

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**INVESTED IN YOUR SUCCESS** 



# Letter from MRED's CEO



# An MLS built on feedback delivers results for brokers

At MRED, every subscriber has the opportunity to shape the MLS into a better product for all.

That's because we constantly ask for feedback on how to improve, whether it's through surveys, focus groups or just listening to our subscribers in their offices and at events. After all, a good idea can come from anywhere, and at MRED there are plenty of examples where ideas become reality for the nearly 50,000 real estate professionals who rely on us.

In 2021, MRED overhauled Private listings to make them easier to share with clients and to enhance their searchability. We also made it easier to use the client portal for subscribers to connect with consumers. When it comes to MRED's rules, we created Localized Rules Teams to allow for more customized policies which in some cases can be adjusted by local market.

Above all, MRED embraces a philosophy of giving our subscribers a choice in the services they want. We now offer more than two dozen products and services, and more are on the way.

Your voice, your choice. It's the way we serve you and why MRED continues to set the pace for the MLS industry.

#### Rebecca Jensen

President and CEO

# MRED's core values



## What we stand for



## **Innovation**

We will continue to seek out and drive a culture of innovation throughout the organization.



### **Service**

We continue to deliver award-winning service to brokerages first and foremost, and then the end user.



## Reliability

We provide dependable systems to access and utilize the MLS. Our data is trustworthy, accurate, timely, and usable.



### **Caretakers of Data**

We provide secure access to the MLS system and protect MLS data use and distribution.



# **Board of Managers**

## **Serving in 2022-23**

# Category 1 Top 10 firms

# Fran Broude Compass

Chicago, IL Second term, 2023

#### John Matthews Baird & Warner

Oak Park, IL First term, 2024

#### **Sue Miller** | Secretary

Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group

*McHenry, IL* Third term, 2025

#### **Aaron Starck**

Berkshire Hathaway Starck Real Estate

Palatine, IL First term, 2025

# Category 2 The next 150 firms

## Tommy Choi

Keller Williams ONEChicago

*Chicago, IL* First term, 2023

#### Sue Wiskowski-Fair |

Treasurer

**Realty Exectutives Premier** 

Aurora, IL Second term, 2025

#### Jeff Gregory | Chair Realty Executives Success

Shorewood, IL Second term, 2025

### **Rose Schlickman**

**Key Realty** 

Rockford, IL First term, 2024

#### **Luigui Corral**

RE / MAX American Dream

Round Lake Beach , IL Second term, 2024

# Category 3 All other firms

## Lynn Madison | Vice Chair

**Lynn Madison Realtor**®

Schaumburg, IL Third term, 2025

#### **Al Rossell**

Jack Carpenter Organization

Oak Park, IL First term, 2024

#### **Pradeep Shukla**

**RE/MAX Renaissance** 

Des Plaines, IL First term, 2023

#### **Christopher De Santo**

**Realty Executives Legacy** 

Oak Brook, IL First term, 2023

#### **Association executive managers**

#### Tina Franklin

Kankakee-Iroquois-Ford Association of REALTORS®

Kankakee, IL | Second year

#### Jeff Lasky

North Shore-Barrington Association of REALTORS®

Northbrook, IL | Third year

There are two association executive positions on MRED's board. Association executive managers serve one-year terms. There is no limit on the number of terms they can serve.

#### Strategic manager

#### **Tom Hurdelbrink**

Northwest MLS

Kirkland, WA | Second term

Term ends January 2023

#### **Brad Baldwin**

First Utah Bank
Salt Lake City, UT | First term
Term ends January 2024

Strategic managers are appointed annually. They can serve six consecutive terms.

Board members can serve three consecutive terms. The year their current term expires is noted.

# **Board of Managers**

#### **Structure**

MRED is unique among most MLSs in that it is owned by brokers and associations. The organization's governing body is the Board of Managers, which includes 13 firm seats, two association seats, and two strategic manager seats.

Category 1	Top 10 firms By annual transaction count	4 seats (3-year term)	Owner	9-year term limit
Category 2	Next 150 firms By annual transaction count	5 seats (3-year term)	Owner	9-year term limit
Category 3	All other firms By annual transaction count	4 seats (3-year term)	Owner	9-year term limit
Associations	*Ownership limited to MLSNI's associations.	1 seat (1-year term)	Owner	No term limit
Associations	Association Executive with CSA Agreement	1 seat (1-year term)	Non-owner	No term limit
Strategic managers	Appointed by MRED Board of Managers	2 seats (1-year term)	Non-owner	6-year term limit

Categories are calculated on total closed transactions between July 1 – June 30.

<sup>\*</sup>MLSNI (Multiple Listing Service of Northern Illinois) original owners include the Chicago Association of REALTORS®, Heartland REALTOR® Organization, Mainstreet Organization of REALTORS®, North Shore Barrington Association of REALTORS®, Oak Park Area Association of REALTORS®, REALTOR® Association of the Fox Valley, and Three Rivers Association of REALTORS®.

# **Board of Managers**

## **Election process**

MRED's Board of Managers includes seats for firms of all sizes, along with associations and strategic managers. Thirteen of the board's seats are allocated to Preferred Unit Owners representing firms sorted by transaction volume.

