

**DESEGREGATE
CONNECTICUT**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020 - 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

DesegregateCT was founded in June 2020, in the wake of George Floyd's murder, to expose the role land use policies play in Connecticut's staggering economic and racial segregation and to make significant structural change. This Annual Report covers the organization's first year (June 2020-June 2021).

Starting with a handful of eager volunteers, we grew by the end of our first year into a diverse coalition of 72 nonprofit organizations, including the state chapters of the Sierra Club, American Institute of Architects, and American Planning Association. By June 2021, nearly 60 people had served on the core team and the Zoning Atlas research team.

In our first year, we focused on three core activities:



01 — Research

Our research gathered and analyzed data so people can connect the dots on housing, health, the economy, and the environment.



02 — Educate

Our education efforts expand public knowledge about housing segregation and zoning impacts - and alternatives to the status quo.



03 — Advocate

Our advocacy efforts activated communities, generated policy ideas, and mobilized for change.

JUNE 2020
DesegregateCT formed.

JULY 2020
Our first coalition members gathered together.

SEPT 2020
Our public education events reached a 1,000-attendee milestone.

JAN 2021
We released the Zoning Atlas to the public.

FEB 2021
The legislature introduced zoning reform legislation we promoted.

JUNE 2021
Zoning reform became law - a year and a day after we first met.



RESEARCH

THE ZONING ATLAS

The Zoning Atlas is a first-in-the-nation compendium of over 80 housing-related characteristics of local zoning laws, connected with GIS data. It gives parcel-level data as to whether zoning allows:

- 1/2/3/4+ family housing
- Accessory apartments
- Housing around transit stations
- Small or large lot sizes
- Easy or onerous permitting

... And much more! In addition to becoming a go-to resource for the Connecticut public, the Atlas has become a template for like-minded groups in several other states. It has also been used to support research by our fiscal sponsor, the Regional Plan Association, and is the basis for additional regulatory and spatial research underway.

180 zoning jurisdictions

2,620 zoning districts

32,378 pages of zoning codes

KEY FINDINGS:

- 91.1% of residential land freely allows 1-family
- 2.1% of residential land freely allows 4+family
- 4/5 of 1-family lots must be 40,000+ SF

The Atlas was completed in partnership with the CT Data Collaborative, whose work was generously funded by the Community Foundation of Eastern CT!

ISSUE BRIEF: “THE ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE FOR LAND USE REFORM IN CONNECTICUT”

Our May 2021 economic development issue brief focused on two key issues:

- **Restrictive land use has devastating costs for Connecticut.** It limits housing supply and affordability, dampens economic growth and job creation, constrains tax revenues, contributes to population decline and reinforces segregation.
- **Zoning reform unlocks inclusive growth.**





EDUCATE

PUBLIC EVENTS & ENGAGEMENT

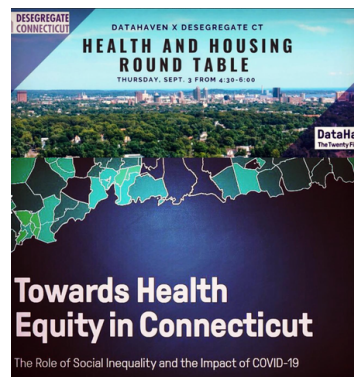
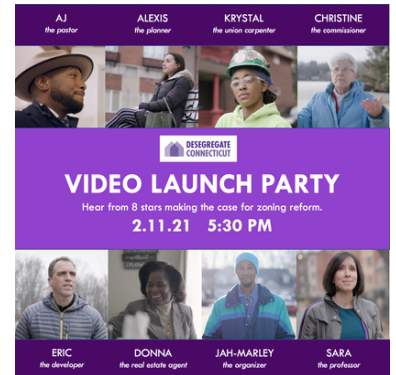
Over its first year, the DesegregateCT team organized **26** events, both online and in person, with over **2,000** attendees. We aimed to ensure people could learn about the impact of zoning – and how they could change it.

Our events featured researchers, planners, religious and community leaders, elected officials, and others. Some topics included:

- How to Read the Zoning Atlas
- Zoning and Health Equity
- The Benefits of Housing Around Transit
- Form-Based Codes

With the support of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, we ran two "Zoning 101" workshops for capitol-region residents. And we held four events with neighboring groups in MA & NY.

We also accepted invitations to speak at **52** community events with over **2,500** attendees. We visited groups in Colchester, Darien, Hebron, Newtown, and Westport, among others. And we spoke at events organized by area nonprofits and government agencies, including EquityCT, Partnership for Strong Communities, the CT Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities, the CT Bar Association, and the Center for Latino Progress.



6 VIDEOS ON ZONING REFORM

Released in February 2021 & available online!



SOCIAL MEDIA BY JUNE 2021:



1,748 Twitter followers



552 Instagram followers



10,000s reached



ADVOCATE

PASSING HB 6107

People said the Land of Steady Habits would never change. A day and a year after our launch, we proved them wrong by helping pass HB 6107, the first major statewide zoning reform in a generation.

To ensure passage, we attracted thousands of people to our mailing list and social media accounts. We developed a highly-visited website, jam-packed with research and resources for curious people. We held press conferences with elected officials and advocates, while enabling many others to find and use their voice.



