



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Community Action Advisory Board Statement on Equity

Community Action Advisory Board

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The Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) is a body appointed by the Board of Supervisors and required by the Community Services Block Grant to advise on the needs, concerns, and aspirations of limited-income people. The CAAB also recommends and supports policies that promote meaningful change in the lives of low-income households. The CAAB is a compassionate body and we are honored to carry out our mission in a manner that is consistent with the National Community Action Partnership's "Promise of Community Action" which describes the historical mission of community action:

Community Action changes people, lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

To fulfill this promise, we recognize the need to move beyond caring and compassion and embrace the power of collective community action. The CAAB knows that true equity and physical and psychological safety are essential to empowering residents to achieve self-sufficiency and reach their full potential. To achieve this mission for every person we serve, there are action steps that must be taken.

As an antipoverty program, one of the CAAB's responsibilities is to plan and advocate for an equitable footing for those we serve. We are well-positioned to create and operationalize steps to reduce inequities and address systemic oppression which hampers the growth and wellbeing of our communities. The One Fairfax Resolution and the One Fairfax Policy guide the work of all County Boards, Authorities and Commissions (BACs), including the CAAB. One Fairfax is entirely consistent with the values of Community Action (adapted from the National Community Action Partnership):

- We believe all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.
- We believe that this nation has the capacity and moral obligation to ensure that no one is forced to endure the hardships of poverty.
- We believe that with hope, adequate resources and opportunities, everyone can reach their fullest potential, and we are committed to achieving that vision.
- We pledge ourselves to creating an environment that pursues innovation and excellence through multi-sector partnership and collaboration.

The Community Action Advisory Board unequivocally rejects racism and bigotry in all its forms, including the systemic oppression directed at people of color, which has been woven into the fabric of the federal, state, and local policies, procedures, and practices. The CAAB further rejects the criminalization of people of color, both native-born and immigrant. We will collectively advocate for each person's right to physical and psychological safety, justice, and access to opportunity. We boldly commit to collectively move the system away from its oppressive underpinnings and towards fairness and equity.

Therefore, the CAAB is committed to ensuring that its membership has the knowledge and skill to prioritize the necessary critical self-reflection to ensure that our policies, procedures, and practices are conforming to the tenets of One Fairfax as it works to fulfill its mission.

Community Action Advisory Board
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