- Five Preferred Unit Owners, whose seats are not up for election on the Board of Managers, are appointed to the Election Committee.
- Preferred Unit Owners may nominate themselves for a Board of Managers seat, or they can nominate another qualified candidate. Candidates are reviewed by the Election Committee to ensure they meet qualification criteria.
- Firms are sorted into categories based on the total number of closed transactions between July 1 June 30.
  - Category One: Top 10 firms
  - Category Two: Next 150 firms
  - Category Three: All other firms
- Preferred Unit Owners get to vote for a Board of Managers candidate within their respective category.
  - Winners are announced.

#### **Board candidate qualification criteria**

- Firms must become Preferred Unit Owners by Aug. 12 for election eligibility.
- Candidates must have executive or highlevel experience.
- Candidates must be nominated by an MRED Preferred Unit Owner.
- Candidates must show the highest commitment to integrity and independence of thought and judgment.
- A candidate must be willing and able to execute MRED's Manager Conduct Policy.
- Candidates must have sufficient time to devote to MRED's governance.

# Why should you get involved as an MRED Preferred Unit Owner?

With ownership comes the ability to create a better MLS for all

## **Provide feedback**

Vet rules and system change suggestions.

Meet with MRED's Outreach Team about strategic initiatives and obtain industry insights.



## **Tech focus group**

Early access to new technology.

Take part in user acceptance testing.

Offer insight into MRED's product strategies.



## **Policy voice**

Exclusive invite to annual strategic planning meeting for MRED owners.

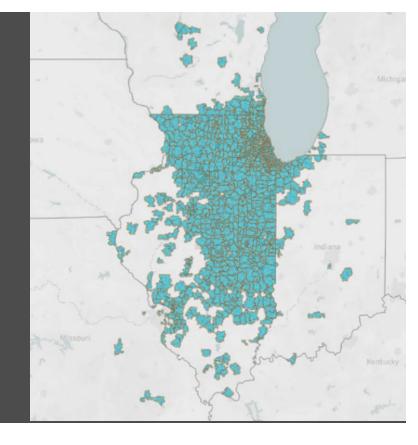
Attend MRED's Board of Managers meetings.

Opportunity to participate in Localized Rules Teams.



MRED works closely with REALTOR® association partners throughout Illinois to provide cutting-edge service and products to customers. Their success is our success.

This map shows Illinois counties where MRED has association partnerships.

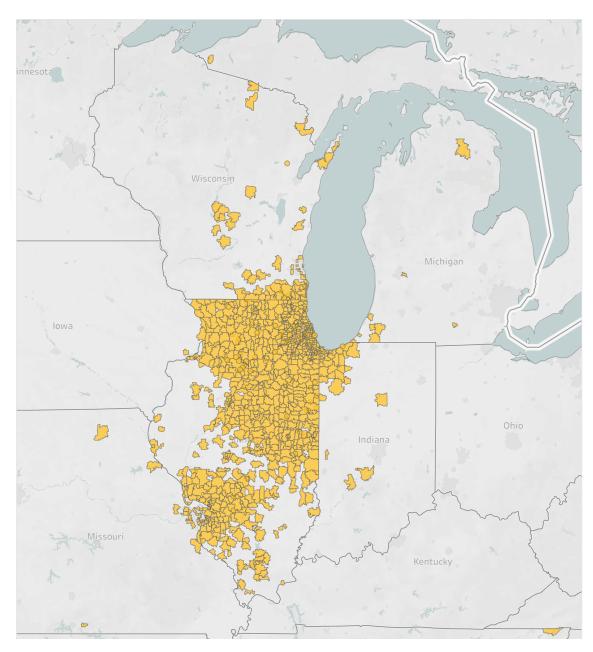


Central Illinois Board of REALTORS®
Champaign County Association of REALTORS®
Chicago Association of REALTORS®
Southwestern Illinois Board of REALTORS®
Heartland REALTOR® Organization
HomeTown Association of REALTORS®
Illini Valley Association of REALTORS®
Kankakee County Associates of REALTORS®

Mainstreet Organization of REALTORS®
Mid-Illinois REALTORS® Association
Northern Illinois Commercial Association of REALTORS®
NorthWest Illinois Alliance of REALTORS®
North Shore-Barrington Association of REALTORS®
Oak Park Area Association of REALTORS®
REALTOR® Association of the Fox Valley
Three Rivers Association of REALTORS®

