

LINEAGE-BASED POLICY & REPARATIONS

Grounding Policy in Lineage Clarity and Jurisdiction for Foundational Black Americans

INTRODUCTION

For more than a century, U.S. institutions have relied on broad racial categories such as Black, African American, minority, and POC that group distinct populations together and conceal the specific harms inflicted on Foundational Black Americans. When the harmed population is misidentified, remedies fail to address the harm they were meant to repair.

Lineage-based policy corrects this error. It identifies the exact lineage harmed by federal, state, and local policy, traces the multigenerational impact, and ensures that interventions deliver repair to the rightful population. Without lineage specificity, resources drift, disparities widen, and structural harm continues.

LINEAGE-BASED HARM

Foundational Black Americans are a distinct lineage group formed in the United States through centuries of legally sanctioned oppression, extraction, and exclusion.

This lineage experienced:

- enslavement
- land dispossession
- Jim Crow segregation
- racial terrorism
- discriminatory federal housing and lending policies
- mass incarceration
- economic abandonment
- environmental dumping
- cultural erasure

These harms were not broadly distributed across all Black populations within America. They were imposed on a specific population with traceable descendants. Recognizing FBAs as a discrete lineage group is essential to designing policies that match the jurisdiction, scale, and legal nature of the harm.

Lineage is not a social preference. It defines who was harmed and who is owed repair.

RACE-BASED POLICY

Race-based policy assume that all people labeled “Black” share the same history and exposure. This assumption is both incorrect and structurally harmful.

Race-based and pan-ethnic approaches:

- combines FBAs with Black immigrant populations whose trajectories differ
- create inaccurate data that hides lineage-specific disparities
- dilutes resources intended to repair FBA harm
- allow institutions to appear compliant without addressing the root causes
- prevent policymakers from identifying legally repairable harm

This misclassification perpetuates structural neglect. Lineage-based policy restores precision.

LINEAGE-BASED POLICY

Lineage-based policy identifies:

- the specific population harmed
- the government actions that produced the harm
- the generational outcomes that followed
- the structural interventions required to repair the damage

It requires:

- lineage-disaggregated data
- jurisdiction-specific analysis
- clear, defensible eligibility criteria
- FBA-led governance and oversight
- strict protection against category collapse
- transparency and evaluation standards

This framework ensures that policy is grounded in truth, not generalization.

MISCLASSIFICATION HARM

Collapsing FBAs into broad racial or pan-ethnic categories causes three forms of structural harm:

- **Identity Harm**

Lineage is erased, weakening belonging and continuity.

- **Structural Harm**

Data becomes inaccurate, hiding lineage-specific disparities.

- **Resource Harm**

Funding and interventions intended for FBAs are redistributed to non-FBA groups.

Misclassification functions as a barrier to justice.

SSDH PATTERNS

Social and Structural Determinants of Health (SSDH) provide the most accurate framework for understanding the long-term impact of policy on FBA communities. SSDH indicators such as housing, education, employment, environmental conditions, safety, transportation, and healthcare access reveal how state-produced harm becomes inherited and systemic.

For FBAs, SSDH patterns are:

- inherited
- place-based
- policy-driven
- historically traceable

Lineage-based policy uses SSDH indicators to measure:

- the scale of harm
- the breadth of impact
- the domains requiring repair
- the interventions needed for restoration

SSDH is the diagnostics and lineage-based policy is the prescription.

DATA & ELIGIBILITY

Effective lineage-based policy requires:

- **Data**

Lineage-disaggregated SSDH data that reveals the true impact of state actions.

- **Evaluation**

Independent, academically rigorous assessments of lineage-specific outcomes.

- **Eligibility**

Clear and enforceable criteria tied to:

- documented FBA lineage,
- ancestry traced to U.S. chattel slavery before 1865,
- and verification through public records, archives, or valid documentation.

Eligibility is the boundary that protects accuracy and prevents misuse.

INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT

Institutions adopting lineage-based frameworks must:

- implement lineage-disaggregated reporting
- correct inaccurate data structures
- eliminate pan-ethnic category assumptions
- update funding and program definitions
- revise legislative and administrative criteria
- train staff on lineage literacy
- establish FBA-led advisory governance

Policies without structural alignment cannot produce repair.

STRUCTURAL REPAIR

Lineage-based policy extends beyond financial restitution and requires comprehensive structural repair.

This includes:

- **Data**

Lineage-based data standards required for all public agencies.

- **Housing**

Remediation for FBAs displaced by urban renewal, redlining, or discriminatory zoning.

- **Education**

Interventions that address school closures, discipline disparities, and chronic underfunding.

- **Economics**

Financial pathways for FBA-owned businesses in historically divested communities.

- **Health**

Infrastructure to correct medical neglect, hospital closures, and environmental exposure.

These examples illustrate how lineage-based frameworks reshape systems to address structural harm.

REPARATIONS PATHWAY

Reparations are not separate from lineage-based policy. They are its structural destination.

Lineage-based analysis clarifies:

- who was harmed
- how the harm occurred
- how long it persisted
- how it compounded
- how the state benefited

Reparations become:

- legally grounded
- jurisdictionally precise
- measurable and enforceable
- aligned with multigenerational restoration

Reparations match the scale of harm with the scale of repair.

REPARATIONS POLICIES

Reparations must be:

- lineage-specific
- federally financed
- structural and systemic
- multi-generational
- monetary and institutional
- aligned with SSDH indicators
- rigorously evaluated with transparent reporting
- governed and overseen by FBA leadership

Reparations strengthen the entire nation by stabilizing the communities most harmed by federal policy.

CONCLUSION

Lineage-based policy restores clarity where misclassification caused distortion, directs resources where harm occurred, and corrects the failures of race-based frameworks. Reparations emerge directly from this clarity as the necessary remedy for federally sanctioned lineage-specific harm.

Lineage-based policy tells the truth. Reparations complete the repair.

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