



**Statewide Rural Coordinating Center**

## **RISE STATEMENT ON WHITE PRIVILEGE, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY IN RURAL CALIFORNIA**

We as White residents in Rural California are culpable in generations long acts of genocide, racism, overt oppression, discrimination, and acts of brutality upon People of Color. The harm inflicted by these actions have left a legacy of incomparable pain.

RISE acknowledges the privilege inherent in being white and the dominance of whiteness in rural California.

Our commitment to anti-racism in our work and those who racism has harmed is:

- acknowledge the legacy of hate and discrimination and the systemic oppression and institutional racism inflicted by white supremacy.
- Identify systems that continue to oppress marginalized people in rural California and work proactively to make systemic and institutional change.
- Commit as a Priority Population Coordinating Center to engage in active inclusiveness; in hiring, in recruiting for leadership positions, and in offering internship opportunities.
- Be active in the fight against the status quo.

While RISE wishes to be an ally to those who have suffered harm in rural California that is not for us to determine. Our actions, our standing side-by-side in the fight against bigotry and hate and oppression, a willingness to expend social capital and be open and uncomfortable will indicate whether we are allies by those who have had to fight this fight for generations.

Being an ally in the fight against racism and for social justice and equity is just the start. In “Be a Better Ally” (the Magazine; November-December 2020) the authors “view allyship as a strategic mechanism used by individuals to become collaborators, accomplices and co-conspirators who fight injustice and promote equity in the workplace through supportive personal relationships and public acts of sponsorship and advocacy.”

RISE is committed to become more than an ally; indeed, to work as a co-conspirator with marginalized people to fight injustice in rural California.