



2023

# Public Policy Agenda

We are at a crossroads. We are not done. While we gained ground by amplifying our collective voices and strong actions through the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative (DRJC), there is more to do to actualize our public policy agenda. Black and Brown communities continue to face barriers in building generational wealth, experiencing a fair and just criminal justice system, receiving culturally competent care, and learning in an environment that is considerate to their experience.

Established in 2015 by a small group of civic leaders to advocate for racial equity and social justice in Delaware, the DRJC reorganized in 2020 under the umbrella of the United Way of Delaware. The DRJC is a coalition of civic leaders and community-based organizations united in a common vision for social justice, racial justice, and educational and economic opportunities for persons and communities of color in Delaware. To this end, The DRJC advocates for the adoption and implementation of policies and legislation that make Delaware a safer, more equitable place for families to live, learn, work, and play.

**During the General Assembly's session convening in January 2023, the DRJC's priorities are:**

## Wealth Creation & Economic Opportunity

Black and Brown businesses, individuals, and families have a fraction of the wealth of their white counterparts and fewer financial opportunities and resources both historically and today. To empower these businesses and households, DRJC will:

- Promote policies that support and empower minority-owned businesses and provide opportunities for development and growth.
- Fight for improved access to quality affordable housing.
- Track and support implementation of HB 205 Expanding Access for Retirement and Necessary Savings program (EARNS).
- Advocate for the standard of need for TANF recipients to be raised for the first time since 1996.

## Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement

To reform the criminal justice system in Delaware, the DRJC will:

- Ensure policies to regulate the use of body worn cameras for law enforcement prioritizes transparency, accountability, and safety.
- Support Juvenile Justice reform.
- Promote amending the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights to improve relationships between Delawareans and law enforcement officials.
- Track implementation of HB 244 Fines & Fees.
- Advocate for increased support for gun violence prevention programs and policies and track the implementation of the gun safety package passed last session.

## Health Equity

To ensure quality care is accessible to all, the DRJC will:

- Advocate for increased funding for the Bureau of Health Equity.
- Track the implementation of legislation passed last session that addresses the discrepancies in quality of care received by Black and Brown patients.
- Track the implementation of HS 2 for HB 344 which requires bias training for healthcare workers.

## Education

To ensure a safe and nurturing learning environment for all children and educators in and out of school and educational opportunities for impoverished students, the DRJC will:

- Track and support the implementation and integration of House Bill 198 (Black history) into curricula in all Delaware school districts and extended school-day services.
- Advocate for the continuum of in-school and out-of-school supports and funding.
- Advocate for equity officers to ensure a safe and culturally competent learning environment for Black and Brown students.