TOOLKIT

Racial Equity Toolkit

An Opportunity to Operationalize Equity

LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON
RACE & EQUITY

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This toolkit is published by the Government Alliance on Race and Equity, a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all.

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UPDATED DEC 2016

ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON RACE & EQUITY

The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) is a national network of government working to achieve racial equity and advance opportunities for all. Across the country, governmental jurisdictions are:

- making a commitment to achieving racial equity;
- focusing on the power and influence of their own institutions; and,
- working in partnership with others.

When this occurs, significant leverage and expansion opportunities emerge, setting the stage for the achievement of racial equity in our communities.

GARE provides a multi-layered approach for maximum impact by:

- supporting jurisdictions that are at the forefront of work to achieve racial equity. A few jurisdictions have already done substantive work and are poised to be a model for others. Supporting and providing best practices, tools and resources is helping to build and sustain current efforts and build a national movement for racial equity;
- developing a "pathway for entry" into racial equity work for new jurisdictions from across the country. Many jurisdictions lack the leadership and/or infrastructure to address issues of racial inequity. Using the learnings and resources from jurisdictions at the forefront will create pathways for the increased engagement of more jurisdictions; and,
- supporting and building local and regional collaborations that are broadly inclusive and focused on achieving racial equity. To eliminate racial inequities in our communities, developing a "collective impact" approach firmly grounded in inclusion and equity is necessary. Government can play a key role in collaborations for achieving racial equity, centering community, and leveraging institutional partnerships.

To find out more about GARE, visit www.racialequityalliance.org.

I. What is a Racial Equity Tool?

Racial equity tools are designed to integrate explicit consideration of racial equity in decisions, including policies, practices, programs, and budgets. It is both a product and a process. Use of a racial equity tool can help to develop strategies and actions that reduce racial inequities and improve success for all groups.

Too often, policies and programs are developed and implemented without thoughtful consideration of racial equity. When racial equity is not explicitly brought into operations and decision-making, racial inequities are likely to be perpetuated. Racial equity tools provide a structure for institutionalizing the consideration of racial equity.

A racial equity tool:

- proactively seeks to eliminate racial inequities and advance equity;
- identifies clear goals, objectives and measurable outcomes;
- engages community in decision-making processes;
- identifies who will benefit or be burdened by a given decision, examines potential unintended consequences of a decision, and develops strategies to advance racial equity and mitigate unintended negative consequences; and,
- develops mechanisms for successful implementation and evaluation of impact.

Use of a racial equity tool is an important step to operationalizing equity. However, it is not sufficient by itself. We must have a much broader vision of the transformation of government in order to advance racial equity. To transform government, we must normalize conversations about race, operationalize new behaviors and policies, and organize to achieve racial equity.

For more information on the work of government to advance racial equity, check out GARE's "Advancing Racial Equity and Transforming Government: A Resource Guide for Putting Ideas into Action" on our website. The Resource Guide provides a comprehensive and holistic approach to advancing racial equity within government. In addition, an overview of key racial equity definitions is contained in Appendix A.

II. Why should government use this Racial Equity Tool?

From the inception of our country, government at the local, regional, state, and federal level has played a role in creating and maintaining racial inequity. A wide range of laws and policies were passed, including everything from who could vote, who could be a citizen, who could own property, who was property, where one could live, whose land was whose and more. With the Civil Rights movement, laws and policies were passed that helped to create positive changes, including making acts of discrimination illegal. However, despite progress in addressing explicit discrimination, racial inequities continue to be deep, pervasive, and persistent across the country. Racial inequities exist across all indicators for success, including in education, criminal justice, jobs, housing, public infrastructure, and health, regardless of region.

Many current inequities are sustained by historical legacies and structures and systems that repeat patterns of exclusion. Institutions and structures have continued to create and perpetuate inequities, despite the lack of explicit intention. Without intentional intervention, institutions and structures will continue to perpetuate racial inequities. Government has the ability to implement policy change at multiple levels and across multiple sectors to drive larger systemic change. Routine use of a racial equity tool explicitly integrates racial equity into governmental operations.

Local and regional governmental jurisdictions that are a part of the GARE are using a racial equity tool. Some, such as the city of Seattle in Washington, Multnomah County in Oregon, and

the city of Madison in Wisconsin have been doing so for many years:

- The Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) is a citywide effort to end institutionalized racism and race-based disparities in City government. The Initiative was launched in 2004. RSJI includes training to all City employees, annual work plans, and change teams in every city department. RSJI first started using its Racial Equity Tool during the budget process in 2007. The following year, in recognition of the fact that the budget process was just the "tip of the ice berg," use of the tool was expanded to be used in policy and program decisions. In 2009, Seattle City Council included the use of the Racial Equity Tool in budget, program and policy decisions, including review of existing programs and policies, in a resolution (Resolution 31164) affirming the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative. In 2015, newly elected Mayor Ed Murray issued an Executive Order directing expanded use of the Racial Equity Tool, and requiring measurable outcomes and greater accountability.

See Appendix B for examples of how Seattle has used its Racial Equity Tool, including legislation that offers protections for women who are breastfeeding and use of criminal background checks in employment decisions.

