

Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity in America

The American Cancer Society and our nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network are saddened and distressed by the tragic deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and George Floyd.

It bears underscoring that the external climate and the issues of systemic injustice have a direct impact on our organization and our work. Diversity is a core value for the American Cancer Society and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; inclusion and equity are critical to our mission. As organizations deeply committed to addressing health disparities, we recognize that health equity cannot be fully achieved without equity in all aspects of American life.

Individuals and institutions across the country have a responsibility to ensure equity. Yet, too often our nation falls short. The American Cancer Society and American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network see the impact every single day through the cancer lens. Cancer is a disease that can affect anyone, but it does not affect everyone equally. Black communities and other populations disparately impacted by cancer experience greater obstacles to cancer prevention, detection, treatment, and survival, including systemic racial disparities that go beyond the obvious connection to cancer. They include structural racism, poverty, lack of access to affordable healthy foods, jobs with inadequate pay, low quality education and housing, and unsafe environments. No one should be disadvantaged in their fight against cancer because of the color of their skin, and all people deserve a fair and just opportunity to live longer, healthier lives. These issues guide us in nearly every initiative we undertake – from providing rides to treatment locally to advocating for access to health care nationwide.

We're proud to work for an organization and with volunteers and staff who are deeply committed to diversity, inclusion, and equity. It has never been more important, and each of us must live that commitment every day.
