



DDC Statement on Anti-Racism

The DC Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) issues this statement in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, in acknowledgement of the violence and injustice they experienced at the hands of police and the aftermath that their families and the nation as a whole are facing. We outline here our commitment to working against oppression and toward a peaceful, caring, and equitable world.

We also support the statements of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network, Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, American Association of People with Disabilities, Association of University Centers on Disability, National Disability Rights Network, STABLE, and many other groups and individuals that speak out against racism. We recognize all the learning and inspiration we derive from others in this social justice movement.

What we believe

- Black lives matter. Black disabled lives matter.
- Behavior is communication and any form of protest is an opportunity to listen and work together to make positive change. We believe in having power with people and not over people.
- People of color continue to experience discrimination and we must work harder to reckon with our country's racist history and do our part to create fairer and equitable systems of support. People of color who also have disabilities confront even greater injustice in their daily lives.
- Embracing diversity makes us stronger and more effective in our work for systemic change.

What we plan to do

- Establish core principles of racial justice and incorporate these into our evaluation process for funding applications, contracts, staff hiring, and strategic planning.
- Identify and implement strategies to ensure the perspectives of people of color influence our important work on disability issues.
- Continue our advocacy on behalf of full representation for Black, disabled, and all other residents of DC by lending our support to H.R. 51 and *all* efforts to obtain statehood for the District.
- Keep listening, learning, and subsequently responding to the needs of the most marginalized members of our community.

We welcome feedback from our community and invite you to share your thoughts on this statement or any other part of our work with the DDC Executive Director, Alison Whyte - alison.whyte@dc.gov, 202-340-8563. We are also on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our website - <https://ddc.dc.gov/>.

The DDC seeks to strengthen the voice of people with developmental disabilities and their families in DC in support of greater independence, inclusion, empowerment, and the pursuit of life as they choose. We strive to create change that eliminates discrimination and removes barriers to full inclusion through our advocacy. The DDC is established and operates in accordance with the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act), Public Law 106-402.