

# NBCI's 150,000 Churches Support the City of Evanston, Illinois Reparation Program- Prepare to File a Lawsuit

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, June 22, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [National Black Church Initiative](#)<sup>1</sup> (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino faith communities, comprising 27.7 million members, that support Evanston, Illinois reparations program.

Rev. Anthony Evans, president of the National Black Church Initiative, says, "We plan to sue the Trump Administration if they interfere with this city's right to administer the reparation program. . The Federal government has no legal standing in this case, according to constitutional scholars familiar with it. I have asked our churches in Evanston to prepare themselves to become parties to our lawsuit against DOJ

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— *Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative*

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[Evanston, Illinois](#)<sup>2</sup> made history in 2021 by becoming the first U.S. city to implement a publicly funded reparations program for Black residents. Aimed at addressing historical housing discrimination and redlining between 1919 and 1969, the initiative has recently faced intensified legal and federal scrutiny.

## The Program Details

- Eligibility: Grants are designated for Black residents who lived in Evanston between 1919 and 1969, as well as their direct descendants.
- Funding: The program is financed through the city's real estate transfer tax and revenue from recreational marijuana sales.
- Benefits: [Qualifying individuals](#)<sup>3</sup> receive up to \$25,000 to be used toward home purchases, mortgage payments, or home repairs. The program has since expanded to allow recipients to take this as a direct cash payment.
- Impact: To date, the city has awarded millions of dollars in financial assistance to hundreds of [eligible recipients](#)<sup>4</sup>. The program has faced ongoing pushback and legal scrutiny.
- Judicial Watch Lawsuit: A lawsuit was filed by a group of non-Black Evanston residents arguing that the race-based requirements are discriminatory and violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
- DOJ Intervention: The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) officially intervened in the lawsuit, challenging the program's use of race and ancestry to distribute public benefits.

Despite these legal challenges, the City of Evanston has continued to defend the legality of its program while the litigation proceeds. To date, the city has dispensed millions of dollars to hundreds of local Black residents. Despite the current legal challenge, NBCI will center on standing. We do not believe any of the outside conservative groups has standing.

ABOUT NBCI



Rev Anthony Evans, President National Black Church Initiative



Hon. Todd Blanche, Acting US Attorney General

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 150,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. The mission of NBCI is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches, and the public. NBCI utilizes faith and sound health science, partnering with major organizations and officials to reduce racial disparities in various areas, as cited above. NBCI's programs are guided by credible statistical analysis, science-based strategies and techniques, and methods that deliver effective solutions to complex economic and social challenges.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.naltblackchurch.com>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.mellon.org/grant-story/the-nations-first-reparations-program-grounded-in-black-history>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.racialequityalliance.org/viewdocument/evanston-restorative-housing-progra>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/reparations-evanston-il-transforming-lives-black-residents-rcna173534>

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This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/918991359/>

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