

The South Carolina Community Loan Fund Board of Directors and Staff denounces the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and so many other African Americans before them whose lives were unjustly taken by police. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends, and African American communities across the country who are traumatized by this violence and loss. But thoughts and prayers are not enough. The conditions and circumstances surrounding these senseless deaths and the systems that allowed them require us to speak out and take action. We believe it is our responsibility as the leadership of an organization dedicated to economic and social justice to do this, and so much more.

We cannot advance equitable access to capital or create thriving, prosperous communities for all South Carolinians in a world where communities of color are disproportionately attacked by the police, disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, and consistently and persistently denied access to capital, housing, quality schools, and essential services like grocery stores and health care. Access to capital is not enough when there is not access to safety or justice.

We simply cannot realize our mission until people of color across South Carolina enjoy the same safety and opportunities as their white neighbors.

We stand with those African American families and communities who are experiencing pain, fear, overwhelm, and anger in the wake of yet another senseless death – we hear you, we support you, and we pledge to do our part. To move closer to our vision and truly invest in community we must- and we will- actively take steps to become an anti-racist organization. We know we have a lot of work to do but we are ready to do that work. A return to "normal" is unacceptable. African Americans have already waited far too long for progress, equity, and justice.

In Steadfast Commitment to Investing in Community,

Wendy Zara Anna Lewin

Board Chair Chief Executive Officer