



Council on Aging of Buncombe County (COAabc) is committed to a culture of diversity and inclusion. For over 50 years, our organization has recognized the value of equity and anti-discrimination in the health and well-being of our community. Our mission *to promote the independence, dignity and well-being of adults through service, education, and advocacy* describes our investment in Buncombe County and the tremendous impact that we believe unbiased access to support has on the individuals and families we serve.

Culminating most recently with the homicide of George Floyd and the events following, we have witnessed the effects of white supremacy and deep-rooted wounds desecrating our society. While our mission remains focused on age-related support, social problems such as these are directives for organizations like ours to stand affirmatively for human rights and justice, against violence and disparity. Our organization does not tolerate or condone criminal acts of any kind.

Today we use our voice to give support to the black lives and the lives of all people regardless of race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, parental status, veteran or military status, citizenship status, source of income, or any other protected status.

COAabc supports the racial justice movement, our law enforcement colleagues, as well as those who continue to lawfully exercise their rights, serve as changemakers, and provide safe opportunities to demonstrate justice and solidarity. COAabc supports the notion that power and privilege can be used for positive change, to give course correction to a system where power has previously been abused and privilege has been used to hold others down.

COAabc extends our support through the community during these difficult times. We hope that you will stand with us for humanity, against racism, and in service toward the betterment of our society.

If you are interested in learning more about our organization and ways you can be involved with our vision for a community where everyone has the opportunity to age successfully, please visit us at www.COAabc.org or contact Heather Bauer, Executive Director, at 828-277-8288 x1312.