

LINEAGE-BASED POLICY & REPARATIONS

Grounding public policy in identity clarity, accuracy, and jurisdiction for Foundational Black Americans

INTRODUCTION

For more than a century, U.S. institutions have relied on broad racial categories—“Black,” “African American,” “minority,” “BIPOC”—that group distinct populations together and conceal the specific harms inflicted on Foundational Black Americans (FBAs). When the harmed population is misidentified, the remedy fails.

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 unchecked.

THE LINEAGE FRAME

Foundational Black Americans are a distinct lineage group formed inside U.S. borders 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. 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 is the boundary that determines who was harmed and who is owed repair.

LIMITS OF RACE-BASED POLICY

Race-based frameworks 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 damage
- prevent policymakers from identifying legally repairable harm

This misclassification is not neutral—it perpetuates structural neglect.

Lineage-based policy restores precision.

WHAT LINEAGE POLICY IS

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.

SSDH ANALYSIS

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—housing, education, employment, environmental conditions, safety, transportation, healthcare access—reveal the inherited and systemic effects of state-produced harm.

For FBAs, SSDH patterns are:

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

Lineage-based policy is the prescription.

MISCLASSIFICATION HARM

When FBAs are collapsed into broad racial or pan-ethnic categories, three forms of structural harm occur:

A. Identity Harm

Lineage is erased, weakening belonging and continuity.

B. Structural Harm

Data becomes inaccurate, hiding lineage-specific disparities.

C. Resource Harm

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

Misclassification is not an oversight—it is a barrier to justice.

DATA & ELIGIBILITY

Effective lineage-based policy requires:

A. Data

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

B. Evaluation

Independent, academically rigorous assessments of lineage-specific outcomes

C. Eligibility

Clear and enforceable criteria tied to:

- documented FBA lineage
- ancestry traced to enslaved Black Americans prior to 1865
- verification through public records, archival documentation, or community-recognized validation

Eligibility is the boundary that protects accuracy and prevents misuse.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

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

Policy, without structural alignment cannot produce repair.

POLICY EXAMPLES

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 and stabilization for FBAs displaced by urban renewal, redlining, or discriminatory zoning
- **Education**
Interventions that address school closures, discipline disparities, and chronic underfunding in FBA-majority districts
- **Economics**
Financial pathways for FBA-owned businesses in historically divested communities
- **Health**
Infrastructure investments correcting medical neglect, hospital closures, and environmental exposure in FBA neighborhoods

These examples illustrate how lineage-based frameworks reshape systems to directly confront lineage-specific 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
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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 REQUIREMENTS

Reparations must be:

- lineage-specific (FBA-only)
- 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. They are not charity, they are restitution.

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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