

CEO Action for Racial Equity



Launched in October 2020, CEO Action for Racial Equity (CEOARE) Fellowship brings together top talent and resources to advance public policies and corporate engagement strategies that will address systemic racism and social injustice while improving societal well-being. Using CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion™ as a platform, the Fellowship mobilizes the larger collective business community – across all industries and regions – to facilitate change at the local, state and federal level.

Our Agenda

CEOARE is driving policy change across eight issues that disproportionately and systemically impact Black Americans – from cities to rural communities, offices to classrooms, and healthcare networks to criminal justice systems.

- Closing the Digital Divide
- Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis
- Expanding Access to Telehealth
- A Path Toward Greater Food Equity
- Expanding Economic Opportunity Through CDFIs
- Equity in Early Childhood Education
- Decriminalizing Poverty: Fines, Fees, and Cash Bail Reform
- Advancing a National Police Misconduct Registry

Corporate Engagement

CEOARE is advancing corporate engagement with our signatories across three social contracts:

- Advancing Corporate and HBCU Collaboration: Expanding Reach and Sustaining Engagement
- Expanding Beyond Supplier Diversity to a Business Diversity Ecosystem
- Mobilizing Untapped Talent: Destigmatizing Reentry through Support for Fair Chance Hiring

Our Place-based Approach

Our first city for rolling out our place-based approach will be Oakland, California and we look forward to working in Birmingham and Detroit next. CEOARE's place-based approach will later expand to Dallas and Baltimore, and currently, our Decriminalizing Poverty team is focused on Ohio and Michigan.

Rapid Response

In today's ever-evolving policy landscape, the Fellowship also responds with agility on timely policy issues directly aligned with our mission, such as voting rights and police reform.

CEOARE in Action

In its foundational year, CEOARE Fellows from 100+ organizations advocated for legislative and policy-driven solutions to address a number of our country's most challenging racial disparities.

Together, we:

- Engaged 240+ policymakers, organizations, strategic collaborators and community leaders to raise awareness and amplify our mission.
- Joined [430](#) organizations to urge Congress to address the “telehealth cliff,” as many of the virtual care flexibilities are temporary and limited to the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- [Advocated](#) for the USDA to close the food insecurity gap by reassessing and modernizing the benefit allocation formula used by Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), resulting in a historic 27% increase in SNAP benefits.
- [Advocated](#) for the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which allocated \$65B for broadband infrastructure grants to both underserved and unserved.
- Released letters to Congress and shared our data-driven perspectives in the media to advance [bipartisan police reform](#), address the [decriminalization of poverty](#), [declare racism a public health crisis](#) and more.