



**New Mexico Association of Grantmakers
Statement in Response to Racial Injustice Calls
June 19, 2020**

“The thing worse than rebellion is the thing that causes rebellion”- Frederick Douglass

The New Mexico Association of Grantmakers joins the many philanthropic groups that are standing up and expressing outrage at the racial, economic and social injustices that led to the unjustified police killing last month of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Like so many others before him, George deserved to live fully, he deserved justice, freedom, and respect. He deserved the opportunity to reach and achieve his potential.

We condemn the actions that took the life of George Floyd, and continue to take the lives of countless individuals, because of unconscionable acts of violence and aggression against people of color. We stand in solidarity with those calling for freedom, liberation and justice. And, we join with everyone in our country and all across the world who are affirming demands for sustainable transformation in our communities, led by the Black Lives Matter Global Network and supporting groups.

There is a similar history of health and economic inequities in our own state, which disproportionately affects African Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic, Latinx and Asian people living in New Mexico. Underlying health conditions caused by inequitable access to clean water, healthy food, healthcare, housing, and resources are deeply connected and inexorably linked to systemic racism, and are the root causes for these disparate health and economic outcomes.

The ongoing existence of systemic racism means that philanthropy must do better and that is why it is so important for our organization to speak out. The New Mexico Association of Grantmakers, our members, and the Center for Nonprofit Excellence join advocates on the hard work that lies ahead. As a first step, our organization commits to building our internal capacity to support the individual and collective action of our members to respond to communities most affected by racial and ethnic structural inequities. We also commit to making internal and operational changes based on our core values for incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of our work.

Together, we call on our philanthropic leaders and our nonprofit partners to deeply commit to co-creating a more just, equitable, and resilient world. We must begin the work of racial healing, truth and reconciliation, and unite in our journey to eliminate all racial injustices. Our core philanthropic values consist of respect and dignity for and alongside communities. Equity is our responsibility.

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