

THE  **REDRESS**
MOVEMENT

Mid-year Impact Report 2024

The Redress Movement is entering its third year, and the beginning of 2024 has been an exciting journey, with new people joining our movement, new resources to help redress segregation, and significant campaign advancements. We're sharing everything we've been up to in the first half of the year and looking toward what's to come!

Organizing in Charlotte, Denver, and Milwaukee

In Charlotte, Redress mobilized to urge the city council to increase the housing trust fund. The Senior Campaign Organizer in Charlotte, Greg Jarrell, successfully organized with Redress neighbors and other local advocacy groups to get a referendum to double the city's Housing Trust Fund (HTF) allocation through a \$100M bond. Doubling the HTF bond from 2020's \$50M will help to account for inflation, the rising cost of materials, rising interest rates, and other increased costs to build homes. More importantly, new HTF money will incentivize developers to build affordable housing in middle and higher-income areas across Charlotte.

More than 200 Redress neighbors signed a petition in support of the HTF, and ten Redress neighbors spoke directly to city leaders in support of a bond package that would invest the \$100 million over two years in affordable housing. With the approval of the bond referendum for November ballots, Redress neighbors will further push for at least 25% of bond funds to support affordable homeownership initiatives. Redress neighbors will keep working to influence that funding to build maximum opportunity for the people of Charlotte!



In Denver, Redress worked in coalition to pass statewide policies that fight the displacement of people of color by limiting inequitable foreclosure practices and ensuring that corporate landlords cannot unnecessarily uproot families from their homes and communities without proper cause. The Redress Movement supported policies preventing metropolitan districts, which often operate similarly to homeowners' associations, from foreclosing on homeowners. The coalition's advocacy also led to the creation of clear policies and procedures for homeowners' associations to abide by, improving accountability and consistency when enforcing their policies on homeowners. This victory goes a long way toward stopping abusive and exploitative foreclosure practices that disproportionately impact people of color.



Redress also supported passing Just Cause renter protections, which require landlords to provide a reason for evicting a tenant. These new protections add another critical layer of security for local renters amidst surging evictions and a rental housing shortage. Government and private institutions have historically used displacement as a tool to create and maintain segregation—policies like these help to redress segregation’s harmful legacy.

Denver Redress neighbors reflected on these wins with a cookout! We had food, fellowship, and an opportunity to tell new community members how to continue to create positive change in our communities by redressing residential segregation. Celebration is an important part of our organizing, giving us space to reflect and bring joy and new people into the movement.

In Milwaukee, Redress neighbors supported the building of affordable housing in a well-resourced suburb and spurred the creation of a joint majority-resident City-County Housing Committee, called the Cities and County Housing Committee, that will address housing disparities across Milwaukee.

In February, Redress neighbors made a significant step to redress segregation in the Whitefish Bay community. The 130-year-old Whitefish Bay suburb is 83% white compared to the city of Milwaukee, which has a majority of people of color. Segregation like that is never an accident and is instead the result of choices like restrictive zoning policies, redlining, and other efforts to keep communities exclusive. In keeping with a long tradition of resistance





to the placement of affordable housing in majority-white communities, many Whitefish Bay residents opposed the proposed development, which would have been the community's first publicly financed affordable housing development. The opposition initially successfully challenged the development - in January 2024, the community's governing body chose to deny a building permit for the project. While the proposed development represents an important step forward in making Whitefish Bay more open and inclusive, the opportunity of this development was coupled with immediate ramifications for some community members. Six Black families were displaced from the site of the proposed development after the prior property owners converted the families' rental contracts to monthly leases and sold the land to the affordable housing developer without informing the renting families of the pending sale. While we undergo the work of redressing segregation, we face unique challenges in each city where we try to reduce the harm in undoing the legacy of segregation. Since our work is deeply embedded and informed by community members, we organize holistically with community members both fighting for change and those directly impacted by the ramifications of segregation.

After more than 250 Redress neighbors sent notes to the Board of Appeals to support an integrated Whitefish Bay, the development was approved and is on track to provide low-wealth residents with affordable housing and access to a higher-wealth community.

Redress neighbors and Roundtable members in Milwaukee successfully pushed for the passage of an ordinance creating a standing Housing Committee at the County Board of Supervisors that will address the lack of equitable housing access in that community. Following sustained base building and community-building by Redress' Senior Campaign Organizer in Milwaukee, Dynasty Cesar, and other Redress neighbors, community members were galvanized to send over 200 letters to their county-wide elected officials, and 46 people RSVP'd to the in-person Board of Supervisors vote. In March, the County Board of Supervisors voted to create the Cities and County Housing Committee.

In June, Dynasty gathered Redress neighbors to voice their support for the City Council to pass the ordinance authorizing joint City-County ownership of the Cities and County Housing Committee. The City Council voted to pass the ordinance, with Alderman Stamper taking the time to [thank The Redress Movement](#) for organizing to create a more equitable community.

