



Max Richtman, Chair

LCAO Statement on Racial Injustice

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) represents 69 national organizations working to preserve and strengthen the well-being of older Americans. The coalition has a 40-year history of advocating for equity for older people in the areas of health, income security, and social supports. The heartbreaking tragedies of 2020 have made clear not only how far we, as a society, have to go in realizing those goals, but also how structural racism permeates every aspect of our country's social fabric.

The coronavirus pandemic has laid bare and amplified the inherent inequities in health care for older Americans of color, who are experiencing disproportionately high rates of COVID-19 illness and death. Multiple recent instances of police brutality -have accentuated our country's long-standing perpetuation and acceptance of violence toward Black people. Considered together, the pandemic and police brutality highlight the realities of racial injustice throughout the United States.

LCAO recognizes that structural racism—which manifests, in part, in inequitable access to economic resources, health care, and social supports—has harmed generations of Black people and other Americans of



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color. Our coalition is committed to pursuing racial justice for older people and future generations. We urge the federal government to take the following actions:

- Implement and enforce policies requiring real-time reporting of data on racial and ethnic health disparities.
- Fund programs that promote culturally and linguistically appropriate service delivery.
- Support, strengthen, and elevate community-based organizations, especially those working to mitigate disparities for Black Americans and other people of color (including those who are immigrants and LGBT older adults).
- Maintain, strengthen, and enforce protections against discrimination based on race and ethnicity in all programs that receive federal funding.

These actions will decrease racial injustice to some degree and will signify important steps toward racial reconciliation. LCAO will advocate for these objectives and other policies so that Americans of all races and ethnicities can live and age in community with health and dignity.