



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Office of Community Services | 330 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20201
www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
Dear Colleague Letter

DCL#: LIHEAP-DCL-2021-06
DATE: May 7, 2021
TO: States, tribes, and territories
SUBJECT: Taking Action on Racial Equity
ATTACHMENT(S): N/A

Dear Colleagues,

Amid the ongoing national discussion on race equity in our country—instances of inequality range from the obvious to less overtly discriminatory policies and belief systems. At ACF, we intend to do our part to build a more just and equitable nation with systems that treat everyone with fairness; that is why race equity is a priority of our agency and addressing race equity is an essential step in sparking meaningful societal change.

ACF promotes the well-being of families and children to be resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure, and we are taking action to foster racial and ethnic equity within our agency and our programs. As called for by the [Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#) issued on January 20, 2021, ACF will pursue a robust approach to advancing equity across our programs and processes, with a focus on people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. This will include careful reviews of our policies, messaging, grant-making, procurement, human resources, and other processes, leading to thoughtful planning and action. Additionally, we value ongoing learning opportunities to understand the harm the Federal government has caused to historically underserved, marginalized communities, as well as the positive role the Federal government has played.

As we work to advance this critical mission, we affirm the values outlined in the Executive Order. Advancing structural changes to promote equity are a priority of this Administration. We recognize that our diversity – the experiences and identity of our ACF staff, grantees, contractors, and the people we serve – is one of our greatest strengths.

For this important work, we look to the leadership and insights of all of you – the true experts on our programs and processes and best positioned to identify paths forward for an equity agenda across ACF. We intend to provide additional opportunities at later dates to gather your feedback.

ACF is committed to making equity a central part of how we operate and deliver on our mission.

Sincerely,

JooYeun Chang
Acting Assistant Secretary