Multnomah County's Equity and Empowerment Lens is used to improve planning, decision-making, and resource allocation leading to more racially equitable policies and programs. At its core, it is a set of principles, reflective questions, and processes that focuses at the individual, institutional, and systemic levels by:

- deconstructing what is not working around racial equity;
- reconstructing and supporting what is working;
- shifting the way we make decisions and think about this work; and,
- healing and transforming our structures, our environments, and ourselves.

Numerous Multnomah County departments have made commitments to utilizing the Lens, including a health department administrative policy and within strategic plans of specific departments. Tools within the Lens are used both to provide analysis and to train employers and partners on how Multnomah County conducts equity analysis.

Madison, Wisconsin is implementing a racial equity tool, including both a short version and a more in-depth analysis. See Appendix D for a list of the types of projects on which the city of Madison has used their racial equity tool.

For jurisdictions that are considering implementation of a racial equity tool, these jurisdictions examples are powerful. Other great examples of racial equity tools are from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Race Forward.

In recognition of the similar ways in which institutional and structural racism have evolved across the country, GARE has developed this Toolkit that captures the field of practice and commonalities across tools. We encourage jurisdictions to begin using our Racial Equity Tool. Based on experience, customization can take place if needed to ensure that it is most relevant to local conditions. Otherwise, there is too great of a likelihood that there will be a significant investment of time, and potentially money, in a lengthy process of customization without experience. It is through the implementation and the experience of learning that leaders and staff will gain experience with use of a tool. After a pilot project trying out this tool, jurisdictions will have a better understanding of how and why it might make sense to customize a tool.

For examples of completed racial equity analyses, check out Appendix B and Appendix D, which includes two examples from the city of Seattle, as well as a list of the topics on which the city of Madison has used their racial equity tool.

Please note: In this Resource Guide, we include some data from reports that focused on whites and African Americans, but otherwise, provide data for all racial groups analyzed in the research. For consistency, we refer to African Americans and Latinos, although in some of the original research, these groups were referred to as Blacks and Hispanics.

III. Who should use a racial equity tool?

A racial equity tool can be used at multiple levels, and in fact, doing so, will increase effectiveness.

- **Government staff:** The routine use of a racial equity tool by staff provides the opportunity to integrate racial equity across the breadth, meaning all governmental functions, and depth, meaning across hierarchy. For example, policy analysts integrating racial equity into policy development and implementation, and budget analysts integrating racial equity into budget proposals at the earliest possible phase, increases the likelihood of impact. Employees are the ones who know their jobs best and will be best equipped to integrate racial equity into practice and routine operations.

Government staff

- **Elected officials:** Elected officials have the opportunity to use a racial equity tool to set broad priorities, bringing consistency between values and practice. When our elected officials are integrating racial equity into their jobs, it will be reflected in the priorities of the jurisdiction, in direction provided to department directors, and in the questions asked of staff. By asking simple racial equity tool questions, such as "How does this decision help or hinder racial equity?" or "Who benefits from or is burdened by this decision?" on a routine basis, elected officials have the ability to put theory into action.

Elected officials

- **Community based organizations:** Community based organizations can ask questions of government about use of racial equity tool to ensure accountability. Elected officials and government staff should be easily able to describe the results of their use of a racial equity tool, and should make that information readily available to community members. In addition, community based organizations can use a similar or aligned racial equity tool within their own organizations to also advance racial equity.

Community

IV. When should you use a racial equity tool?

The earlier you use a racial equity tool, the better. When racial equity is left off the table and not addressed until the last minute, the use of a racial equity tool is less likely to be fruitful. Using a racial equity tool early means that individual decisions can be aligned with organizational racial equity goals and desired outcomes. Using a racial equity tool more than once means that equity is incorporated throughout all phases, from development to implementation and evaluation.

V. The Racial Equity Tool

The Racial Equity Tool is a simple set of questions:

1. **Proposal:** What is the policy, program, practice or budget decision under consideration? What are the desired results and outcomes?
2. **Data:** What's the data? What does the data tell us?
3. **Community engagement:** How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?
4. **Analysis and strategies:** Who will benefit from or be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?
5. **Implementation:** What is your plan for implementation?

6. **Accountability and communication:** How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

The following sections provide a description of the overall questions. Once you are ready to jump into action, please check out the worksheet that can be found in Appendix C.

STEP #1

What is your proposal and the desired results and outcomes?

While it might sound obvious, having a clear description of the policy, program, practice, or budget decision (for the sake of brevity, we refer to this as a "proposal" in the remainder of these steps) at hand is critical.

We should also be vigilant in our focus on impact.

The terminology for results and outcomes is informed by our relationship with Results Based Accountability™. This approach to measurement clearly delineates between community conditions / population accountability and performance accountability / outcomes. These levels share a common systematic approach to measurement. This approach emphasizes the importance of beginning with a focus on the desired "end" condition.

