



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**August 22, 2016**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
**Joi Ridley, 202-449-9778**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**  
**Tiffney Marley, 202-449-9775**

### **The Community Action Partnership Joins Coalition on Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Community Action Partnership (National Office) of Washington, DC announced today that it is joining a coalition of 100 or more organizations to partner on a Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) enterprise supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. Launched in January 2016, the TRHT enterprise will empower communities to embrace racial healing and uproot conscious and unconscious beliefs in the hierarchy of human value. The supporting organizations and individuals represent a broad coalition ranging from the National Urban League to HUD – US Department of Housing & Urban Development to the Poverty & Race Research Action Council to the National Council of La Raza to the National League of Cities, among many others.

“The TRHT enterprise builds on WKKF’s long standing work in racial equity and aligns with Community Action’s mission of ameliorating the causes and conditions of poverty, building on past and current Partnership efforts to address inequality and structural racism,” said Denise Harlow, Chief Executive Officer of the Community Action Partnership. The Community Action Network has been a central pivotal force in eradicating poverty for low-income children and families in local communities for over 50 years. Engagement with TRHT will provide Community Action Agencies and their partners with awareness, new tools and increased capacity to analyze the intersection of race and poverty in the lives of children. It will also assist CAAs in their efforts to develop effective strategies to dismantle the negative impact of that intersection at the child, family, community, and institutional levels that will ultimately support local efforts towards healing and transformation. "Community Action plays a key role in many communities throughout our country. By way of our network, we are uniquely positioned to support community healing and to advocate for economic and racial justice on the local, regional and national forefront. Our strength comes from the Community Action ‘Promise’ to ‘help people and change lives’. This latest initiative paves a way for embodying the spirit of hope and improving communities for **all** of America," says Harlow.

The coalition seeks to move the nation beyond dialogues about race and ethnicity to unearthing historic and contemporary patterns that are barriers to success, healing those wounds and creating opportunities for all children. The TRHT process will adapt some practices and learnings of previous Truth and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC) which have been instrumental in resolving deeply rooted conflicts around the world and will apply them in the United States in order to create a national, comprehensive enterprise to resolve the consequences of centuries of racism and structural inequities. By uncovering human rights violations and tragedies, and engaging populations in a healing process, TRCs have historically restored dignity and respect on many occasions, paving the way for the transforming of societies—a prevailing objective of the TRHT initiative.

The TRHT enterprise will also prioritize inclusive, community-based healing activities and policy design that seek to change collective community narratives and broaden the understanding that Americans have of their diverse experiences. The TRHT enterprise is led by Dr. Gail C. Christopher, the TRHT Vice President and Senior Advisor to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In announcing the initiative in January, Christopher noted that “racial hierarchy plays a central role in social, economic and government policies.... Until we change the consciousness of the nation to one that embraces all of humanity as having equal worth and all of our children deserving of equal opportunity, our democratic ideals will not be realized.”

Five teams composed of people representing a wide range of organizations are addressing such issues as narrative change, separation, law, economy and healing and relationship building by exploring the following questions through a series of meetings between July and November:

- Envision what a transformed society will look like in each area of focus;
- Describe current racial realities within each area of focus;
- Examine how the nation has arrived at our current situation;
- Identify key audiences and stakeholders important to resolving issues in each area of focus; and
- Recommend action steps to achieve the necessary transformation over the next 5-10 years.

#### **About Community Action Partnership**

*Based in Washington, DC, the Community Action Partnership provides training and other services to more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across America that help 20 million low-income people and families achieve economic stability and improve their lives. For more information, visit [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com) or follow the organization on Twitter, @CAPartnership or Facebook, Community Action Partnership national office.*

#### **About the W.K. Kellogg Foundation**

*The W.K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), founded in 1930 as an independent, private foundation by breakfast cereal pioneer, Will Keith Kellogg, is among the largest philanthropic foundations in the United States. Guided by the belief that all children should have an equal opportunity to thrive, WKKF works with communities to create conditions for vulnerable children so they can realize their full potential in school, work and life. The Kellogg Foundation is based in Battle Creek, Michigan, and works throughout the United States and internationally, as well as with sovereign tribes. Special emphasis is paid to priority*

*places where there are high concentrations of poverty and where children face significant barriers to success. WKKF priority places in the U.S. are in Michigan, Mississippi, New Mexico and New Orleans; and internationally, are in Mexico and Haiti. For more information, see: [www.wkkf.org](http://www.wkkf.org).*