



MODDC's Commitment to Racial Equity

OUR MISSION: To assist individuals, families, and the community to include all people with developmental disabilities in every aspect of life.

To that end, MODDC recognizes that disability rights are inseparable from the struggle of human rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include, but are not limited to, the right to life and liberty, the right to justice, freedom from torture, freedom of opinion and expression, and the right to work and education. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination. In the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

As we grieve and bear witness to recent acts of violence, we recognize a unique opportunity to turn those tragedies and the resulting dialogue into meaningful change. MODDC stands with the Black community - people and families with and without disabilities - in rejecting social and systemic racism. We stand in support of racial equity, justice, and inclusion, not just within MODDC, but also in our DD network and communities. We stand against hatred and division.

MODDC is committed to learning, growing, and examining our own organization and through our work for and on behalf of people with developmental disabilities, examine the harm that systems have brought on communities of color. We will look internally to the structures that we influence and control, and commit ourselves to ending the racism that exists within us. The work of MODDC is rooted in the firm belief that all people deserve respect, dignity, and self-determination. We understand that the intersection of race, disability and poverty exacerbates the challenges many people face. We are committed to advocacy and programming that mitigates those challenges.

Currently, the work of MODDC includes projects that focus on eliminating historic and systemic marginalization by examining the disparities in Missouri's school-to-prison pipeline, how we might incorporate trauma-informed practices in our schools, and training for first responders. If you have interest in joining MODDC in discussions about any of these projects as we seek better understanding and change, MODDC invites you to reach out to us through our webpage at www.moddcouncil.org. We are listening.

MODDC mourns the lives lost and the pain that is so deeply felt by our Black community, particularly in recent weeks. We are committed to creating a Council and programming that promotes diversity, inclusion, and progressive ideas. We are an ally. We are listening. We encourage you to join us in working together to enact meaningful change.

For additional information:

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