

Equity Collaborative Working Group Co-Chair Update

Purpose

- To coordinate with the Consortium, the Steering Committee, and the Housing the Workforce and the Economic Prosperity work groups to ensure concrete equity outcomes throughout the implementation of the grant.
- To propose guidelines to institutionalize equity goals, principles, and measurements into all the decision-making and investments by MTC and ABAG.
- To increase the long-term integration of equity into regional, county, and local decision-making processes and outcomes.

Organizational Structure

The Equity Collaborative functions effectively as one of three work groups, with a defined scope of responsibilities and funded workplan, working in close coordination with the Housing and Economic Prosperity groups. The Equity Collaborative has representation on the Joint Projects Committee and the Steering Committee along with the other work group chairs where feedback and direct advice are provided to the Consortium's Steering Committee (See Consortium diagram for more detail).

Outcomes

- The work groups, the steering committee, and the consortium develop a common understanding of equity;
- Existing and emerging local work is recognized, lifted up, and strengthened. The EC channels resources to this work, highlights best practices and inspiring case studies, and supports the expansion of this work to other jurisdictions in the region;
- Regional agencies and local jurisdictions include more equity goals, principles, outcomes and measurements into their planning processes, plans, and investments;
- Resident priorities and recommendations are incorporated into planning outcomes in low-income neighborhoods, and the Consortium, with the EC, will share decision-making power about core development issues with community stakeholders—particularly residents who are low-income, immigrants, people of color—in a way that directly influences outcomes;
- Community-based organizations, underserved communities, and local jurisdictions have the knowledge and tools to ensure that the implementation of FOCUS and the Sustainable Communities Strategy addresses the needs of low-income residents;
- The Fair Housing and Equity Assessment (FHEA) accurately captures opportunity disparities in the region and identifies meaningful solutions to the equity issues prioritized by the Equity Collaborative.

Main Activities

- Establish funding guidelines with clear equity principles, goals, and metrics to guide the investments made by MTC and ABAG;
- Identify and steer funding into projects that will address displacement pressures of residents and small/local business (specifically in PDAs where projected growth poses a high risk of displacement), improve neighborhood health, and increase access to opportunity;
- Establish funding guidelines to ensure work groups invest in both tools and organizing efforts that address residential and commercial displacement in target PDAs;
- Ensure the integration of community engagement and investment decisions in the implementation of FOCUS and the SCS;
- Engage a broader grouping of stakeholders in thinking about and investing in regional equity goals and outcomes;
- Work with the Consortium to find common ground for working with low-income communities (i.e. brown bags, convenings);
- Identify capacity building and leadership development needs of engaged low-income communities to ensure meaningful participation throughout and beyond the grant cycle;
- Draw upon existing best practices for community engagement as relevant to the One Bay Area implementation and ongoing regional Sustainable Community Strategy work;
- Establish evaluation criteria with clear equity metrics to measure the progress and effectiveness of the grant's investments.
- [Activities related to the development of the FHEA to be determined]

Grant Opportunities through the HUD grant

- Public Engagement Grants to CBOs;
- Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing.

Operation of the Equity Collaborative

The details for operationalizing the Equity Collaborative will be sorted out as the overall Steering Committee takes shape. We will need to decide whether the Equity Collaborative is a "new" collaborative or if it builds on an existing structures, identify co-chairs, work out the details of how to coordinate the work between the Equity Collaborative and the Housing and Economic Prosperity Work Groups, and set up a process for how organizations can get involved.