

Asset Based Community Development Institute Policy Statement on Anti-Racism

Black Lives Matter.

The ABCD Institute acknowledges that Black and Brown people and Black and Brown communities are and have been under the occupation of systemic racism throughout American history for more than 400 years. We believe any community development work that does not acknowledge and address this reality is short sighted and will ultimately fail to build an authentic, sustainable, healthy community.

ABCD methods lift up principles and practices with roots in Black and Brown communities. We recognize that these communities remain most affected by racial inequities and injustice. Our Institute recognizes and supports the gifts, strengths, power, and assets of people in these communities. We firmly believe in the transformative power of these communities which should be centered in any process of community development or organizing.

We acknowledge that some who practice Asset-Based Community Development, and the ABCD Institute, have failed through actions and inactions to fully embody these values. We have been complicit in the systems we aim to transform. With this in mind, we are committed to doing better in our work through specific anti-racist actions that address white supremacy.

Some actions that we commit to take are:

- Support and learn from Black and Brown organizations, and find ways to be in solidarity and support of their efforts;
- Invest in anti-racism training of the ABCDI Board of Directors and Faculty to launch a long-term process for uprooting white supremacy and racism in our lives, culture and organization;
- Actively increase publications from the Institute on ABCD and anti-racism;
- Intentionally center and lift up stories of how leaders and communities of color are practicing and advancing ABCD;
- Include an anti-racism lens in all ABCD programming and consultation including ABCD trainings, webinars, facilitation, and our work with museums and libraries;
- Make explicit to all those utilizing ABCD practices that it is truly not ABCD if they are not willing to be actively anti-racist in their activities;
- Continue to support Black and Brown leadership on our Board of Directors and across the Institute.