

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

***Dorothy Irene
Height***

**Principaled
Intersectional
Transformational**



New York State
Society for Clinical
Social Work

Born March 24, 1912 in Richmond, Virginia, Dorothy Height was an African-American civil rights and women's rights activist.

She began her career as a caseworker in the New York City Welfare Department, grounding her lifelong advocacy in direct service with individuals and families.





Height exemplified social work values by advocating for structural change – challenging segregation, economic inequality, and gender bias – not just individual adjustment.

Her intersectional approach to racial and gender equity anticipated modern social work emphasis on connecting client well-being with community and policy contexts.

Dorothy Height received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal — among many of the United States’ highest civilian honors.

Height also received the NASW Lifetime Achievement Award for her extraordinary contributions to social justice and social work advocacy.



*Her life's work embodied
core clinical social work
values: dignity and worth of
the person, social justice,
and the linkage of individual
well-being with systemic
change.*





New York State
Society for Clinical
Social Work

“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It’s important to the person who serves as well as the recipient. It’s the way in which we ourselves grow and develop.”

DOROTHY IRENE
HEIGHT

