



As an agency working to end violence in our communities, we must incorporate anti-racism in our anti-violence work. Racism and other forms of oppression (sexism, ableism, classism, etc.) are connected and play a role in interpersonal violence.

As we know, "African-Americans are disproportionately represented among victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, particularly intimate partner violence (IPV). Research identifies a number of risk factors associated with IPV among African-Americans, including poverty, high rates of unemployment, alcohol abuse, use of illegal drugs, and exposure to community or family violence." (U.S. Department of Justice). We know that systemic injustices have directly impacted domestic and sexual violence. At The Center for Empowerment and Education, we believe in providing our employees with the opportunity to observe Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

June 19, 2022, marks the 157th anniversary of the last enslaved African Americans being freed in Texas. Last year, President Biden signed into law Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, S. 475, creating a federal holiday to commemorate Juneteenth. This is the first federal holiday approved since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983. The Center will recognize and observe this federal holiday in 2022. As Juneteenth falls on a Sunday, our offices will be closed on June 20, 2022. We encourage all employees to take the day as an opportunity to honor intersectionality as it is fully embedded in our work and to make this day meaningful. Our website contains multiple resources that allow you the opportunity to advance and deepen your awareness.