# MRED's 2021 listings

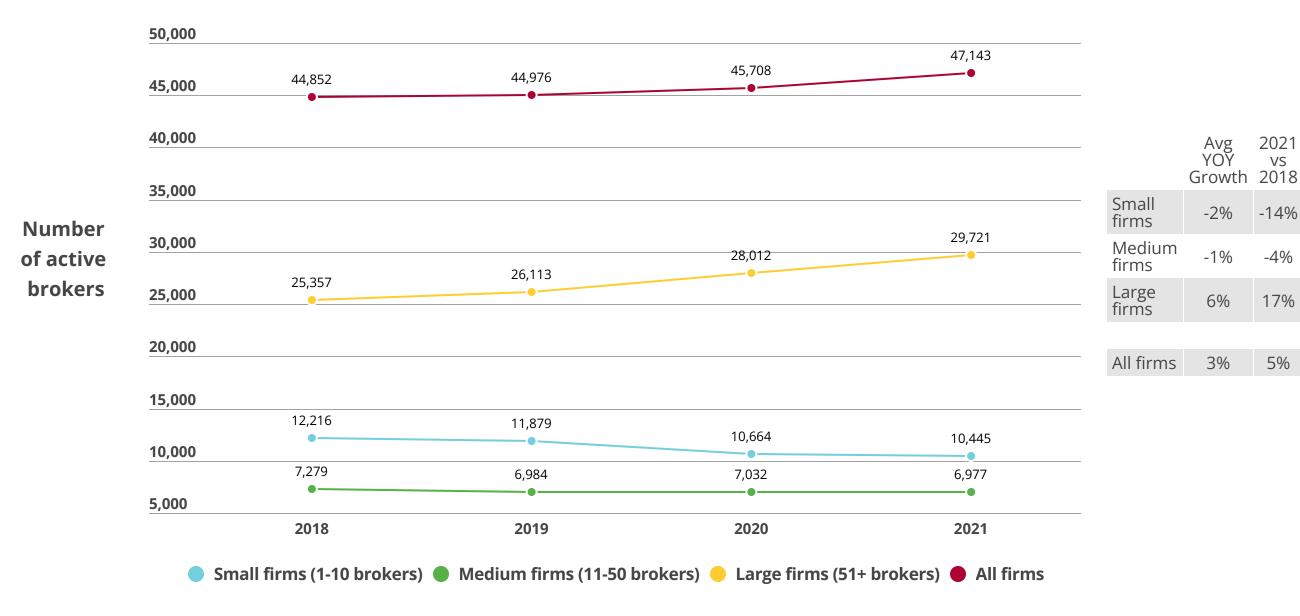
## **Market snapshot**



Map includes all listings taken by ZIP code in connectMLS in 2021.



## **Brokers**



2021

-14%

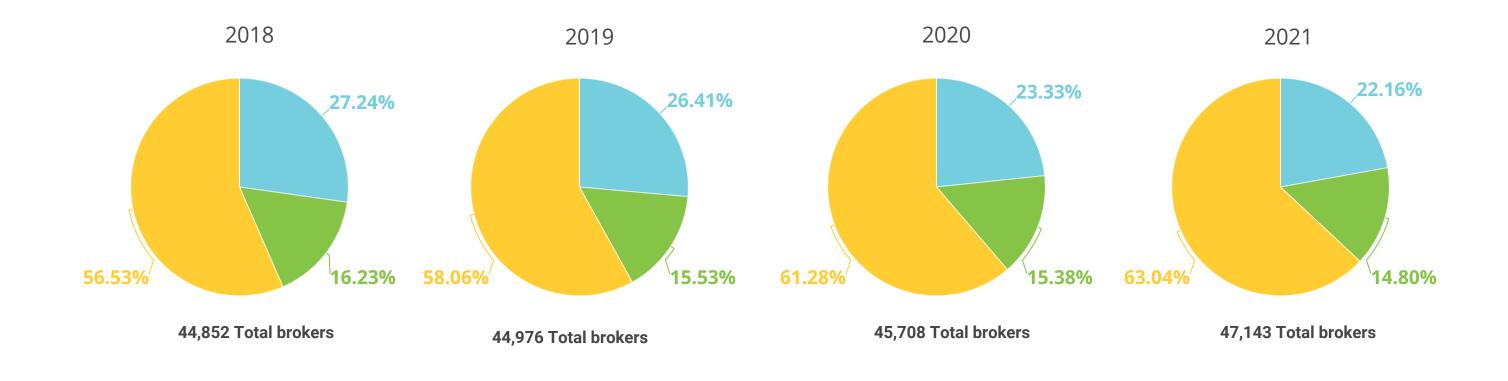
-4%

17%

5%

Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

## **Brokers**

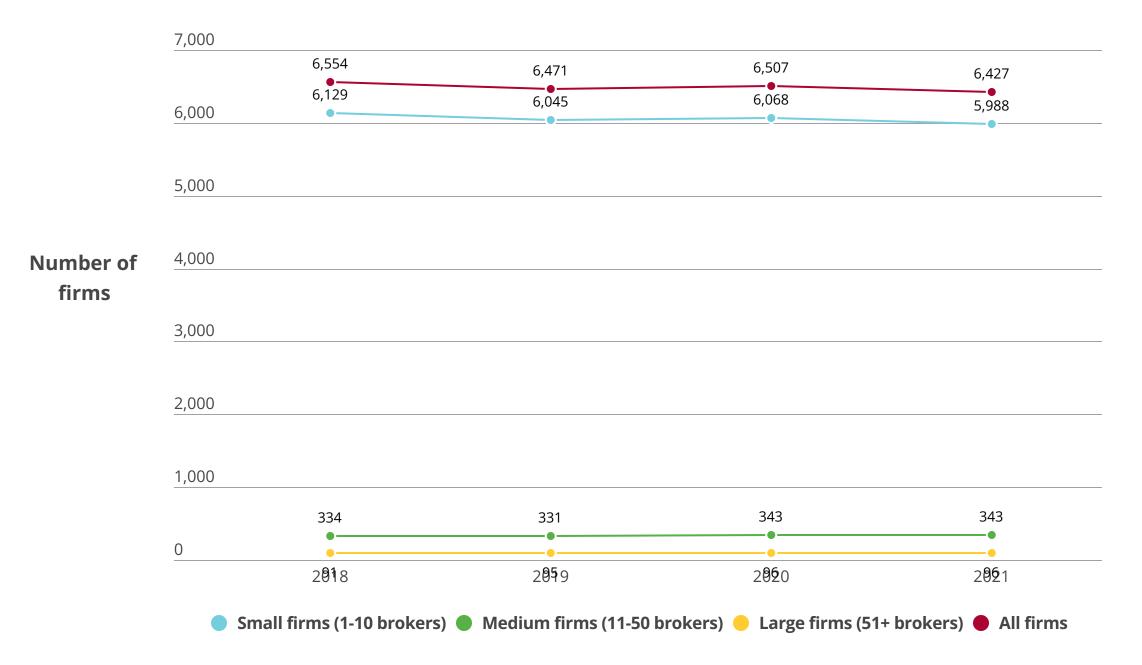


Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

Data pulled on 1/19/2022

Small firms (1-10 brokers) Medium firms (11-50 brokers) Large firms (51+ brokers)

