



## ACT Now COVID-19 Response Fund Racial Equity Statement

ACT for Alexandria and the City of Alexandria envision a community where the color of one's skin, ethnicity or citizenship status do not determine their outcomes in life. Historically, African American, Latinx, immigrants and our neighbors of color have had less economic and educational opportunity, are more likely to experience housing and food insecurity; and have worse health outcomes compared to their white counterparts due to systemic and institutional racism. We believe that the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 is a racial equity issue and the pandemic has exacerbated the pre-existing inequities in our community. Prioritizing racial equity in our grantmaking is the most effective way to respond to the needs of our community now and in the future.

The ACT Now Fund intends to support organizations providing essential services to residents disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, while also addressing the underlying factors – specifically systemic and institutional racism – that perpetuate poverty and limit economic opportunity. We will prioritize partners and programs committed to addressing racial equity and that have deep, trusted relationships with communities that have been marginalized and are on the sidelines of Alexandria's prosperity.

We know we will continue to bear witness to COVID-19's devastating impact on our community and we are committed to finding ways to invest in longer-term solutions that address the root causes of poverty and disproportionate economic opportunity for people of color in Alexandria. The ACT Now COVID-19 Fund is one among many important efforts to build a more equitable and just Alexandria.