board of Directors. Despite making this progress during the past three years, the Children's Trust Fund Alliance recognizes that we still have much to learn and much work to do to meet our goals of being an anti-racist organization. We reaffirm our commitment to anti-racism and to joining with our members, parent partners and others who are doing this work. We are committed to achieving the vision where every child has the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

We recognize that racism is a systemic problem that has deep roots in our society. It is not enough to simply condemn individual acts of racism; we must also continue working to dismantle the structures that perpetuate inequality and injustice. As an organization dedicated to supporting the well-being of children and families, we understand the devastating impact that racism has on the health and development of young people, their families, and the community at large. We recognize that racism – systemic and individual – is a form of child abuse and can lead to societal and community neglect of groups and individuals.

We also recognize that racism is not just a problem faced by Black and Brown communities, but also by Indigenous communities, Asian and Pacific Islander communities, and other groups. We acknowledge the intersectionality of racism with other forms of oppression, including sexism, homophobia, transphobia, antisemitism and ableism. In order to create a future where everyone can live free from discrimination and oppression, we are committed to learning from, working alongside, and being led in this work by those who are most impacted by racism and discrimination.

We are committed to amplifying the voices of those who have been marginalized and advocating for policies that promote equity and justice. This includes advocating for policies that address the root causes of racial inequality, such as poverty and lack of access to healthcare and education, as well as abolishing discriminatory family policing practices within the child welfare system. It means that we will continue to advance the national conversation about the importance of differentiating between neglect and poverty and promoting strategies for a strong community response to support families facing challenges due to a lack of resources.

We acknowledge that we have continued work to do within our own organization to ensure that we are actively anti-racist. This work includes continuing to examine our own policies and practices, as well as actively seeking out and addressing any biases or blind spots that may exist within our organization. We are committed to ongoing education and training for our staff and board members, Alliance members and partners.

We also recognize that this work cannot be done alone. We are committed to partnering with individuals, organizations, and coalitions, who share our values and who are working toward a more just and equitable society. We believe in the power of collective action and are committed to building strong and effective coalitions to advance our shared goals.

Finally, we urge others to join us in these efforts. Please email us at info@ctfalliance.org if you would like to work in partnership to address these challenges. We must all take responsibility for creating a more just and equitable society, and we must do so with a sense of urgency. The future of our children and our communities depends on it.

Our commitment to anti-racism is not a trend. Our society continues to experience the stain of racism, even as the number grows of organizations and individuals committed to doing the work and taking action to create lasting change. We reiterate our commitment to working for racial justice and to becoming a strong anti-racist organization. This is an essential component of achieving our mission.

– Updated August 17, 2023