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New Report Reveals Guaranteed Income is a Viable Path to Reparations for Police Violence Survivors

NEW ORLEANS, LA, — The ACLU of Louisiana (ACLU-LA) and the Fund for Guaranteed Income (F4GI) have released a landmark report “*The Cost of Freedom - Truth and reconciliation Guaranteed Income piloting paths to reparations*” detailing the outcomes of the *Truth & Reconciliation Guaranteed Income Program*—the first guaranteed income initiative in the United States to provide financial redress to survivors of police violence.

The initiative was privately funded by **Gracie Close and Buck Close**, descendants of one of the South’s most prolific slave traders, making Truth and Reconciliation a model for what national reparations for chattel slavery might look like.

“We donated the gift that started the Truth & Reconciliation Project because we know the ignoble truth—that the fiscal benefits slavery created for white people and this country have not ended,” **said Gracie Close, a program funder.** “To be clear, this was not a handout. This was a debt owed.” ”

The pilot program, which ran over the course of a year, delivered **unconditional cash transfers of \$1,000 per month** to 12 individuals across Louisiana who experienced police brutality or harassment but received no settlement or public acknowledgment.

Key Themes and Findings from the Report:

Participants in the guaranteed income program reported using the funds to cover the immense financial burden of their experiences, spending between \$2,500 and \$150,000 fighting wrongful charges, paying court debt, and attempting to clear their names.

The Participants’ experiences are not unique. The report reveals how participants are caught within Louisiana’s criminal legal system—where incarcerated people are paid between \$0.02 and \$0.40 an hour and which continues the legacy of racialized economic exploitation. Over 200 people have been killed by police in Louisiana in the past decade, yet accountability remains rare. More than 3,000 civilian complaints have been filed against law enforcement since 2013, with only 10% resulting in rulings in favor of the complainants.

In total, the program transferred \$204,000 directly to survivors, pairing cash support with wraparound services to demonstrate that direct cash transfers are a viable model for reparations—urgent, scalable, and rooted in the truth that we all are owed a rightful share of the nation’s collective wealth.

A Policy Roadmap Toward Reparations As of 2025, the U.S. spends **twice as much on police, prisons, and the courts as it does on cash welfare programs.** The report outlines immediate steps to stop harmful policies, invest directly in people, and confront the deep racial inequities embedded in the nation's founding logic.

“This is a blueprint for justice—guided by those who’ve survived the worst of a system built on extraction, control, and silence.” said Nika Soon-Shiong, founder of F4GI.

To access the full report or learn more about the Program, visit f4gi.org/pilot/reparationsreport/.

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