

Advancing Racial Equity

in North Carolina

FALL 2019



Shifting Power to Communities of Color for Racial Justice in NC

IN ORDER TO CREATE a just, multi-racial, democratic society free from oppression and exploitation, where people of color thrive with power and purpose, we must create unprecedented structural change. To achieve this, Race Forward believes that we need to:

- Shift power to communities of color
- Transform culture to counter racist narratives and ideologies
- Create policies that lead to racially equitable outcomes that improve day-to-day, lived conditions for people of color
- Transform institutions and sectors to function as producers of racial equity.

Given the pervasive nature of racial disparities, communities need spaces where people come together across issue areas and sectors to develop long-term strategies that shift power and resources to communities of color.

The focus of our place-based efforts in North Carolina is to engage with organizers, advocates, organizations and sectors that are committed to advancing racial equity, identify opportunities to deepen efforts and help concentrate resources to address needs and gaps. Initial activities include:

- Deepening our understanding of the local racial history and current racial justice struggles across the state
- Familiarizing ourselves with the local racial justice landscapes
- Clarity from communities of what should be Race Forward's role in racial justice efforts in NC
- Identifying opportunities to strengthen current racial justice efforts, whether through deepening collaboration across networks and geographies, or supporting alignment across leadership, organizations, networks, and sectors.

“Growing Together, Strengthening Our Roots” Convening in Greensboro



IN AUGUST, 2018, in collaboration with the Racial Equity Institute (REI), Race Forward convened a group of over 60 racial justice leaders, organizers and advocates from around the state at the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro to explore a collective vision for advancing racial equity across North Carolina. Participants shared views on how to build collective power for more effective partnership with local government entities, such as school districts, courts, and town and county governments. Key takeaways included:

- NC racial equity leaders seek opportunities to come together across regions to problem solve and share strategy, which is critical to shifting power in their home communities.
- Building and deepening relationships, outside of times of crisis creates readiness and resiliency, a deeper sense of community, and solidarity across race.
- NC racial equity leaders want to “widen the tent” for more intergenerational collaboration and regional strategy planning.
- Please see these [graphic notes](#) by NC-based designer and artist, Jeff Crosby for more details on the convening. In closing, the following were lifted up as priorities:

Need to prioritize
Strategy creation
Building relationships and keeping them
Rise above personality
Collective power



Facing Race 2020

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE that Race Forward's next [Facing Race](#), a national conference for racial justice organizers, advocates and practitioners will take place on November 12th-14th, 2020 in Raleigh! Please save the date.

Transforming Communities for Racial Equity: the Role of NC Local Government

EARLIER THIS YEAR, Race Forward's Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) convened around 200 local government employees from jurisdictions across North Carolina including the City of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, City of Durham, Durham County, and the City of Asheville. Together participants gained a shared understanding of the role and responsibility of local government in advancing racial equity and began to create a shared vision for improving outcomes for communities of color in North Carolina.

In October, Race Forward's GARE network launched its first year-long learning cohort of local government staff from across 8 jurisdictions, including Greensboro, Raleigh, Caswell County, Durham (city and county), Carboro, Chapel Hill and statewide justice system advocates at Race Matters for Juvenile Justice.

To learn more about GARE in NC and member jurisdictions in your area, [click here](#).

Racial Equity in Action in NC

[Restoration of Rights, Driver's Licenses](#)



CHUCK MANNING, a lifelong Durham resident who was formerly incarcerated, or justice-involved, became the bridge between city government and his community. [Learn more](#) about how he worked with community members most impacted to find a solution to restoring rights in the form of driver's licenses.

The Racial Equity Toolkit in Land-Use Planning

IN 2017, STUDENTS at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill used the Racial Equity Toolkit to analyze Chapel Hill's program's racial equity impacts. [Click here to learn more](#).

We'd love to hear from you!

IF YOU ATTENDED THE GREENSBORO CONVENING last year, please let us know what you feel might be important next steps. You'll find a short survey by clicking [here](#).

Questions?

Please contact Race Forward at: communitypower@raceforward.org