“The American people are infected with racism – that is the peril. Paradoxically, they are also infected with democratic ideals – that is the hope.”
While doing wrong, they have the potential to do right. But they do not have a millennium to make changes. Nor have they a choice of continuing in the old way.

The future they are asked to inaugurate is not so unpalatable that it justifies the evils that beset the nation. To end poverty, to extirpate prejudice, to free a tormented conscience, to make a tomorrow of justice, fair play and creativity – all these are worthy of the American ideal.”

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Showdown for Nonviolence, Look Magazine

It’s a familiar picture: Civil rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King smiling as he watches President Lyndon B. Johnson sign the Civil Right Act of 1964.

The moment undoubtedly is one of triumph for both men: Johnson, who had picked up the mantle of civil rights legislation following the 1963 assassination of his predecessor, John F. Kennedy; and King, the Baptist preacher and the nation’s foremost civil rights activist who had made his life’s work fighting the racial segregation and disenfranchisement African-Americans faced.

Following Kennedy’s death, the two had formed a friendly but uneasy relationship and found a common ground on advancing Johnson’s civil rights policies. Johnson signing the historic legislation was the culmination of their partnership.

By 1968, the two had parted ways ideologically. While King had praised Johnson for his policies attacking segregation and poverty – most notably the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which created Community Action Agencies – by the late 1960s, King had become disillusioned with Johnson’s stance against the atrocities at home but support of the war in Vietnam.

King and other Black civil rights leaders were adamant that economic progress was the foundation to ending racism and King’s focus shifted toward economic justice. It would be the foundation for the Poor People’s Campaign, an initiative organized in 1967 by King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference but not fully activated until after his death on April 4, 1968.

For King, central to economic justice was the implementation of an Economic Bill of Rights. In an essay titled “Showdown in Nonviolence” published in Look Magazine shortly after his assassination, King reiterated his position against the war and called for a refocus on lifting Americans out of poverty.

The issue, King believed, that too much money was spent on war and not enough on bettering American’s quality of life.

“We hear all this talk about our ability to afford guns and butter, but we have come to see that this is a myth, that when a nation becomes involved in this kind of war, when the guns of war become a national obsession, social needs inevitably suffer.

And we hope that as a result of our trying to dramatize this and getting thousands and thousands of people moving around this issue, that our government will be forced to re-evaluate its policy abroad in order to deal with the domestic situation.”
The sixth annual National Day of Racial Healing will occur on Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2022. Sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the National Day of Racial Healing is a time to contemplate our shared values and create the blueprint together for #HowWeHeal from the effects of racism.

Launched on Jan. 17, 2017, it is an opportunity to bring ALL people together in their common humanity and inspire collective action to create a more just and equitable world.

There will be a national virtual event that begins at 3 p.m. EST / noon PST. Award-winning documentarian, journalist, speaker, author and philanthropist Soledad O’Brien will serve as the host. (Closed captioning available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.)

If your local CAAs or state network is hosting a National Day of Racial Healing event, is it possible for you to share the information today with Tiffney Marley (tmarley@communityactionpartnership.com) and Aimee Roberge (aroberge@communityactionpartnership.com)?
RESOURCES

Visit www.dayofracialhealing.org to RSVP, download updated resources, and submit your own local virtual event to be featured on the interactive map.

To put a spotlight on the collective momentum heading into this year's event, click on the link below for the partner toolkit to support your generous promotions for the day. Please feel free to use it as a guide to share what's happening in your communities or to raise awareness of the national event.

TOOLKIT

2022 MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE

Register today to join Community Action leaders from across the nation for NCAP's 2022 Management and Leadership Training Conference.

This virtual training conference will include:
- A dynamic virtual environment
- Inspiring keynote presenters
- Engaging sessions covering current and emerging issues
- Virtual networking opportunities and games
- A virtual exhibit hall

Conference attendees are invited to participate in Racial Healing Circles on Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

LEARN MORE

42nd ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

Save the date for the 42nd Annual Training Conference! We're back in person next year in the beautiful city of Fort Lauderdale. Be sure to watch this space for updates, including when registration opens.
Effective immediately for Home Energy Professional Renewals

All Certified Professionals that have a HEP certification coming due in 2021 through March 30, 2022 will be granted an extension. The new expiration date will be March 31, 2022, allowing additional time to arrange certification testing. No additional extensions will be granted after March 31, 2022. This includes the Energy Auditor, Quality Control Inspector, Retrofit Installer Technician, and Crew Leader certifications.

As a reminder, the Energy Auditor certification was updated (February 2019) and everyone must reapply under the new scheme. We recommend that HEP Certified Professionals apply now, regardless of when they choose to renew, as
we may have an influx of applicants in the first quarter of 2022 and must allow time for processing applications.

For BPI Energy Auditors whose expiration dates fall between now and 3/31/2022, please submit this renewal application with proof of Energy Modeling experience to BPI prior to scheduling your field exam to renew your certification. They will need to submit this application regardless of whether or not they are using CEUs to bypass the online exam.

Please reach out to BPI Client Relations Representative team at 877-274-1274 x292 or bloy@bpi.org. BPI staff are working remotely and remain available to assist you and answer any questions.
Omicron Variant Detected in Florida

On November 24, 2021, a new variant of COVID-19 was reported to the World Health Organization. This new variant was first detected last month in specimens collected in Botswana and South Africa, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

On November 26, the World Health Organization WHO named omicron and classified it as a variant of concern. On November 30, the United States designated omicron as a variant of concern, and on December 1, the first confirmed U.S. case of omicron was identified.

Officials in Florida confirmed on Dec. 7 a case of the variant in the state.

Officials at the CDC are unsure how easily omicron spreads, the severity of illness it causes, or how well available vaccines and medications work against it.

Despite the increased attention of omicron, delta continues to be the main variant circulating in the United States.

-Sources: Centers for Disease Control, Yahoo! News

COVID-19 RESOURCES

TREATMENT

Monoclonal antibodies, or mAbs, are made in a laboratory to fight a particular infection—in this case, SARS-CoV-2—and are given to patients directly with an infusion. That’s why mAb treatment may help patients who are at high risk for serious symptoms or having to stay in the hospital.

TESTING

Free testing for COVID-19 is available statewide at designated locations. Testing also is available at CVS, Quest Diagnostics, and Walgreens.

For additional assistance, reach out to your local County Health Department.

VACCINATION

Florida has many sites that are providing COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, highly effective, and free.

Appointments may be required, and specific vaccine types and brands may not be available at all sites.

LEARN MORE
Evictions are underway in light of the Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down the Biden Administration's eviction moratorium.

There is help for renters facing eviction. OURFlorida.com is Florida's federally-funded emergency rental assistance relief program to support residents and businesses as they continue to recover and rebuild.

More information, including a tenant checklist and documentation needed to apply, is available on the OurFlorida website.

**CONTINUUM OF CARE**

Continuums of Care (CoC) are organizations composed of representatives of nonprofit homeless providers, victim service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, public housing agencies, school districts, social service providers, mental health agencies, etc.

The Florida Department of Children and Family Services has compiled a list of CoC contacts.

Follow the link to contact a local lead agency.

**TENANT'S RIGHTS**

According to the Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services, landlords must notify a tenant in writing of any perceived noncompliance except for the failure to pay rent.

Each eviction case is unique, so be sure to obtain legal advice. A landlord MAY NOT evict solely in retaliation for the tenant complaining to a governmental agency about code violations or asserting other tenant rights.

Visit the FLDACS website for more information about evictions and tenant's rights.

**FACA SOCIAL MEDIA**

FACA is now on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter! Follow us today for news and updates about organization events, people, and partners.