- Results are at the community level are the end conditions we are aiming to impact. Community indicators are the means by which we can measure impact in the community. Community indicators should be disaggregated by race.
- Outcomes are at the jurisdiction, department, or program level. Appropriate performance measures allow monitoring of the success of implementation of actions that have a reasonable chance of influencing indicators and contributing to results. Performance measures respond to three different levels:
    a. Quantity–how much did we do?
    b. Quality–how well did we do it?
    c. Is anyone better off?

We encourage you to be clear about the desired end conditions in the community and to emphasize those areas where you have the most direct influence. When you align community indicators, government strategies, and performance measures, you maximize the likelihood for impact. To ultimately impact community conditions, government must partner with other institutions and the community.

You should be able to answer the following questions:

1. Describe the policy, program, practice, or budget decision under consideration?
2. What are the intended results (in the community) and outcomes (within your organization)?
3. What does this proposal have an ability to impact?
    - Children and youth
    - Community engagement
    - Contracting equity
    - Criminal justice
    - Economic development
    - Education
    - Environment
    - Food access and affordability
    - Government practices
    - Health
    - Housing
    - Human services
    - Jobs
    - Planning and development
    - Transportation
    - Utilities
    - Workforce equity

STEP #2

What's the data? What does the data tell us?

Measurement matters. When organizations are committed to racial equity, it is not just an aspiration, but there is a clear understanding of racial inequities, and strategies and actions are developed and implemented that align between community conditions, strategies, and actions. Using data appropriately will allow you to assess whether you are achieving desired impacts.

Too often data might be available, but is not actually used to inform strategies and track results. The enormity of racial inequities can sometimes feel overwhelming. For us to have impact in the community, we must partner with others for cumulative impact. The work of government to advance racial equity is necessary, but not sufficient. Nevertheless, alignment and clarity will increase potential impact. We must use data at both levels; that is data that clearly states 1) community indicators and desired results, and 2) our specific program or policy outcomes and performance measures.

Performance measures allow monitoring of the success of implementation of actions that have a reasonable chance of influencing indicators and contributing to results. As indicated in Step 1, performance measures respond to three different levels:

Quantity–how much did we do?

Quality–how well did we do it?

Is anyone better off?

Although measuring whether anyone is actually better off as a result of a decision is highly desired, we also know there are inherent measurement challenges. You should assess and collect the best types of performance measures so that you are able to track your progress.

In analyzing data, you should think not only about quantitative data, but also qualitative data. Remember that sometimes missing data can speak to the fact that certain communities, issues or inequities have historically been overlooked. Sometimes data sets treat communities as a monolithic group without respect to subpopulations with differing socioeconomic and cultural experience. Using this data could perpetuate historic inequities. Using the knowledge and expertise of a diverse set of voices, along with quantitative data is necessary (see Step #3).

You should be able to answer the following questions about data:

1. Will the proposal have impacts in specific geographic areas (neighborhoods, areas, or regions)? What are the racial demographics of those living in the area?
2. What does population level data tell you about existing racial inequities? What does it tell you about root causes or factors influencing racial inequities?
3. What performance level data do you have available for your proposal? This should include data associated with existing programs or policies.
4. Are there data gaps? What additional data would be helpful in analyzing the proposal? If so, how can you obtain better data?

Data Resources

Federal

- **American FactFinder:** The US Census Bureau's main site for online access to population, housing, economic and geographic data. http://factfinder.census.gov
- **US Census Quick Facts:** http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/index.html
- **Center for Disease Control** (CDC) http://wonder.cdc.gov

State

- **American FactFinder** and the **US Census** website also have state data. http://factfinder.census.gov
- Other sources of data vary by state. Many states offer data through the Office of Financial Management. Other places to find data include specific departments and divisions.

Local

- **American FactFinder** and the **US Census** website also have local data. http://factfinder.census.gov
- Many jurisdictions have lots of city and county data available. Other places to find data include specific departments and divisions, service providers, community partners, and research literature.

STEP #3

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

It is not enough to consult data or literature to assume how a proposal might impact a community. Involving communities impacted by a topic, engaging community throughout all phases of a project, and maintaining clear and transparent communication as the policy or program is implemented will help produce more racially equitable results.

It is especially critical to engage communities of color. Due to the historical reality of the role of government in creating and maintaining racial inequities, it is not surprising that communities of color do not always have much trust in government. In addition, there is a likelihood that other barriers exist, such as language, perception of being welcome, and lack of public transportation, or childcare. For communities with limited English language skills, appropriate language materials and translation must be provided.

Government sometimes has legal requirements on the holding of public meetings. These are often structured as public hearings, with a limited time for each person to speak and little opportunity for interaction. It is important to go beyond these minimum requirements by using community meetings, focus groups, and consultations with commissions, advisory boards, and community-based organizations. A few suggestions that are helpful:

- When you use smaller groups to feed into a larger process, be transparent about the recommendations and/or thoughts that come out of the small groups (e.g. Have a list of all the groups you met with and a summary of the recommendations from each. That way you have documentation of what came up in each one, and it is easier to demonstrate the process).
- When you use large group meetings, provide a mix of different ways for people to engage, such as the hand-held voting devices, written comments that you collect, small groups, etc. It is typical, both because of structure and process, for large group discussions to lead to the participation of fewer voices. Another approach is to use dyads where people "interview" each other, and then report on what their partner shared. Sometimes people are more comfortable sharing other people's information.
- Use trusted advocates/outreach and engagement liaisons to collect information from communities that you know are typically underrepresented in public processes. Again, sharing and reporting that information in a transparent way allows you to share it with

others. For communities that have concerns about documentation status and interaction with government in general, this can be a particularly useful strategy.