Through our collective action and community support, Milwaukee is one step closer to having a ["centralized, official venue for conversations that bridge the gap between community members facing housing insecurity"](#) and the elected officials who can redress residential segregation through local action. The committee will have 21 members - nine

nine ex-officio members, including a combination of local elected officials and nonprofit leaders, while the majority of the committee will consist of appointed community members.

National (Digital) Organizing

Virtual orientations for new Redress neighbors joining our movement are held monthly. Everyone who attends an orientation has already had a one-on-one call with an organizer in their community. At each orientation, Redress's mission and staff are introduced. Organizers discuss their current work in each city, and neighbors go into breakout groups by city to do a visioning exercise together, before the session concludes with ways to get involved.

During the first half of 2024, more than 100 community members in Milwaukee, Denver, and Charlotte were welcomed as Redress neighbors and participated in Redress orientation sessions.

Research & Policy Engagement

Redress' work is based on original research and analysis around the history of how the government, at all levels, colluded with private real estate interests to create segregation. Redress' organizers and Roundtables leverage this research to investigate, identify, and promote potential opportunities for solutions that redress the harms of segregation. In addition to research and analysis, Redress team members create resources and educational tools to uncover hyperlocal histories and impacts of segregation.



Earlier this year, we launched [The Redress Policy Toolbox](#) because, as more people learn about the steps our government and the real estate industry took to segregate this country, they want to learn how to stop and undo that harm. One of Redress's responsibilities is to ensure the communities we work with have a solid shared understanding of the solutions and how we actually redress segregation. With over 1,200 page views and 700 users (the highest engagement out of all our resources), the toolbox shows that solutions, like our organizing model, aren't a one-size-fits-all situation. Different solutions make sense in different places. The toolbox first starts with a short survey to help users understand the kind of community they live in. Once users have figured out which of the six neighborhood types fits, they can look at the best practices and policies to redress segregation and are directed to additional resources.

TAKE THE TOOLBOX SURVEY

Lessons from the Field

The Redress Movement hosts regular conversations to build bridges between organizations and communities and to grow understanding of the links between segregation, climate justice, disparate health outcomes, and other social justice movements.

WATCH PAST WEBINARS HERE

Thought Leadership

Redress works to educate and mobilize communities to address and understand the barriers to achieving true redress nationwide, in addition to partnering with communities to identify and promote solutions that remedy the effects of residential segregation.



Redress' Executive Director, Cashauna Hill, continues to share Redress' vision, impact, and victories in communities nationwide. In February, Cashauna was a panelist for a Continuing Legal Education seminar sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, titled "We See You: Remembering and Acknowledging Lost, Erased, and Ignored Communities of Color in Louisiana." In April, which is celebrated as Fair Housing Month, she provided the keynote for the Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana's annual conference, presenting "Fair Housing: Protecting Us All," and inspired attendees to think about ways they can actively work to promote inclusive and welcoming communities and help overcome the legacies of segregation and redlining. In addition, Cashauna was the keynote for the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center's [Reversing Segregation: Innovation in Action](#) convening and a panelist at Fair Housing Advocates of Northern California's [conference](#), covering some of the causes as well as the effects of residential segregation, and ways to address them. In May, Cashauna traveled to Boston for the Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions' annual Opportunity Youth Forum spring convening, where she presented "Extended Punishment: How Background Checks Impact Housing Choice."

Looking Ahead

New Staff: Redress is growing, and new members are joining the team! Maya Simpkins, Development Director, and Malika Holder, Finance Director, have joined the senior leadership team. Clarice Dombeck joined as the Senior Campaign Organizer in Omaha, Nebraska, leading local strategies to redress residential segregation.

Organizing Expansion: The Redress Movement has officially begun formal organizing to redress segregation in Omaha! Redress' work in Omaha begins at an important time for that community. The City of Omaha recently developed a new Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, shaping the city's future growth and development, while other planning efforts have led to a historic amount of funding being earmarked for a historically disinvested community. The process of convening a Redress Roundtable will begin with a listening tour planned for August.



Building on Success in Redress Cities:

Milwaukee: Building on the successful formation of the Cities and County Housing Committee, it is now necessary to hold local government accountable to ensure the committee is majority-resident and has the necessary resources to make material change. The community will have an opportunity to address, among other issues, the low Black homeownership rate and the lack of City-County mobility, as well as build on the momentum that has started over the past few years.

Charlotte: In September, the Charlotte Roundtable will host a public education event at Johnson C. Smith University on the lineage of displacement in Charlotte. Speakers with lived experience with displacement, a historian, and an organizer will discuss the struggle of displacement and North Carolina's legacy of building power through broad-based, multi-racial organizing.

Denver: In June, Senior Campaign Organizer Kevin Patterson hosted a “Know Your Rights” training in collaboration with the Community Economic Defense Project (CED LAW) to provide community members with a space to discuss the implications of the new hard-rights for renters and homeowners we won at the Colorado legislature. Kevin continues to share information about the shifts in legislation in the Green Valley Ranch community.

