

CA Elder & Disability Justice Coordinating Council: Equity Guiding Principles

The goal of the Elder and Disability Justice Coordinating Council is to increase coordination and develop recommendations to prevent and mitigate the harm of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and fraud perpetrated against older adults and adults with disabilities. Entities that have a role to play in abuse prevention include the civil and criminal legal systems and health and human services agencies. We recognize that past and current interventions and services to prevent mistreatment have had negative consequences for some victims, families, and communities as the result of systemic discrimination and biases. To counter these negative impacts and to ensure equity and inclusion moving forward, we are committed to letting the following principles guide all aspects of our work in planning, coordination, and program development.

1. We recognize that all adults deserve to live free from abuse, neglect and exploitation.
2. We acknowledge the existence of systemic racism and discrimination and its negative impacts and in order to combat its impacts we must center equity at all stages of our council's work.
3. Centering equity means not just creating equitable solutions for all older adults and adults living with disabilities but also recognizing that implicit bias exists within all of us. We are committed as a group to acknowledge and explore biases while doing the work of this council.
4. We acknowledge that while older adults and adults living with disabilities have many overlapping interests, they are distinct communities, and any policies examined by this council should examine impacts to each community.
5. We recognize the importance of hearing directly from older adults and adults living with disabilities as we complete our work. Their lived experiences should always be centered in our work.