Here are a few examples of good resources for community engagement:

- The City of Seattle Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide
- The City of Portland's Public Engagement Guide

You should be able to answer the following questions about community engagement and involving stakeholders:

1. Who are the most affected community members who are concerned with or have experience related to this proposal? How have you involved these community members in the development of this proposal?
2. What has your engagement process told you about the burdens or benefits for different groups?
3. What has your engagement process told you about the factors that produce or perpetuate racial inequity related to this proposal?

STEP #4

Who benefits from or will be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?

Based on your data and stakeholder input, you should step back and assess your proposal and think about complementary strategies that will help to advance racial equity.

Governmental decisions are often complex and nuanced with both intended and unintended impacts. For example, when cities and counties face the necessity of making budget cuts due to revenue shortfalls, the goal is to balance the budget and the unintended consequence is that people and communities suffer the consequences of cut programs. In a situation like this, it is important to explicitly consider the unintended consequences so that impacts can be mitigated to the maximum extent possible.

We often tend to view policies, programs, or practices in isolation. Because racial inequities are perpetuated through systems and structures, it is important to also think about complementary approaches that will provide additional leverage to maximize the impact on racial inequity in the community. Expanding your proposal to integrate policy and program strategies and broad partnerships will help to increase the likelihood of community impact. Here are some examples:

- Many excellent programs have been developed or are being supported through health programs and social services. Good programs and services should continue to be supported, however, programs will never be sufficient to ultimately achieve racial equity in the community. If you are working on a program, think about policy and practice changes that can decrease the need for programs.
- Many jurisdictions have passed "Ban-the-Box" legislation, putting limitations on the use of criminal background checks in employment and/or housing decisions. While this is a policy that is designed to increase the likelihood of success for people coming out of incarceration, it is not a singular solution to racial inequities in the criminal justice system. To advance racial equity in the criminal justice system, we need comprehensive strategies that build upon good programs, policies, and partnerships.

You should be able to answer the following questions about strategies to advance racial equity:

1. Given what you have learned from the data and stakeholder involvement, how will the

proposal increase or decrease racial equity? Who would benefit from or be burdened by your proposal?

2. What are potential unintended consequences? What are the ways in which your proposal could be modified to enhance positive impacts or reduce negative impacts?
3. Are there complementary strategies that you can implement? What are ways in which existing partnerships could be strengthened to maximize impact in the community? How will you partner with stakeholders for long-term positive change?
4. Are the impacts aligned with the your community outcomes defined in Step #1?

STEP #5

What is your plan for implementation?

Now that you know what the unintended consequences, benefits, and impacts of the proposal and have developed strategies to mitigate unintended consequences or expand impact, it is important to focus on thoughtful implementation.

You should be able to answer the following about implementation:

1. Describe your plan for implementation.
2. Is your plan:
    - realistic?
    - adequately funded?
    - adequately resourced with personnel?;
    - adequately resourced with mechanisms to ensure successful implementation and enforcement?
    - adequately resourced to ensure on-going data collection, public reporting, and community engagement?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, what resources or actions are needed?

STEP #6

How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

Just as data was critical in analyzing potential impacts of the program or policy, data will be important in seeing whether the program or policy has worked. Developing mechanisms for collecting data and evaluating progress will help measure whether racial equity is being advanced.

Accountability entails putting processes, policies, and leadership in place to ensure that program plans, evaluation recommendations, and actions leading to the identification and elimination of root causes of inequities are actually implemented.

How you communicate about your racial equity proposal is also important for your success. Poor communication about race can trigger implicit bias or perpetuate stereotypes, often times unintentionally. Use a communications tool, such as the Center for Social Inclusion's Talking About Race Right Toolkit to develop messages and a communications strategy.

Racial equity tools should be used on an ongoing basis. Using a racial equity tool at different phases of a project will allow now opportunities for advancing racial equity to be identified and implemented. Evaluating results means that you will be able to make any adjustments to maximize impact.

You should be able to answer the following questions about accountability and implementation:

1. How will impacts be documented and evaluated? Are you achieving the anticipated outcomes? Are you having impact in the community?
2. What are your messages and communication strategies that are will help advance racial equity?
3. How will you continue to partner and deepen relationships with communities to make sure your work to advance racial equity is working and sustainable for the long haul?

VI. What if you don't have enough time?

The reality of working in government is that there are often unanticipated priorities that are sometimes inserted on a fast track. While it is often tempting to say that there is insufficient time to do a full and complete application of a racial equity tool, it is important to acknowledge that even with a short time frame, asking a few questions relating to racial equity can have a meaningful impact. We suggest that the following questions should be answered for "quick turn around" decisions:

- What are the racial equity impacts of this particular decision?
- Who will benefit from or be burdened by the particular decision?
- Are there strategies to mitigate the unintended consequences?

