

On September 22, 2020 the White House issued [Executive Order 13950](#) restricting diversity training in federal agencies. The District of Columbia Psychological Association stands firmly against Executive Order 13950 and remains fully committed to diversity and inclusion across our profession.

The American Psychological Association has issued a [statement](#) denouncing this executive order . We agree with the tenets of the statement, which asserts “To silence trained professionals working to correct the systems and policies that produce inequity is unjustified.” As psychologists, we are deeply engaged in research, training, and interventions that advance the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Promoting diversity, equity and inclusion is at the heart of what it means to be a psychologist and a critical component of our training, continuing education and daily work.

As psychologists, we have an ethical responsibility to serve our diverse communities. For many of us, part of our work and professional identity includes promoting social justice, championing diversity efforts, and working to combat racism and other systemic problems that pervade our society. Furthermore, multicultural sensitivity and competence is a cornerstone of our profession and a necessary component of any accredited psychology training program.

Executive Order 13950 purports to combat “race or sex stereotyping and scapegoating.” In fact, evidence-based diversity programs do not attack or demean any individuals because of their race, gender, or other identities. Divisiveness and blaming participants are not considered part of evidence-based diversity training. Diversity training is grounded in research and science, and is an important tool that can help organizations and individuals better understand and address critical problems facing the nation.

DCPA stands in solidarity with our colleagues working in federal agencies and are very concerned about the challenging circumstances this Executive Order creates. DCPA strongly believes that the executive Order 13950 serves to create a culture of fear and censorship and limits the very important principle of academic freedom. Trainings on diversity, inclusion, and critical race theory are grounded in science and should continue to be offered broadly to psychologists and psychology trainees.

We would like to mirror the offer extended by other Psychological Associations across the country by inviting any psychologist who has had a talk, seminar or training cancelled or delayed to reach out to us about the possibility of offering your talk through DCPA. We would also like to direct the public towards psychological research in order to increase awareness of [privilege](#), [American racism](#), and [equity efforts](#) in our field.

We encourage our colleagues to stand with us against Executive Order 13950 and continue to do the important work this order seeks to silence and suppress. Click [here](#) to tell the Department of Labor that diversity training in the workplace is essential for fostering a safe and inclusive work environment. Comments will be accepted until 5pm on December 1st, 2020.

District of Columbia Psychological Association
Government Relations Committee