



June 30, 2011

Dear Colleague:

On behalf of the Association of Black Psychologists and the Center for African American Research and Policy we would like to invite you to a unique opportunity to shape policy and practice to meet the needs of men, women, and youth involved with the criminal justice system. In a national collaboration effort, we are hosting a National Think Tank for African American Progress focused on solutions and strategies to inform policy among elected officials and praxis among service providers in the re-entry community.

The National Think Tank for African American Progress (Think Tank) is an opportunity to convene our collective genius. We are calling for your contribution in this important work. As a participant in the Think Tank you will experience the power of combining research, practice, and real world experiences in to solve problems.

Think Tanks are full day commitments to develop solutions to challenges confronting African American communities, in this case the revolving door of the criminal justice system. As a community participant you will be asked to give your time, energy, and thoughts. Unlike many professional conferences we will not spend time rehashing the obvious problem. Our purpose is clear - to develop SOLUTIONS. As part of this convening we have several scholars and experts from around the country who will offer prepared thoughts and commentary. As a participant we seek your in the moment reaction and additions to what they bring to the table.

We need your voice, your experiences, and ideas at the table. Please join us on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. We also invite you to join us on Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 to share in an Mbongi plenary convening where the results of the Think Tank will be shared with the collective membership of the Association of Black Psychologists and invited guests from the Congressional Black Caucus, federal agencies, and national Black organizations.

All convenings will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, VA. 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway Arlington, VA 22202 (703-418-1234). If you RSVP with the Association of Black Psychologists National Office, registration is free for the Think Tank and Mbongi Plenary Sessions.

Space is limited and rsvps will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Please contact Ms. Alisa Jackson at The Association of Black Psychologists to reserve your space (Alisa Jackson 202-722-0808 or [ajackson@abpsi.org](mailto:ajackson@abpsi.org)). Refreshments will be provided at the Tuesday convening.

Peace and Progress,  
Leon D. Caldwell, Ph.D.  
Chair, the National Think Tank for African American Progress

Cheryl Grills, Ph.D.  
President-Elect, The Association of Black Psychologists