VII. How can you address barriers to successful implementation?

You may have heard the phrase, "the system is perfectly designed to get the outcomes it does." For us to get to racially equitable outcomes, we need to work at the institutional and structural levels. As a part of institutions and systems, it is often a challenge to re-design systems, let alone our own individual jobs. One of the biggest challenges is often a skills gap. Use of a racial equity tool requires skill and competency, so it will be important for jurisdictions to provide training, mentoring, and support for managers and staff who are using the tool. GARE has a training curriculum that supports this Toolkit, as well as a "train-the-trainer" program to increase the capacity of racial equity advocates using the Toolkit.

Other barriers to implementation that some jurisdictions have experienced include:

- a lack of support from leadership;
- a tool being used in isolation;
- a lack of support for implementing changes; and,
- perfection (which can be the enemy of good).

Strategies for addressing these barriers include:

- building the capacity of racial equity teams. Training is not just to cultivate skills for individual employees, but is also to build the skill of teams to create support for group implementation and to create a learning culture;
- systematizing the use of the Racial Equity Tool. If the Racial Equity Tool is integrated into routine operations, such as budget proposal forms or policy briefing forms, then management and staff will know that it is an important priority;
- recognizing complexity. In most cases, public policy decisions are complex, and there are numerous pros, cons and trade-offs to be considered. When the Racial Equity Tool is used on an iterative basis, complex nuances can be addressed over time; and,

- maintaining accountability. Build the expectation that managers and directors routinely use the Racial Equity Tool into job descriptions or performance agreements.

Institutionalizing use of a racial equity tool provides the opportunity to develop thoughtful, realistic strategies and timelines that advance racial equity and help to build long-term commitment and momentum.

VIII. How does use of a racial equity tool fit with other racial equity strategies?

Using a racial equity tool is an important step to operationalizing equity. However, it is not sufficient by itself. We must have a much broader vision of the transformation of government in order to advance racial equity. To transform government, we must normalize conversations about race, operationalize new behaviors and policies, and organize to achieve racial equity.

GARE is seeing more and more jurisdictions that are making a commitment to achieving racial equity, by focusing on the power and influence of their own institutions, and working in partnership across sectors and with the community to maximize impact. We urge you to join with others on this work. If you are interested in using a racial equity tool and/or joining local and regional government from across the country to advance racial equity, please let us know.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Glossary of Frequently Used Terms

Bias
Prejudice toward one group and its members relative to another group.

Community Indicator
The means by which we can measure socioeconomic conditions in the community. All community indicators should be disaggregated by race, if possible.

Contracting Equity
Investments in contracting, consulting, and procurement should benefit the communities a jurisdiction serves, proportionate to the jurisdictions demographics.

Equity Result
The condition we aim to achieve in the community.

Explicit Bias
Biases that people are aware of and that operate consciously. They are expressed directly.

Implicit Bias
Biases people are usually unaware of and that operate at the subconscious level. Implicit bias is usually expressed indirectly.

Individual Racism
Pre-judgment, bias, or discrimination based on race by an individual.

Institutional Racism
Policies, practices, and procedures that work better for white people than for people of color, often unintentionally.

Performance Measure
Performance measures are at the county, department, or program level. Appropriate performance measures allow monitoring of the success of implementation of actions that have a reasonable chance of influencing indicators and contributing to results. Performance measures respond to three different levels: 1) Quantity—how much did we do?; 2) Quality—how well did we do it?; and 3) Is anyone better off? A mix of these types of performance measures is contained within the recommendations.

Racial Equity
Race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved.

Racial Inequity
Race can be used to predict life outcomes, e.g., disproportionality in education (high school graduation rates), jobs (unemployment rate), criminal justice (arrest and incarceration rates), etc.

Structural Racism
A history and current reality of institutional racism across all institutions, combining to create a system that negatively impacts communities of color.

Workforce Equity
The workforce of a jurisdiction reflects the diversity of its residents, including across the breadth (functions and departments) and depth (hierarchy) of government.

APPENDIX B

City of Seattle Racial Equity Toolkit

On the following pages you will find an excerpt of the racial equity tool used by the City of Seattle as an example of what such tools can look like in practice. As discussed in Section 3 of the Resource Guide, the Seattle City Council passed an ordinance in 2009 that directed all City departments to use the Racial Equity Toolkit, including in all budget proposals made to the Budget Office. This directive was reaffirmed by an executive order of Mayor Ed Murray in 2014.

The Racial Equity Tool is an analysis applied to City of Seattle's policies, programs, and budget decisions. The City of Seattle has been applying the Racial Equity Toolkit for many years but as the City's Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI) becomes increasingly operationalized, the expectation and accountabilities relating to its use are increasing. In 2015, Mayor Murray required departments to carry out four uses of the toolkit annually. This will also become a part of performance measures for department heads.

