

Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) Racial Equity Statement:



The Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County, Inc. (CAB) stands in solidarity with efforts that bring to light, and commit to dismantle, racism in our country. We stand against racism, white supremacist and anti-immigrant systems and the oppressive structures that maintain it.

Fifty-five years ago, Community Action was born as part of the civil rights movement, and we continue to denounce all forms of violence and acts that dehumanize anyone. We are committed to the health and well-being of everyone in our community and to problem-solving solutions, systems and structures that will dismantle disparities and inequities.

We are living through a time of unprecedented upheaval and suffering. The global COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted every aspect of our lives, wounded the health and economy of our nation, and further revealed the structural racism that places all of us at greater risk, accelerating the disproportionate impact and loss of life for Black and other people of color in our country. Amid this unprecedented pandemic, the violence and threat of violence perpetrated against Black people and other communities of color in our country escalates, making their lives more precarious and vulnerable. Like the global COVID-19 pandemic, racism and anti-immigrant policies are like a virus in the global society taking valuable lives from our communities and requires the entire community's collective effort to eradicate it.

In 2018, CAB updated its Policy Statement on Immigration, Racial Equity and Human Rights, stating, "We face a historical opportunity and moral responsibility to address the continued existence and long-term effects of racial inequity and systemic racism in ourselves, our organizations, institutions and communities." **We still face this historical opportunity and moral responsibility, with great urgency in this moment.** The peaceful protests throughout the country in response to the murders of George Floyd and other Black men and women are acts of love and expressions of community care. This is a moment where we must turn to each other, hear each other and care for our communities through grief and pain toward concrete action. We're being called to step up even further and bring renewed commitment and practical and innovative solutions to expand our circles of care in real ways that dismantle systems of oppression. To this end, CAB stands in solidarity with Black, immigrant and other communities of color to demand justice reforms and increased investment in communities that truly support equity, prosperity and public safety, including quality housing, education, economic support, climate justice and affordable, accessible physical and mental healthcare.

We must come together as a community and country to deepen our commitment to our shared values of diversity, inclusivity and justice.

Si Se Puede!