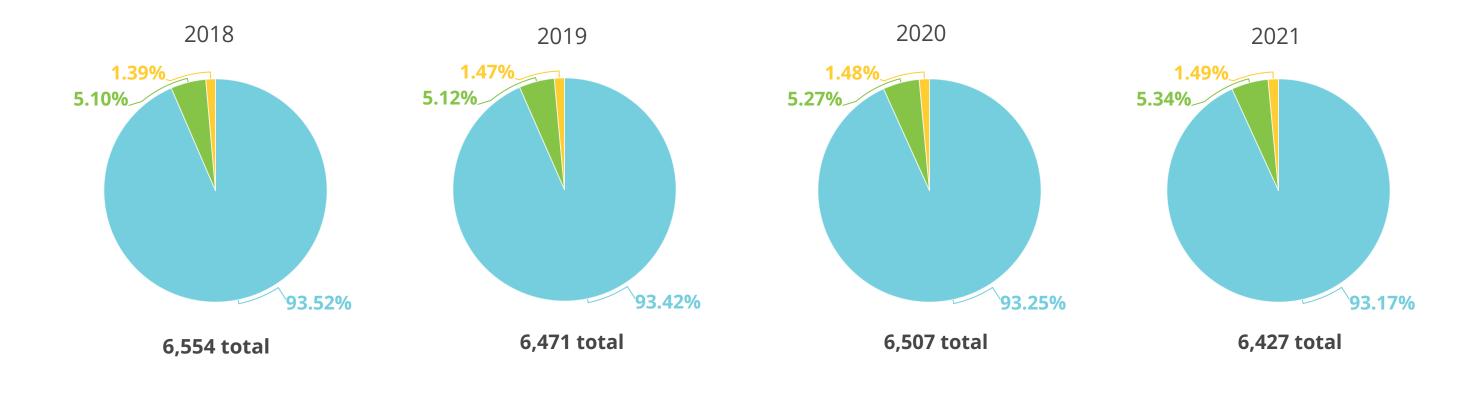
### **Firms**





Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

## **Firms**

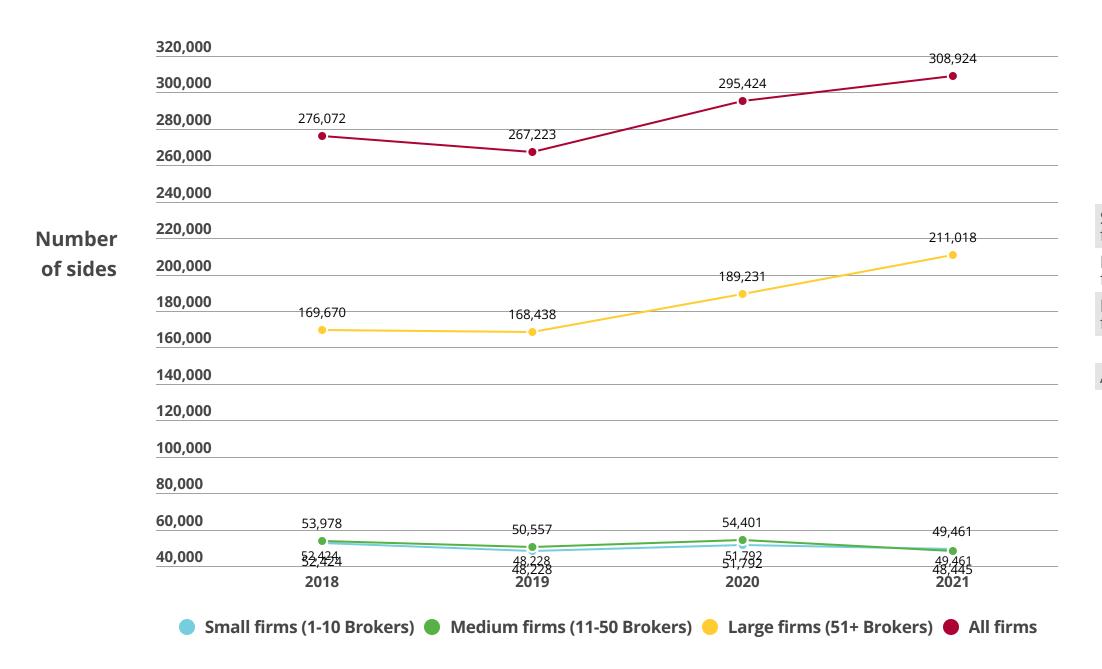


Small firms (1-10 brokers) Medium firms (11-50 brokers) Large firms (51+ brokers)

Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

Data pulled on 1/19/2022

## **Transaction sides**

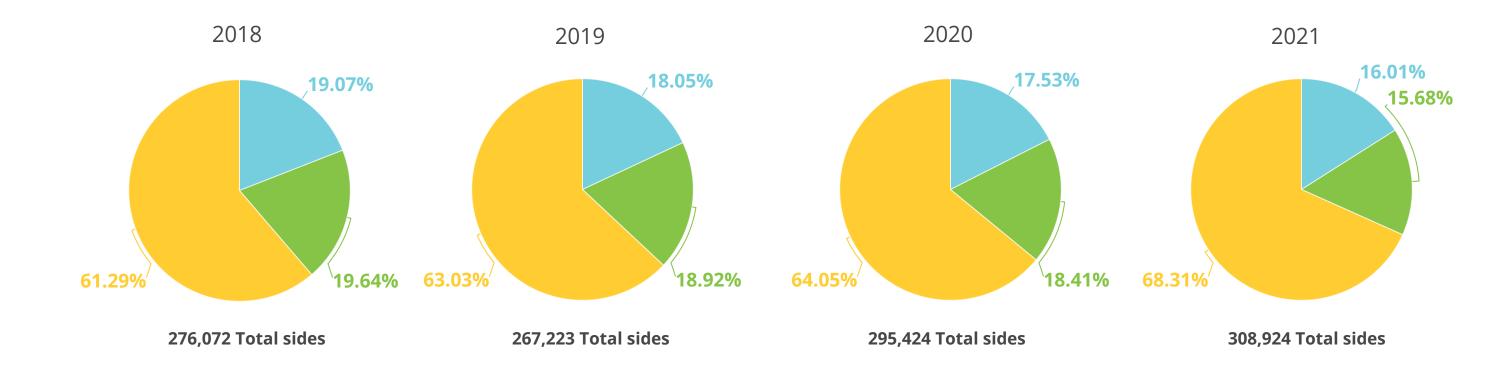


2021 Avg YOY VS 2018 Growth Small -5% -6% firms Medium -11% -10% firms Large firms 12% 24% All firms 5% 12%

Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

Data does not include rental transactions. Data pulled on 1/19/2022

## **Transaction sides**

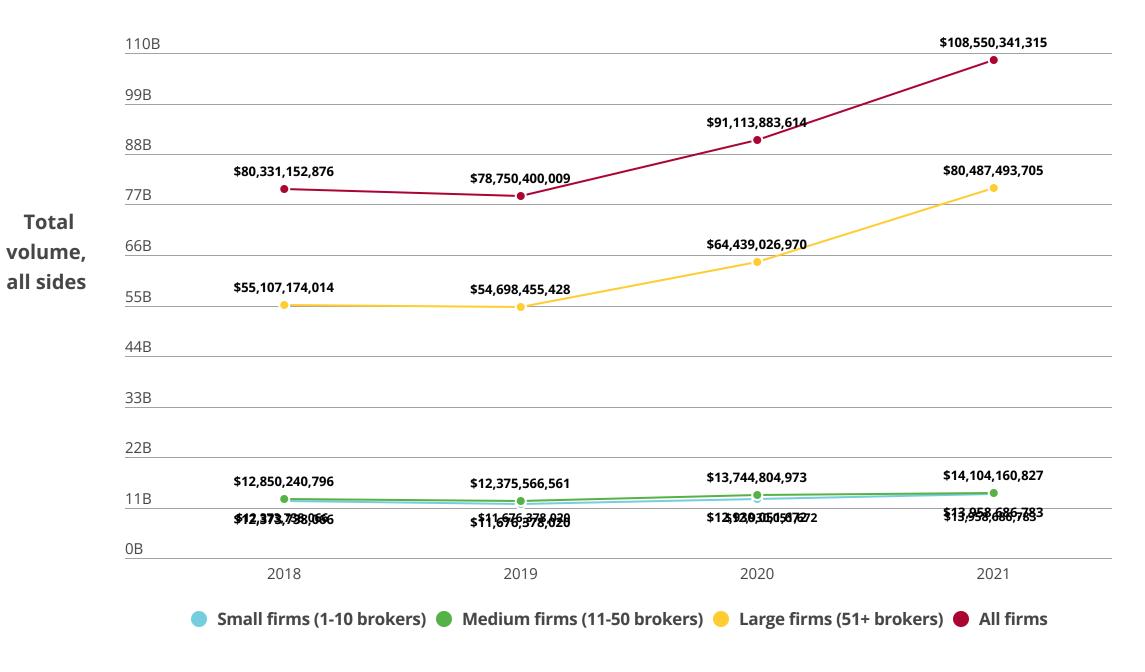


Small firms (1-10 brokers) Medium firms (11-50 brokers) Large firms (51+ brokers)

Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

Data does not include rental transactions. Data pulled on 1/19/2022.

### **Transaction volume in billions**



Avg YOY 2021 VS 2018 Growth Small 8% 13% firms Medium 3% 10% firms Large firms 25% 46%

