



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Social Criteria Investment Screen

AUTHORITY

Like its predecessor churches, the ELCA has a legacy of investing in communities for the sake of human flourishing. Our deep concern for those affected adversely by our economy is articulated in the social statement *Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All* (1999), undergirding a promise made in *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture* (1993) to address how economic forces work against people of color. The church has also specifically committed itself to “advocate for and support economic policies, regulations, and practices that enhance equity and equality for women and girls, with special concern for raising up women and girls who experience intersecting forms of oppression” (*Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action*, p. 63).”

WORDING OF SCREEN

The ELCA seeks investment in organizations that promote development of communities and neighborhoods with a high proportion of people living in poverty, and/or people of color, with special consideration given to projects targeting girls and women who experience intersecting forms of oppression.

DEFINITION OF PROBLEM

The field of community economic development or positive social investing continues to grow both domestically and internationally, especially through microfinance loans. The goal is to maximize the flow of investment capital into projects that otherwise might not obtain sufficient capital to contribute to positive social impact, and/or to encourage corporations to embark on projects that will have a positive social impact.

Recognizing that various investors will implement this along a continuum, such investments might include, but are not limited to: low-income housing, job creation and training, social services, public health, food and agriculture, infrastructure, community entrepreneurship, small business development and financial services.

SOCIAL POLICY AND STUDIES

Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture <https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20>

Corporate Social Responsibility in the ELCA uses the tools of screening of investments, shareholder advocacy and community investing to work with corporations, calling them to ensure that people are treated fairly and with dignity and to create sustainable communities.

More at [ELCA.org/CSR](https://www.elca.org/CSR).

[Resource%20Repository/race ethnicity culture statement.pdf](#)

Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Economic_LifeSS.pdf

Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Faith_Sexism_Justice_Social_Statement_Adopted.pdf

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