

RUSSELL CITY REPARATIVE JUSTICE PROJECT

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Homebuyers' and Homeowner's Assistance Grants for Former Russell City Former Residents and their Descendants

Summary of the Reporative Justice Recommendation: Develop a group of homeowner's and homebuyer's assistance grants for Russell City former residents and their descendants. Create grants that support the purchases or capital improvements of homes in Hayward. In addition, develop grants for repairs and maintenance of homes which can be used by Russell City former residents living in the United States. The exact amount of homebuyers' and homeowners' grants will depend on how much money is available from the City of Hayward and how many people qualify. Finally, a third party will be hired to administer the program over a five-year period.

Reparative Justice Description and Justification: Create grants to support the purchase, improvement, repair, or maintenance of homes. None of the programs will have income restrictions. Grants for purchase and capital improvement must be applied to homes in Hayward, while repair and maintenance grants can be applied to homes within the United States. A third party will be hired to administer the program over a five-year period.

Homeowners' assistance programs will include:

- repair and maintenance grants for routine updates such as appliances, painting, cleaning gutters, and/or protecting the overall asset, and
- capital improvement grants for renovations, major developments, and/or establishment of rental properties.

Homebuyers' assistance grant will support the costs of:

- down payment and closing costs to purchase homes or property in Hayward, California, or
- assistance grants to reduce the principal balance on an existing mortgage loan for a property in Hayward, California.

Eligibility Criteria: To qualify for the proposed homebuyers' and homeowner's assistance grants, beneficiaries must apply to be included on the preference list by establishing that they are:

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1. A former resident of Russell City who can prove they lived there between 1950 and 1967 with valid documentation ⁱ, or
2. A descendant with at least one ancestor who lived in Russell City between 1950 and 1967. You must provide proof of your ancestor's residency and show that you are related to them. ⁱⁱ

Reparative Justice Objectives

- **Objective 1:** Make a list of living Russell City former residents using City of Hayward records, County of Alameda documents, and research with the Russell City community.
- **Objective 2:** Hire professional genealogists to create family trees of Russell City former residents and descendants. They will also help find the public records needed to make the list of former residents and descendants.
- **Objective 3:** Initiate partnerships with academic departments at California State University, East Bay and Chabot College to get student support with researching relevant public records held by the County of Alameda, Hayward Unified School District, and City of Hayward (e.g. Birth certificates, school records, marriage records, tax documents, etc.).
- **Objective 4:** Make a preference list of qualifying Russell City former residents using City of Hayward records, County of Alameda documents, and outreach with the Russell City community.
- **Objective 5:** Procure a community-based provider to manage and administer City of Hayward homeowners' and homebuyers' assistance grants.
- **Objective 6:** Approve grant amounts and quantities based on available budget over five (5) fiscal years.
- **Objective 7:** Issue the first group of homeowners' and homebuyers' assistance grants during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.
- **Objective 8:** Over four fiscal years, give out four more rounds of homeowners' and homebuyers' assistance grants between the 2026-2027 fiscal year to the 2029-2030 fiscal years.
- **Objective 9:** Look for and apply for additional funding to provide more homeowners' and homebuyers' assistance grants to Russell City former residents and descendants.

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i Documentation to verify eligibility may include, but is not limited to, deeds, leases, rental agreements, tax documents, birth certificates, marriage certificates, school records, utility bills, bank statements, and/or insurance documents.

ii Documentation to verify eligibility may include, but is not limited to, deeds, leases, rental agreements, tax documents, birth certificates, marriage certificates, school records, utility bills, bank statements, and/or insurance documents. Birth certificates will be required to verify familial connections.