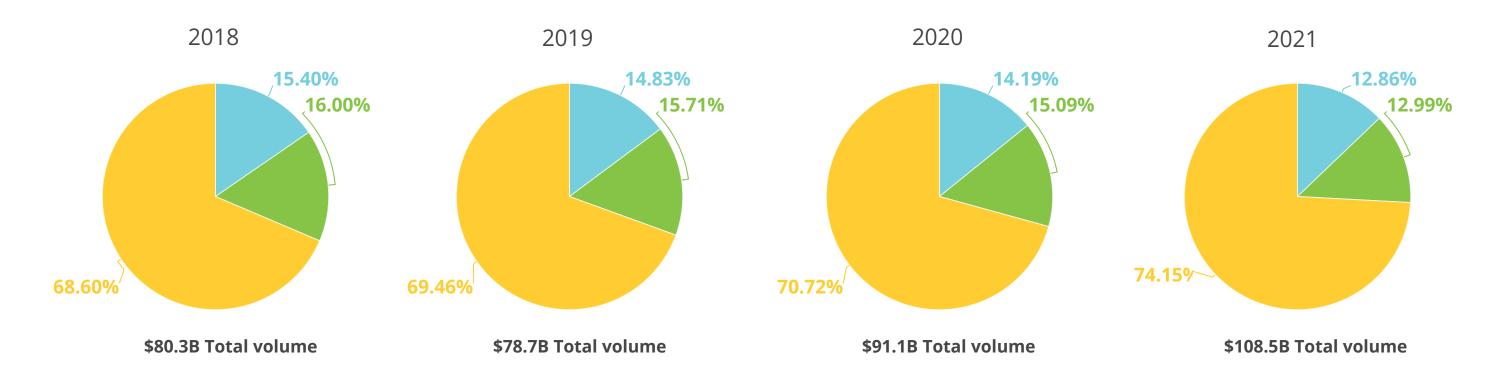
19%

35%

All firms

Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

# **Transaction volume in billions (all sides)**



Small firms (1-10 brokers)
 Medium firms (11-50 brokers)
 Large firms (51+ brokers)

Firm: Counts all offices in a brokerage as part of one firm.

Data does not include rental transactions. Data pulled on 1/19/2022

# 2021 major accomplishments

We work hard to constantly improve the services we provide to subscribers, below are some of the key strategic initiatives MRED completed in 2021.



#### **Launch of Client Portal 2.0**

Updates allow easier search and streamlined communication for clients.



#### Help Desk assists subscribers

Support center answers 86,944 calls and 4,914 emails.



#### **MLS Grid grows**

MLS network improves licensing, access and monitoring of MLS data for 1,200 technology companies and serves 33,000 websites.



### **Grew Knowledge Base**

Added how-to articles on frequently asked MLS questions.



#### **Launched Localized Rules Teams**

Urban, suburban and rural teams allow for more customized MLS rules.



#### **Improvements to Private listings**

Creation of Private status and easier sharing make Private listings a more seamless part of daily workflow.



## New preferred unit owners

Nine brokerages signed up to become MRED preferred unit owners.



### **Created Showing HUB**

Worked with country's two largest MLSs to support multiple showing providers in a single market.



# connectMLS update allows some CTG flags to be syndicated as active

Change allows properties to obtain added exposure on third-party sites.



#### **Launched CE classes**

Held first MRED continuing education course with associations.



#### **Launched TrustFunds**

Electronic earnest money feature increases security, convenience.



#### **Data-sharing agreement**

Entered into agreement to share data across the Midwest, starting with Minnesota.

## **MRED Localized Rules Teams**

### Better facilitation of customized rules

MRED previously had one rules committee, called the Compliance User Team, which vetted MRED's rules. MRED now has three Localized Rules Teams (comprised of broker owners, representatives of broker owners, or association staff members) which focus on rules for three distinct geographic areas in MRED's marketplace:

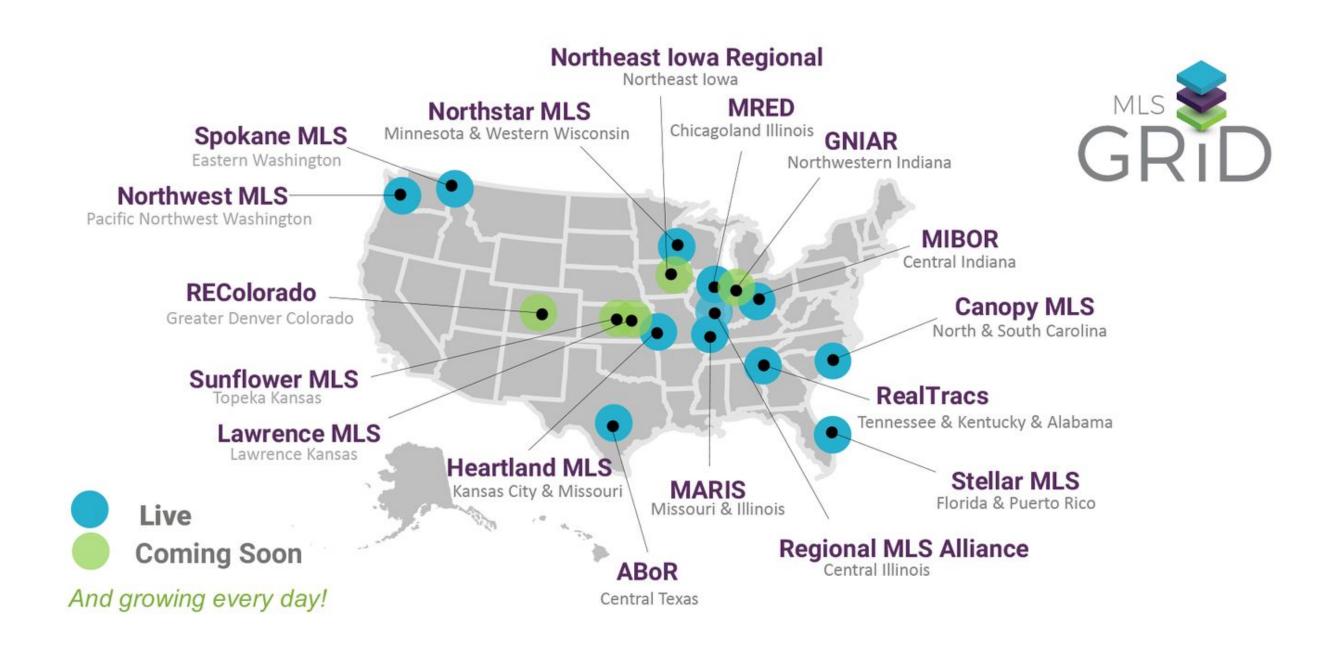
# Rural | Suburban | Urban

The creation of Rural, Suburban and Urban Localized Rules Teams recognizes that MRED's markets have unique needs and allows the MLS to be more flexible when serving them. The teams report to the MRED Board of Managers, which has the final say on any rule changes.

