

The Public Health Case For Reparations & Insights from the Field

BARHII

Bay Area Regional Health
Inequities Initiative



Session Objectives

- Discuss the intersections of public health and reparations policy.
- Learn about local government progress to design and implement reparations programs.
- Discuss the current legal landscape and legal considerations for racial equity and reparations practitioners.





Audience Poll

- What brings your organization to the reparations conversation?
- What key questions do you have about this topic?



THE PROMISE OF REPARATIONS: FINALLY ADDRESSING THE COMMUNITY CONDITIONS AND GENERATIONAL INJUSTICES THAT CREATE HEALTH DISPARITIES.

Grounding

- Reparations is a process of repairing, healing and restoring a people injured because of their group identity and in violation of their fundamental human rights by governments, corporations, institutions, and families.
- Those groups that have been injured have the right to obtain from the government, corporation, institution or family responsible for the injuries that which they need to repair and heal themselves.

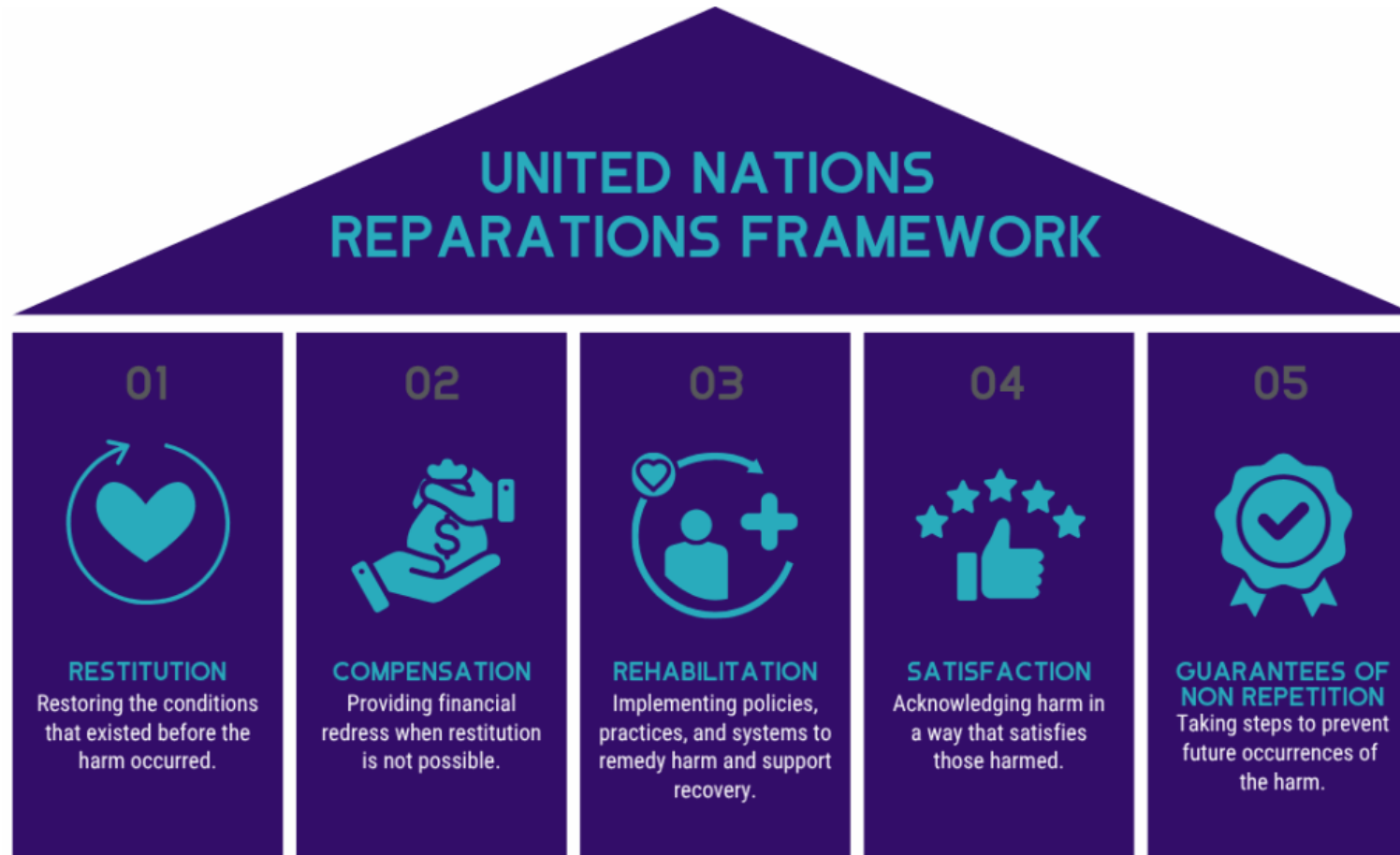


Impact of Generational Wealth Stripping

- **Estimated Debts Owed From Enslavement:** Calculations for unpaid wages owed to enslaved people amounts to \$19.4 trillion in today's dollars.
- **Estimated Debts Owed From Special Field Order No. 15:** If each freedman was eligible to receive 40 acres of land, \$1.6 billion would have been paid in 1865, compounding to \$12.6 trillion at a six percent interest rate in 2019.
- **Estimated Wealth Gap in California:** According to a recent UCLA Study, the average household income in CA is \$92,100 for whites, \$105,000 for Asians and \$64,000 for Latinos — while only \$56,800 for Black Californians.



Government Lens: Adopting the United Nations Framework for Repair





A Government That Is Just: Repair In Motion

- **California (2020):** AB 3121 establishes the California State Reparations Task Force to develop recommendations for African Americans.
- **Across the Nation (2020):** Over 200 jurisdictions declare racism a public health crisis.
- **Federal Policy (2021):** House Resolution 40 is introduced to create a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans Act.
- **Evanston, IL (2021):** Evanston, IL passes and implements the first reparations initiative to address housing discrimination.
- **(2021-present):** From San Francisco to New York, a groundswell of local government commitments are made across the nation, including recent restitution in Palm Springs California to survivors of Section 14 burning and displacement. Over 225 reparations efforts are underway in local governments, school districts, and state entities.



Panel Discussion

- Why reparations?
- Where is the field now?
- What does it take to launch efforts?
- Who is repair for?
- Beyond money—what is repair?
- How can others contribute?





Ways to Get Involved: Building the Infrastructure for Black Health Repair

- **Launching in 2026** Email info@barhii.org to get on the mailing list.
 - Join a new **Community of Practice** for government and community leaders working to advance reparations and build systems of repair.
 - Grounded in field-wide knowledge and lived expertise
 - Anchored by a new **guidebook** in development with journalists from *Black Enterprise* and reparationists from across the country
 - Designed to connect practical tools for government staff, legal guidance, and network of support for action
- **Now**
 - Join a local campaign in your region. Attend information sessions, show your support at hearings, visit with your local elected officials.

SIGN UP TO STAY CONNECTED

Email info@barhii.org to join
the **Reparations Community of
Practice Interest List**.

Melissa Jones, Executive Director

Mjones@barhii.org

Robyn Taylor, Senior Fellow- Health
Equity Practice

Rtaylor@barhii.org



Bay Area Regional Health
Inequities Initiative