

Equity Impact Review Process Overview

The Equity Impact Review (EIR) process merges empirical (quantitative) data and community engagement findings (qualitative) to inform planning, decision-making and implementation of actions which affect equity in King County.

When conducting this review process, please a) consider organizational and cultural diversity, b) include members who regularly engage with communities or connect with key affected parties/stakeholders, c) involve managers and leadership, and d) engage subject-matter and feasibility experts.

Purpose: Ensure that equity impacts are rigorously and holistically considered and advanced in the design and implementation of the proposed action (plan/policy/program development, operations modification, capital programs/projects, etc.)

How and When to Use the EIR Process: It is expected that the Equity Impact Review is embedded within the development and implementation processes of the proposed action.

As a team, use the [equity tools](#) – Equity Impact Review process, Community Engagement and Language Access guides, and available data resources – to complete the EIR worksheets and understand how - and to what extent - your proposal impacts equity. The checklist on Page 2 will indicate successful completion of the EIR process.

REMEMBER: For each stage of the EIR process, consider how these frameworks of equity are being impacted.

Distributional equity—Fair and just distribution of benefits and burdens to all affected parties and communities across the community and organizational landscape.

Process equity—Inclusive, open and fair access by all stakeholders to decision processes that impact community and operational outcomes. Process equity relies on all affected parties having access to and meaningful experience with civic and employee engagement, public participation, and jurisdictional listening.

Cross-generational equity—Effects of current actions on the fair and just distribution of benefits and burdens to future generations of communities and employees. Examples include income and wealth, health outcomes, white privilege, resource depletion, climate change and pollution, real estate redlining practices, and species extinction.

EQUITY IMPACT REVIEW PROCESS



REMEMBER:

For each stage of the EIR process, consider how distributional, process and cross-generational equity are impacted. **After** all parts of each phase have been successfully completed and documented, boxes may be “checked off”.

Phase 1: Scope. Identify who will be affected.

- Identify how your action will affect/serve [people and places](#) using [demographic information](#). Consider in particular low-income populations, communities of color, immigrants and refugees, and limited-English speaking residents.
 - Reach: which people and places will be affected by your action?
 - Intensity: what effects, impacts and/or outcomes will your action have on people and places?
 - Duration: how long will the action have an effect– short-, medium-, and/or long-term?
- Identify the group of stakeholders and affected parties – including those who have historically *not* been or felt included or engaged – and their roles in decision-making.

Phase 2: Assess equity and community context.

- Learn about affected communities’, employees’, and/or stakeholders’ priorities and concerns. (Use the [Community Engagement Guide](#) to help with this.)
- Know which determinants of equity will be affected by your intended outcomes – both directly and indirectly. (Reference the [Determinants of Equity report](#).)
- Know how your proposed course of action will affect known disparities within relevant determinants. (Use quantitative data and/or gather new information.)
- Identify potential unintended equity-related outcomes of this action.

Phase 3: Analysis and decision process.

- Project or map out how key alternatives will affect community and employee priorities and concerns.
- Evaluate each alternative for who will be disproportionately burdened or benefit - now and in the future. How will alternative actions differ in improving or worsening current equity conditions?
- Include [upstream](#) alternatives (and related costs) that target root causes to eliminate disproportionate impact.
- Prioritize alternatives by equitable outcomes and reconcile with functional and budget policy drivers.

Phase 4: Implement. Are you staying connected with communities and employees?

- Based on earlier use of Community Engagement Guide, communicate with communities, stakeholders and employees about how you will implement your action.
- Engage with affected communities and employees to guide successful implementation.
- Advance “pro-equity” opportunities when possible, i.e. [contracting](#), hiring and promotion, materials sourcing, etc.
- Measure and evaluate your intended outcomes in collaboration with affected communities. Are there sufficient monitoring and accountability systems to identify unintended consequences? How will course corrections be handled if unintended consequences are identified?

Phase 5: Ongoing Learning. Listen, adjust, and co-learn with communities and employees.

- Evaluate whether your action appropriately responds to community priorities and concerns.
- Learn *with* the community to adjust your action as their priorities and concerns shift.
- Communicate progress to all stakeholders. Plan to include community feedback into future planning.