# 2021 major accomplishments

**Technology** 

MLS Grid solves some of the biggest data management challenges faced by MLSs. As of December 31, 2021, their successful model is serving over 300,000 licensed agents and 1,200 technology companies which fuel nearly 33,000 websites nationwide.



# MLS Grid Technology

## How does MLS Grid make the data delivery process more efficient?

# Single data source from MLS

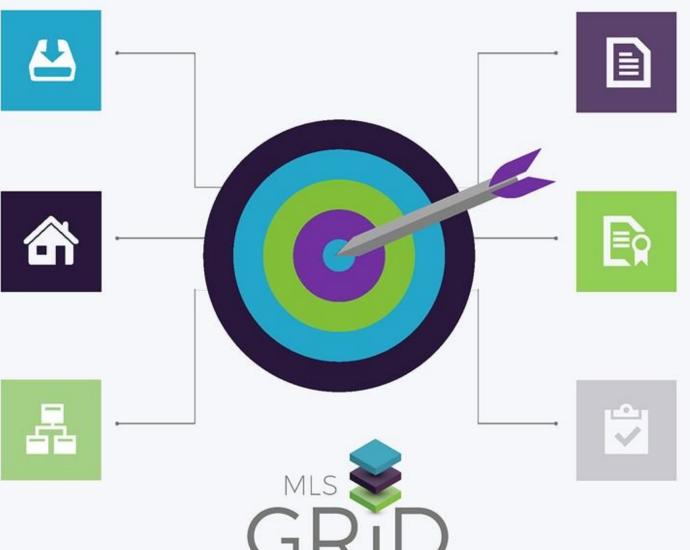
Provides one source for data distributed by MLSs

# One API feed for brokers and Vendors

Provide brokers one data feed for all MLSs in which they participate

## Consolidated database Not data share

Data from each MLS is combined, backed up and stored in the cloud



For more information visit: mlsgrid.com

# Standardized data agreements

Creates an efficient data license process

# Standardized display and usage rules

Elevates the standards for data display and usage with MLS best practices

# Uniform compliance process

Share license compliance with MLSs to reduce expenses; outsource for additional fee

# **MRED 2022 roadmap**

Quarters 1 & 2

We're moving the industry forward for the benefit of real estate practitioners and consumers. Here's how we're proving we're an industry leader.

## **QUARTER 1**

#### **Native RESO Database Conversion**

Updating MRED's core database to match relevant RESO standards, for easier onboarding of new associations and product launches.

# **ZipForms MLS push** integration

Integration with Lone Wolf allowing ZipLogix customers to push listings from connectMLS to ZipForms.

## **QUARTER 2**

### **Green building registry auto population**

Autopopulation of consolidated green data and house scores into listing input.

#### Add/edit 2.0

Massive enhancements in design and functionality to listing input. Also includes new fields for smart home technology, Pearl certification for green ratings, Chicago ward information and more!

## **Showing service interoperability**

First implementation of showing hub, allowing for multiple showing services to communicate in the MRED marketplace.

# **MRED 2022 roadmap**

Quarters 3 & 4

## **QUARTER 3**

## **Listings beyond connectMLS**

Creation and ingestion of listings from external platforms and systems into connectMLS.

# Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and search engine optimization (SEO) enhancements

Research-enhanced ADA and SEO tagging through data delivery.

#### **Common Data Platform**

Begin displaying data from Northstar MLS in Minnesota in connectMLS. Other Midwest states to follow.

## **Private listings: Phase 4**

Enhancements to be determined based on user feedback.

## Offer management

Integration of offer management functionality at MRED.

#### **Data Warehouse**

Collecting and analyzing data to give back to brokerages and associations, providing unique insights about the MRED marketplace and product adoption.

## **QUARTER 4**

### More choice in your MLS tools

Separate MLS front end with search and listing input to offer additional choices in MLS systems such as connectMLS for search and Remine for tax information.

#### **Search: Phase 2**

Ingestion of off-market closings and search by payment.

#### **Teams: Phase 3**

Partnerships, more clarity in production reports, fine-tuning of permission levels and more functionality for data delivery.

#### **Commercial: Phase 2**

New syndication platform option for public marketing, more confidential field options, multiple uses on properties.

# **MRED Help Desk**

To learn more contact: help.desk@mredllc.com

No matter the issue, you're just a quick click or call away from friendly and experienced help! MRED also has a consistently growing online Knowledge Base with answers to many common questions.



# Our support team has consistently been named a top contact center. It's easy to see why:

- 98.43% of inbound calls are closed on the first call.
- Inbound calls are answered in an average of **79** seconds.
- 87% customer satisfaction.

# **Happy subscribers**

## MRED is social on Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin, and Instagram

I like the way MRED functions, navigates, and helps me do my job efficiently.

