



## **Juneteenth Holiday Announcement**

Dear colleague,

This week, Governor Murphy [signed legislation](#) designating Juneteenth as a state holiday, providing the third Friday in June as a day off to state employees. While for some this may be a welcome break right before the start of summer, what it represents to many residents in New Jersey is long overdue government recognition of a bittersweet moment in history. Juneteenth labels the days in mid-June 1865 when an estimated 250,000 slaves in and around Texas were freed – months after the Civil War ended and over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed.

The celebration of an end to slavery is fraught with mixed feelings, particularly since the oppression and mistreatment of African Americans and Black people continued legally for another 100 years, and still exists in many ways today. But, Governor Murphy believes, and I agree, that this act of acknowledging our country's harsh history is an important step – among many more reform efforts, including here at DCF – to promote equity and unity.

Juneteenth will give us all an opportunity to reflect and to consider ways we can advance meaningful efforts towards healing and reconciliation.

Stay safe and be well,  
Christine