

DCADV is Committed to Engaging in Community Collaborations in order to Inform and Prioritize our Racial Equity Work.

The Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV) prioritizes the work of racial equity and envisions a First State in which Black, Latinx, Asian, Native American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and all People of Color are safe, welcomed, treated with respect and equity, and have the opportunity to thrive. DCADV understands that engaging in the work of racial equity is essential in our efforts to end and prevent domestic violence. Racism is rooted in historical and systemic oppression, arising from white supremacy culture. It underlies the heartbreaking violence that grips communities and families. DCADV understands that the work of racial equity is intersectional and necessarily includes preventing and intervening in gender-based violence. Rather than an either-or approach, we engage expansively and collaboratively to build coalitions focused on systemic change.

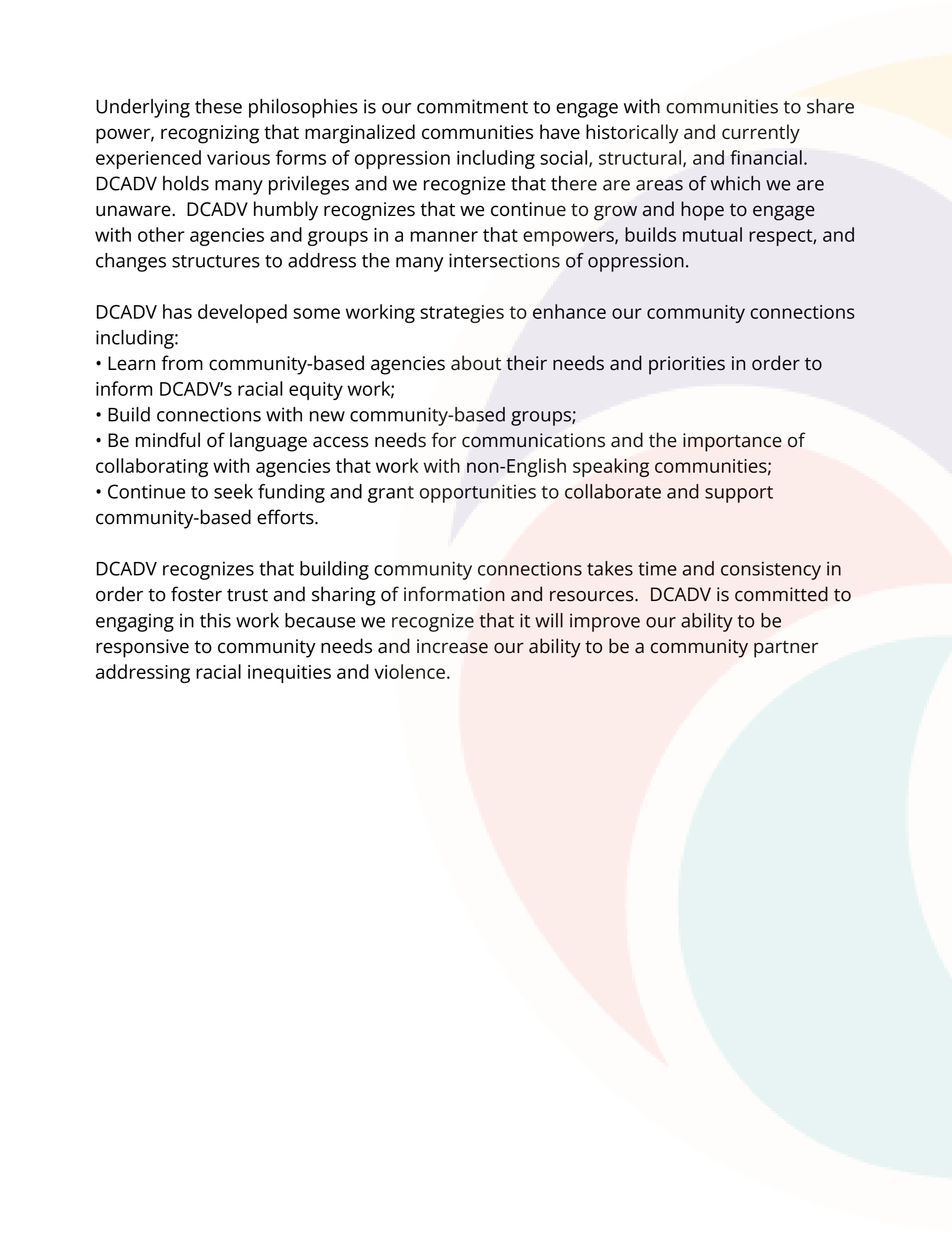
DCADV is committed to building and strengthening our community partnerships and collaborations in order to inform and prioritize our racial equity work.

DCADV strives to connect with community-based and culturally specific organizations and communities in order to learn about the needs of the most marginalized communities, and to address these needs collaboratively. DCADV is dedicated to being a resource for individuals, agencies, and communities working to address domestic violence.

DCADV recognizes that to engage genuinely with other agencies and community-based organizations, we must remain open, honest, self-reflective, and persistent in order to collaboratively address racial inequities that are at the root of intimate partner violence.

DCADV's Philosophy Statement highlights the need to engage in collaborative work in a respectful way:

- We believe in the right of all persons to live safely without fear, abuse, coercion, oppression, and violence. We oppose all forms of dominance over others.
- We commit to change social and structural conditions which support the use of power to control and harm others.
- We believe that work against domestic violence conditions is best achieved through local and national collaboration, direct services, community education, and political action.
- We believe in a supportive, ethical, collaborative atmosphere in all aspects of our programs. Open communication, respect, and cooperation are foundational to our work and core in empowering others.



Underlying these philosophies is our commitment to engage with communities to share power, recognizing that marginalized communities have historically and currently experienced various forms of oppression including social, structural, and financial. DCADV holds many privileges and we recognize that there are areas of which we are unaware. DCADV humbly recognizes that we continue to grow and hope to engage with other agencies and groups in a manner that empowers, builds mutual respect, and changes structures to address the many intersections of oppression.

DCADV has developed some working strategies to enhance our community connections including:

- Learn from community-based agencies about their needs and priorities in order to inform DCADV's racial equity work;
- Build connections with new community-based groups;
- Be mindful of language access needs for communications and the importance of collaborating with agencies that work with non-English speaking communities;
- Continue to seek funding and grant opportunities to collaborate and support community-based efforts.

DCADV recognizes that building community connections takes time and consistency in order to foster trust and sharing of information and resources. DCADV is committed to engaging in this work because we recognize that it will improve our ability to be responsive to community needs and increase our ability to be a community partner addressing racial inequities and violence.