All the new changes MRED has made are amazing.

I appreciate the quick response to emails and all the help I have had from its representatives. The tools, training and support you provide is excellent. Thank you.



I have never hung up from a phone call with an MRED rep and haven't had my questions answered.

After experiencing three multiple listings services, MRED is by far the best. I've always been very satisfied.









Everything that MRED does is done well.

I honestly have the highest regard for MRED. Everyone is friendly and so competent and knowledgeable whenever I call in with a question.

# **MRED Compliance**

We're not here to fine you; we're here to help!



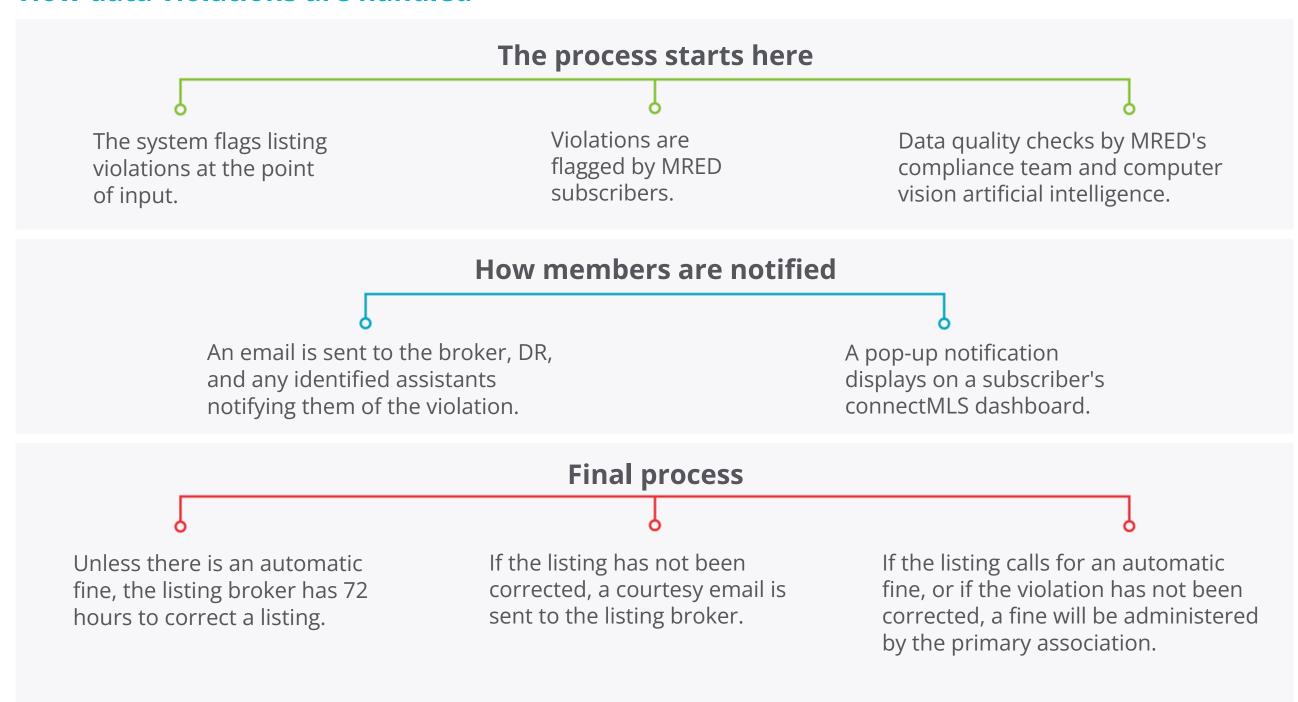
MRED's Compliance Team ensures the accuracy of listing data. Artificial intelligence is used to monitor listing photos for errors and prevent violations.

Top violations 2021	Notifications sent	Resulting in fines
Branded photo	2,689	8
Invalid tax amount/year	2,081	1
Invalid remarks/branding	1,841	0
Branded virtual tour	1,564	5
No primary exterior photo	1,256	11

In 2021, MRED's Compliance Team monitored more than 334,000 listings to ensure compliance with MRED rules.

# **MRED Compliance**

## How data violations are handled



# **MRED Training**

# Sign up today: training.mredllc.com

Experience MRED training courses which are taught by experienced real estate professionals. These classes address the advanced features and functions of connectMLS as well as an array of MRED products and services.



#### **ONLINE TRAINING**

MRED offers free LIVE online classes daily which provide training beyond hands-on class topics.



#### **HANDS-ON TRAINING**

MRED offers free hands-on classes, including state certified CE classes, at more than 15 locations.



#### **ONE-ON-ONE TRAINING**

One-on-one training is great for for specific questions related to MRED products.



#### **ON-DEMAND TRAINING**

Get training when and where it works best for you. MRED's training website has a library of over 100 on-demand videos and webinars.

In 2021, MRED Trainers taught 21,641 attendees and on-demand videos received over 16,000 views.

## **MRED Broker Outreach**

## How can MRED best support your business?



Our Broker Outreach Team gathers feedback from MRED subscribers throughout the entire marketplace. They provide Preferred Unit Owners a direct line of two-way communication with the MLS management team.



Subscribers can schedule a meeting with our Outreach Team to get answers to questions and get connected to MRED's many resources.



Our Outreach Team is available to speak at events and represent your MLS at meetings.

To schedule an office visit or meeting, contact:

brokeroutreach@mredllc.com

Thank Jon