APPENDIX B: CITY OF SEATTLE RACIAL EQUITY TOOLKIT

RACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Racial Equity Toolkit

to Assess Policies, Initiatives, Programs, and Budget Issues

The vision of the Seattle Race and Social Justice Initiative is to eliminate racial inequity in the community. To do this requires ending individual racism, institutional racism and structural racism. The Racial Equity Toolkit lays out a process and a set of questions to guide the development, implementation and evaluation of policies, initiatives, programs, and budget issues to address the impacts on racial equity.

When Do I Use This Toolkit?

Early. Apply the toolkit early for alignment with departmental racial equity goals and desired outcomes.

How Do I Use This Toolkit?

With Inclusion. The analysis should be completed by people with different racial perspectives.

Step by step. The Racial Equity Analysis is made up of six steps from beginning to completion:

Step 1. Set Outcomes.
Leadership communicates key community outcomes for racial equity to guide analysis.

Step 2. Involve Stakeholders + Analyze Data.
Gather information from community and staff on how the issue benefits or burdens the community in terms of racial equity.

Step 3. Determine Benefit and/or Burden.
Analyze issue for impacts and alignment with racial equity outcomes.

Step 4. Advance Opportunity or Minimize Harm.
Develop strategies to create greater racial equity or minimize unintended consequences.

Step 5. Evaluate. Raise Racial Awareness. Be Accountable.
Track impacts on communities of color overtime. Continue to communicate with and involve stakeholders. Document unresolved issues.

Step 6. Report Back.
Share information learned from analysis and unresolved issue with Department Leadership and Change Team.

APPENDIX B: CITY OF SEATTLE RACIAL EQUITY TOOLKIT

Racial Equity Toolkit Assessment Worksheet

Title of policy, initiative, program, budget issue: _____

Description: _____

Department: _____ **Contact:** _____

☐**Policy** ☐**Initiative** ☐**Program** ☐**Budget Issue**

Step 1. Set Outcomes.

1a. What does your department define as the most important racially equitable community outcomes related to the issue? *(Response should be completed by department leadership in consultation with RSJI Executive Sponsor, Change Team Leads and Change Team. Resources on p.4)*

1b. Which racial equity opportunity area(s) will the issue primarily impact?

☐**Education**
☐**Community Development**
☐**Health**
☐**Environment**
☐**Criminal Justice**
☐**Jobs**
☐**Housing**

1c. Are there impacts on:

☐**Contracting Equity**
☐**Workforce Equity**
☐**Immigrant and Refugee Access to Services**
☐**Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement**

Please describe:

Step 2. Involve stakeholders. Analyze data.

2a. Are there impacts on geographic areas? ☐Yes ☐No
Check all neighborhoods that apply *(see map on p.5)*:

☐All Seattle neighborhoods
☐Ballard
☐North
☐NE
☐Central
☐Lake Union
☐Southwest
☐Southeast
☐Delridge
☐Greater Duwamish
☐East District
☐King County (outside Seattle)
☐Outside King County
Please describe:

2b. What are the racial demographics of those living in the area or impacted by the issue?
(See Stakeholder and Data Resources p. 5 and 6)

2c. How have you involved community members and stakeholders? *(See p.5 for questions to ask community/staff at this point in the process to ensure their concerns and expertise are part of analysis.)*

APPENDIX B: CITY OF SEATTLE RACIAL EQUITY TOOLKIT

2d. What does data and your conversations with stakeholders tell you about existing racial inequities that influence people's lives and should be taken into consideration? *(See Data Resources on p.6. King County Opportunity Maps are good resource for information based on geography, race, and income.)*

2e. What are the root causes or factors creating these racial inequities?
Examples: Bias in process; Lack of access or barriers; Lack of racially inclusive engagement

Step 3. Determine Benefit and/or Burden.

Given what you have learned from data and from stakeholder involvement…

3. How will the policy, initiative, program, or budget issue increase or decrease racial equity? What are potential unintended consequences? What benefits may result? Are the impacts aligned with your department's community outcomes that were defined in Step I.?

Step 4. Advance Opportunity or Minimize Harm.

4. How will you address the impacts (including unintended consequences) on racial equity? What strategies address immediate impacts? What strategies address root causes of inequity listed in Q.6? How will you partner with stakeholders for long-term positive change? If impacts are not aligned with desired community outcomes, how will you re-align your work?

Program Strategies? _____

Policy Strategies? _____

Partnership Strategies? _____

Step 5. Evaluate. Raise Racial Awareness. Be Accountable.

5a. How will you evaluate and be accountable? How will you evaluate and report impacts on racial equity over time? What is your goal and timeline for eliminating racial inequity? How will you retain stakeholder participation and ensure internal and public accountability? How will you raise awareness about racial inequity related to this issue?

5b. What is unresolved? What resources/partnerships do you still need to make changes?

Step 6. Report Back.

Share analysis and report responses from Q.5a. and Q.5b. with Department Leadership and Change Team Leads and members involved in Step 1.

Creating Effective Community Outcomes

Outcome = the result that you seek to achieve through your actions.

***Racially equitable* community outcomes = the specific result you are seeking to achieve that advances racial equity in the community.**

When creating outcomes think about:

- What are the greatest opportunities for creating change in the next year?
- What strengths does the department have that it can build on?
- What challenges, if met, will help move the department closer to racial equity goals?