WHAT THE BILL ACHIEVED

Among other things, the 2021 zoning reforms:

- Legalized accessory apartments
- Required trainings and certifications for zoning officials
- Modernized traffic standards, and
- Eliminated minimum unit size requirements.

Connecticut also became the first state to:

- Cap parking mandates for housing
- Require zoning codes to “affirmatively further” fair housing, and
- Develop a model form-based code which will lead to more objective decision-making.

AND HOW WE ACHIEVED IT:



weekly phonebanks



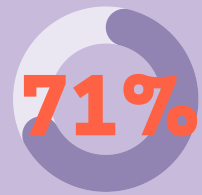
nonprofits in a united coalition



editorials & op-eds



pieces of favorable written testimony



favorable spoken testimony at the hearing

Thank you to legislative leadership and cosponsors, the members of the DesegregateCT coalition, and the hundreds of individuals who took the time to learn, rally, and contact legislators!



BUDGET & SUPPORT

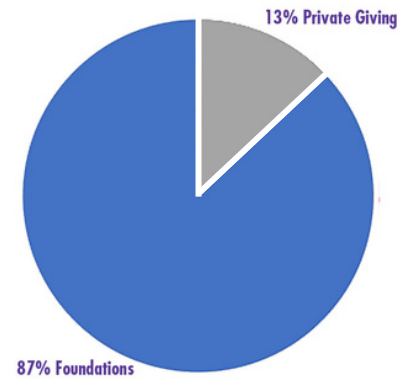
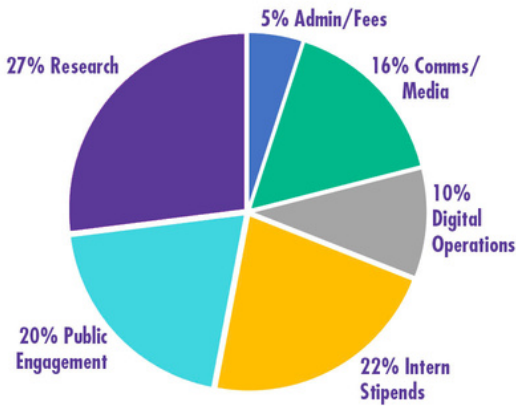
With fiscal sponsorship of the Regional Plan Association, the DesegregateCT budget for the year ending June 30, 2021 is as follows:

EXPENSES

Admin/Fees	\$ 4,252
Digital Operations	\$ 8,267
Comms/Media	\$ 13,477
Public Engagement	\$ 17,178
Intern Stipends	\$ 19,054
Research	\$ 23,000
TOTAL	\$ 85,228

REVENUE

Private Giving	\$ 8,973
Foundations	\$ 60,047
Foundation - to CT	
Data Collaborative	\$ 23,000
TOTAL	\$ 92,020
Net	\$ 6,792



OUR FOUNDATION FUNDERS:



OUR FULL NONPROFIT COALITION:



OUR TEAM

● Key Team Members FY 2021

Lead Organizer: Sara Bronin
Deputy Director: Luke Reynolds
Political Director: Eleni Neyland
Legal Fellow: Nick Abbott
Partnerships Coordinator: Robby Hill
Program Manager: Michael Coulom
Senior Policy Fellow: Nick Guertin

Advocacy Fellow: Kevin Kurian
Digital Coordinator: Akash Kaza
Continuing Team Members: Sokaina Asar,
Kathryn Blanco, Sosa Erhabor, Pete
Harrison, Jared Klukas, Chelsea Osei, Josh
Picoult, Samantha Sondik



● Project Alumni

Alexandra Barnes, Julia Carey-Ruiz, John Dunn, Alana Ervin, Kevin Fitzgerald, Anibal Gomez-Contreras III, Duncan Grimm, Muad Hrezi, Nicholas Klagge, Amanda Kwong, Nathaniel McLaughlin, Audrey Rossignol, Katy Sherer, Leigh Stewart, Ming Thompson, Emily Tian, Will Viederman, Daisy Wang, Kim Winter

● Zoning Atlas Team

Visualization: Ilya Ilyankou and the CT Data Collaborative



GIS Map Coordination: Cary Chadwick

Data Collection: Giacomo Cabrera, Sarah Cherfan, Constance Chien, Emma Cotnoir, Josephine Cureton, Taylor Dallin, Sophia De Oliveira, Giuliana Duron, Maxine Faisant, Kevin Fitzgerald, Christopher Gelino, Kathleen Gibbons, Erin Hill, Jared Klukas, Andrea Lee, Sunnie Liu, Lucia O'Sullivan, Natalia Perez, Emily Tian, Isaiah Wright

Special Thanks: Municipal planners of 63 towns, who confirmed data accuracy

GIS Map Collection Assistance: David Dickson, Mark Hoover, Quinn Molloy, Emily Wilson

We look forward to Year 2!

DesegregateCT is looking forward to its second year. With your support, we will continue to advance our upbeat, results-oriented, data-driven approach to land use reform. We hope to expand the organization's capacity to educate and engage to compel change.

Visit www.desegregatect.org to learn more and support our work!



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