



A funded intergovernmental Champaign County Reparations Commission for African Americans

The Champaign-Urbana Reparations Coalition (CURC) has been engaged for over two years in community education, has compiled data from a survey of residents, and is in conversation with local decision-makers. We seek community support as we move toward the formation of a Champaign County Reparations Commission for African Americans.

We have prepared a **memorandum** to accompany an ordinance to be used by partners to establish an intergovernmental commission. Below is a brief summary of its contents. To see the full version, contact CURC at cureparations@gmail.com.

The ask: The City of Urbana, The City of Champaign, The County of Champaign, and the University of Illinois establish and fund a Champaign County Reparations Commission for African Americans to document the need for reparations and bring recommendations for action to the public governing bodies and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC).

Our vision: An 11-member commission with at least 51% to be community members to ensure that the leadership and recommendations authentically represent African American residents of Champaign County. Each governmental body shall contribute \$25,000 to the work of the Commission.

The work: Research into local histories of discrimination and subsequent harms, the preparation of a comprehensive harms report, community education and involvement, identification of potential models of repair, location of funding sources, and finally presentation of legislation to enact repair. Absent an honest look at our history and its repercussions in our present, we cannot reach our potential for the future.

Who we are: The Champaign-Urbana Reparations Coalition (CURC) seeks reparations for African American people. Our goal is to address the historic and ongoing harms caused by systemic racism and discrimination and, guided by those most impacted, to work towards creating a more just and equitable society for all. The harms of the legacies of enslavement to African Americans are stark and these harms affect all of us. We believe that reparations are a necessary step towards rectifying the injustices of the past and creating a more equitable future. We began work in May 2023, led by Dr. Jeff Trask. We will provide support to the Commission.

National snapshot: Slavery and the subsequent caste system have harmed generations. These systems created the foundation of the US financial portfolio, which has long benefitted everyone in the United States but leaves a significant wealth gap between people of European descent and those of African descent, specifically the formerly enslaved and their succeeding generations.

Local history: Laws and policies in this County have systematically contributed to and exacerbated racial inequalities in housing, health and well-being, education, employment, and public safety. The University of Illinois also has shaped and solidified racial inequities. Contact CURC for a longer harms report.

Assets: Our communities have already taken steps toward racial equity in forming committees and passing resolutions. We have robust resources and personnel for historical research. Local residents carry our history. There are good models for action underway in cities and states across the country.