Keep in mind that the City is committed to creating racial equity in seven key opportunity areas: **Education, Community Development, Health, Criminal Justice, Jobs, Housing, and the Environment.**

Examples of community outcomes that increase racial equity:

OUTCOME	OPPORTUNITY AREA
Increase transit and pedestrian mobility options in communities of color.	Community Development
Decrease racial disparity in the unemployment rate.	Jobs
Ensure greater access to technology by communities of color.	Community Development, Education, Jobs
Improve access to community center programs for immigrants, refugees and communities of color.	Health, Community Development
Communities of color are represented in the City's outreach activities.	Education, Community Development, Health, Jobs, Housing, Criminal Justice, Environment
The racial diversity of the Seattle community is reflected in the City's workforce across positions.	Jobs
Access to City contracts for Minority Business Enterprises is increased.	Jobs
Decrease racial disparity in high school graduation rates	Education

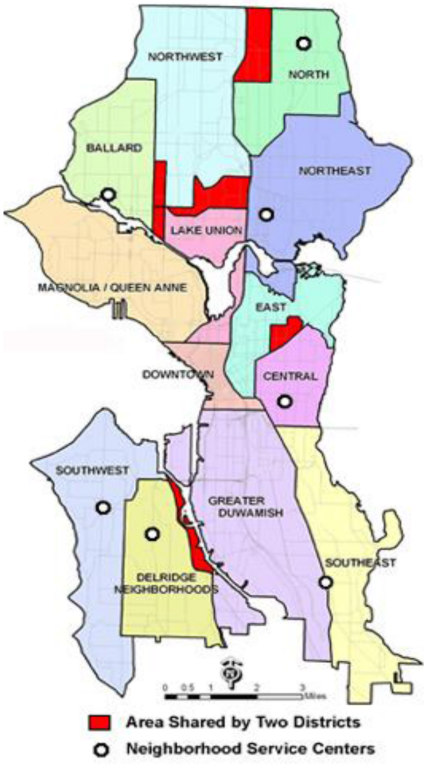
Additional Resources:

- **RSJI Departmental Work Plan:** http://inweb/rsji/departments.htm
- **Department Performance Expectations:** http://web1.seattle.gov/DPETS/DPETSWEbHome.aspx
- **Mayoral Initiatives:** http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/issues/

Identifying Stakeholders + Listening to Communities of Color

Identify Stakeholders

Find out who are the **stakeholders** most affected by, concerned with, or have experience relating to the policy, program or initiative? Identify racial demographics of neighborhood or those impacted by issue. *(See District Profiles in the Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide or refer to U.S. Census information on p.7)*



Once you have indentified your stakeholders ….

Involve them in the issue.
Describe how historically underrepresented community stakeholders can take a leadership role in this policy, program, initiative or budget issue.

Listen to the community. Ask:
1. What do we need to know about this issue? How will the policy, program, initiative or budget issue burden or benefit the community? *(concerns, facts, potential impacts)*

2. What factors produce or perpetuate racial inequity related to this issue?

3. What are ways to minimize any negative impacts (harm to communities of color, increased racial disparities, etc) that may result? What opportunities exist for increasing racial equity?

Tip: Gather Community Input Through…

- Community meetings
- Focus groups
- Consulting with City commissions and advisory boards
- Consulting with Change Team

Examples of what this step looks like in practice:

- A reduction of hours at a community center includes conversations with those who use the community center as well as staff who work there.
- Before implementing a new penalty fee, people from the demographic most represented in those fined are surveyed to learn the best ways to minimize negative impacts.

For resources on how to engage stakeholders in your work see the **Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide:** http://inweb1/neighborhoods/outreachguide/

APPENDIX C

Racial Equity Tool Worksheet

Step #1
What is your proposal and the desired results and outcomes?

1. Describe the policy, program, practice, or budget decision (for the sake of brevity, we refer to this as a "proposal" in the remainder of these steps)
2. What are the intended results (in the community) and outcomes (within your own organization)?
3. What does this proposal have an ability to impact?

Children and youth	Health
Community engagement	Housing
Contracting equity	Human services
Criminal justice	Jobs
Economic development	Parks and recreation
Education	Planning / development
Environment	Transportation
Food access and affordability	Utilities
Government practices	Workforce equity
Other _____	

Step #2
What's the data? What does the data tell us?

1. Will the proposal have impacts in specific geographic areas (neighborhoods, areas, or regions)? What are the racial demographics of those living in the area?
2. What does population level data, including quantitative and qualitative data, tell you about existing racial inequities? What does it tell you about root causes or factors influencing racial inequities?
3. What performance level data do you have available for your proposal? This should include data associated with existing programs or policies.
4. Are there data gaps? What additional data would be helpful in analyzing the proposal? If so, how can you obtain better data?

Step #3

How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

1. Who are the most affected community members who are concerned with or have experience related to this proposal? How have you involved these community members in the development of this proposal?
2. What has your engagement process told you about the burdens or benefits for different groups?
3. What has your engagement process told you about the factors that produce or perpetuate racial inequity related to this proposal?

