

State Employee MLK Program

- Hello, I am Kody Kinsley, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and I am pleased to welcome you all to the State Employees' Martin Luther King Jr. Day Program.
- Thank you, Governor Cooper, for the honor of opening this year's program, and for holding this annual event where we celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- I'm grateful for the chance to come together, albeit virtually, to commemorate the important legacies that Dr. King and the Civil Rights movement have provided us.
- Dr. King's life was one of purpose, impact, and grounded in core values of justice, equity, and service.
- As state employees, our work impacts millions of fellow North Carolinians. We are fortunate to have the opportunity and platform to generate meaningful change and must embed equity in every aspect of our purpose. Embed it into the people we are. The policies we write. And the processes that we design to serve the people of North Carolina.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted long-standing health disparities in historically marginalized communities. We must continue our efforts to tackle these disparities by investing in historically marginalized communities and ensuring we're contracting with diverse vendors.
- In the words of Dr. King – 'Life's more persistent and urgent question is – What are you doing for others?'
- I hope you'll join me in keeping Dr. King's legacy at the heart of our work and embracing his call to service for the benefit of others. Getting your COVID-19 vaccine, including the booster, wearing a high-quality mask, and getting tested are the essential tools for slowing the spread of COVID-19, AND the best way to protect our health, save lives and protect others.