



P. O. Box 1627, Mason City, IA. 50402-1627
Phone: 641-494-1891, Fax: 641-494-1899

Jun 16, 2020

Public Statement

NICAO is saddened by the recent events impacting our country. As a community action agency, NICAO works every day to uphold the community action promise to change people's lives, embody the spirit of hope, improve communities, and make America a better place to live. We are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

During this time of heightened social anxiety, Community Action affirms that our healing as a nation is tied to strengthening our connections as neighbors, family members, co-workers, and communities. We believe that people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.

Community action was born out of the civil rights movement more than five decades ago during an unsettling time to help people and change lives. That same leadership is needed now to guide the change needed to level the playing field. Being silent is not an option.

NICAO stands with the Community Action Partnership on their affirmation of their core values and their call to end the health and social pandemics that threaten to destroy our communities.

We don't have all the answers. However, we are dedicating ourselves to action, to work collaboratively with community leaders, elected officials and non-profit leaders who are ready to work towards enacting reform that will help our communities, families and individuals to heal from the trauma of racism and inequality. We understand that this is not the work of a day, a week, or a month. It is an ongoing and permanent project. Systemic change takes all of us. In love and in unity, we will continue to work toward a better future for all.

Please [read the full statement](#) from the Community Action Partnership.