Step #4

What are your strategies for advancing racial equity?

1. Given what you have learned from research and stakeholder involvement, how will the proposal increase or decrease racial equity? Who would benefit from or be burdened by your proposal?
2. What are potential unintended consequences? What are the ways in which your proposal could be modified to enhance positive impacts or reduce negative impacts?
3. Are there complementary strategies that you can implement? What are ways in which existing partnerships could be strengthened to maximize impact in the community? How will you partner with stakeholders for long-term positive change?
4. Are the impacts aligned with your community outcomes defined in Step #1?

Step #5

What is your plan for implementation?

1. Describe your plan for implementation.
2. Is your plan:

    Realistic?

    Adequately funded?

    Adequately resourced with personnel?

    Adequately resources with mechanisms to ensure successful implementation and enforcement?

    Adequately resourced to ensure on-going data collection, public reporting, and community engagement?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, what resources or actions are needed?

Step #6
How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

1. How will impacts be documented and evaluated? Are you achieving the anticipated outcomes? Are you having impact in the community?
2. What are your messages and communication strategies that are will help advance racial equity?
3. How will you continue to partner and deepen relationships with communities to make sure your work to advance racial equity is working and sustainable for the long-haul?

APPENDIX D

Applications of a Racial Equity Tool in Madison, WI

Agency/ Organization	Project	Tool(s) Used	Purpose & Outcomes (if applicable)
Clerk's Office	2015–2016 work plan	Equity & Empowerment Lens (Mult. Co.)	Adopted new mission, vision, work plan, and evaluation plan with racial equity goals
Streets Division	Analysis of neighborhood trash pickup	RESJI analysis (comprehensive)	Recommendations to adjust large item pickup schedule based on neighborhood & seasonal needs
Madison Out of School Time (MOST) Coalition	Strategic planning	RESJI analysis (fast-track)	Adopted strategic directions, including target populations, informed by racial equity analysis
Public Health Madison & Dane County	Dog breeding & licensing ordinance	RESJI analysis (comprehensive)	Accepted recommendation to table initial legislation & develop better policy through more inclusive outreach; updated policy adopted
Fire Department	Planning for new fire station	RESJI analysis (comprehensive)	Recommendations for advancing racial equity and inclusive community engagement; development scheduled for 2016–2017
Metro Transit	Succession planning for management hires	RESJI equitable hiring checklist	First woman of color promoted to Metro management position in over 20 years
Human Resources Department	2015 & 2016 work plans	RESJI analysis (fast-track & comprehensive)	2015 plan reflects staff input; 2016 work plan to include stakeholder input (est. 10/15)
Human Resources Department	City hiring process	RESJI analysis (comprehensive)	Human Resources 2015 racial equity report: http://racialequityalliance.org/2015/08/14/the-city-of-madisons-2015-human-resources-equity-report-advancing-racial-equity-in-the-city-workforce/
Economic Development Division	Public Market District project	RESJI analysis (comprehensive)	10 recommendations proposed to Local Food Committee for incorporation into larger plan
Public Health Madison & Dane County	Strategic planning	RESJI analysis (fast-track)	Incorporation of staff & stakeholder input, racial equity priorities, to guide goals & objectives (est. 11/15)

APPENDIX D: APPLICATIONS OF A RACIAL EQUITY TOOL IN MADISON, WI

Agency/ Organization	Project	Tool(s) Used	Purpose & Outcomes (if applicable)
Planning, Community & Econ. Devel. Dept.	Judge Doyle Square development (public/private, TIF-funded)	RESJI analysis (fast-track); ongoing consultation	Highlight opportunities for advancement of racial equity; identify potential impacts & unintended consequences; document public-private development for lessons learned and best practices
Parks Division	Planning for accessible playground	TBD	Ensure full consideration of decisions as informed by community stakeholders, with a focus on communities of color and traditionally marginalized communities, including people with disabilities.
Fire Department	Updates to promotional processes	TBD	Offer fair and equitable opportunities for advancement (specifically Apparatus Engineer promotions)

The Haas Institute for a Fair and Inclusive Society at the University of California, Berkeley brings together researchers, community stakeholders, policymakers, and communicators to identify and challenge the barriers to an inclusive, just, and sustainable society and create transformative change. The Institute serves as a national hub of a vibrant network of researchers and community partners and takes a leadership role in translating, communicating, and facilitating research, policy, and strategic engagement. The Haas Institute advances research and policy related to marginalized people while essentially touching all who benefit from a truly diverse, fair, and inclusive society.

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The Center for Social Inclusion's mission is to catalyze grassroots community, government, and other institutions to dismantle structural racial inequity. We apply strategies and tools to transform our nation's policies, practices, and institutional culture in order to ensure equitable outcomes for all. As a national policy strategy organization, CSI works with community advocates, government, local experts, and national leaders to build shared analysis, create policy strategies that engage and build multi-generational, multi-sectoral, and multi-racial alliances, and craft strong communication narratives on how to talk about race effectively in order to shift public discourse to one of equity.

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