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African American Leadership: An Empowerment Tradition in Social Welfare History

Iris Carlton-Laney

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For far too long, the huge contribution of African Americans to the social work profession has been relegated to little more than a footnote. The truth is, these forward-thinking individuals enhanced the quality of life within and outside their communities for generations. Their stories have never been told. Until now. Sixteen painstakingly researched chapters, written by social workers, highlight the distinct roles of African American social work pioneers from the 1890s through the 1940s. The book discusses the birth of social welfare activities, both informal and formal, and introduces founding members of organizations such as the National Urban League and the National Association of Colored Women. Written from a social work perspective and framed within a historical context, these profiles and their accompanying lessons help today's practitioner make the connection to current issues. Special Features * Accurate information about African American social work pioneers that fills a significant gap in social work literature * Elements of client and community empowerment techniques in each profile * Critical information about history of race, culture, and underserved communities * Examination of diversity and cultural sensitivity issues within today's social work profession

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