

# Voices' Statement on Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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**Written by: Moe Hickey**

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We all want what's best for our children. We want them to be happy and healthy and have everything they need to succeed in life. All children deserve these things.

However, the wellbeing of children of color and their families is too often left out of the policy decisions we make in Utah. Systemic racism and implicit bias affect the health, education and general treatment of children of color. The budgetary and economic decisions we make as a state, too often ignore this reality.

Voices for Utah Children advocates for all Utah children. We

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are dedicated to identifying racial and ethnic disparities in child well-being. We are committed to developing real solutions, grounded in data, that acknowledge the historical circumstances that created those disparities.

We call on all our state and local leaders to examine how, when and where policies, programs and proposals negatively affect or disproportionately disadvantage Utah children and their families along lines of race and ethnicity. Inequity and inequality rob too many Utahns of the opportunity to lead lives of dignity, wellbeing, freedom and safety. Public policies that advance racial equity must be prioritized so that all Utah children and Utah families have equal access to opportunities for happiness and success.

Moe Hickey, CEO

Voices for Utah Children

[moe@utahchildren.org](mailto:moe@utahchildren.org)

435-729-0233