

Identifying How Actions and Recommendations of the Forum Impact Equitable Outcomes for Washingtonians

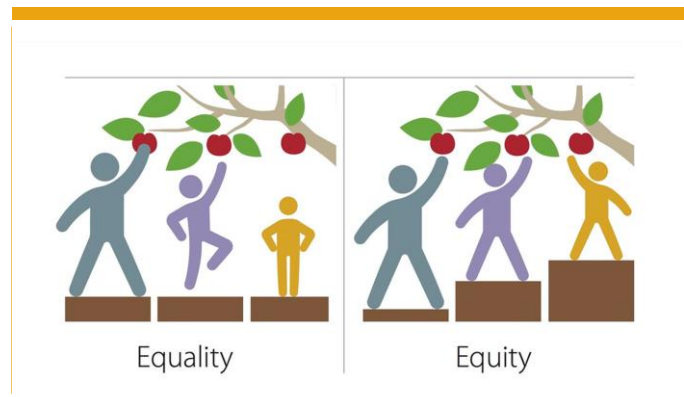
In the Summer of 2020, the [Washington State Food Policy Forum](#) (Forum) committed in its [Early Implementation Action Report](#) to identify how actions and recommendations of the Forum impact equitable outcomes for Washingtonians (page 10). Based on this commitment, in Spring 2021, the Forum developed and tested this equity filter.² The following questions will be used to understand how the Forum's actions and recommendations have different impacts on the diversity of geographic and demographic communities in Washington. The intention of this filter is to help guide the Forum in its work to develop and take action on recommendations so that the Forum contributes to the development of a food system that benefits all people in Washington. This is considered a living document in that the Forum intends to align its work on equity with guidance provided by Washington State agencies, such as the newly funded Office of Equity.

Definitions

Equity: The act of developing, strengthening, and supporting procedural and outcome fairness in systems, procedures, and resource distribution mechanisms to create equitable (not equal) opportunity for all people. Equity is distinct from equality which refers to everyone having the same treatment without accounting for differing needs or circumstances. Equity has a focus on eliminating barriers that have prevented the full participation of historically and currently oppressed groups.¹

Populations to consider: Inequities are not inherent to an individual's identity, rather they are influenced by social determinants that systematically marginalize groups due to their identity. Inequities can be exacerbated or alleviated by intersecting identities. When determining who is likely to be burdened by a proposal, the Forum considers not only historical systemic inequities, but present-day systemic inequities and present-day vulnerability. The Forum begins by thinking expansively about who is likely to be burdened by a proposal. To get started, consider the list of populations [on slide 9 in this State Board of Health presentation](#).

Proposal: A policy, program, practice, action, or budget decision that has been identified by the Forum.



Source: <https://bos.smcgov.org/equity>

¹ Draft OFM glossary of foundational DEI terms to create a shared language.

² The filter was developed by the Forum's Equity Subcommittee, members include: Amy Ellings (DOH), Brian Estes (LINC Foods), Christina Wong (Northwest Harvest), Claire Lane (WA State Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition), Evan Sheffels (WSDA), Kate Delavan (SCC), Laura Raymond (WSDA), Laura Lewis (WSU), Representative Mary Dye, Mary Embleton (King Conservation District), Melissa Spear (Tilth Alliance), Nancy Warner (Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship), Ron Shultz (SCC), Tom Davis (Farm Bureau). The filter questions were developed based on the following: The Forum's equity questions in its recent Early Implementation Action Report (see pg. 10 in the report); GARE Racial Equity Toolkit; Northwest Harvest's equity filter; and the WA State Board of Health HIR guiding questions.

Equity Filter Questions

1. What is the proposal under consideration?
2. What are the desired results and outcomes?
3. Who is likely to benefit from, who is likely to be burdened by, and who might be left out of this proposal? Consider racial, ethnic, or economic disparity. To get started, consider the list of populations on slide 9 in this State Board of Health presentation.
4. How and to what extent might the proposal reduce inequities experienced by the populations identified in question #3?
5. What perspectives and data does the Forum need to consider to ensure the proposed action will advance equity?
6. What unintended consequences may result from this proposal that could affect equity? Consider to what extent the proposal advantages people and/or groups who have traditionally benefited from privilege.
7. What feedback from this exercise about opportunities to advance equity should be shared with those who will be implementing the proposed action?