

WASHINGTON APA'S GAME CHANGING INITIATIVE
SOCIAL EQUITY WORKING GROUP

APA AWARDS

Social Equity Criteria



THE NEXUS BETWEEN SOCIAL EQUITY & PLANNING

Over the past two years, planners in our region have been meeting to discuss the complex and enormous challenges facing the Pacific Northwest. To chart a course forward, the Washington chapter of the American Planning Association identified “ten big ideas” that planners need to address.

1. Address Climate Change
2. Enhance Regional Decision-making
3. Restore and Protect Eco-Systems
4. Link Health & Urban Planning
5. Increase Local Government Capacity
6. Support Economic Development
- 7. Foster Social Equity**
8. Support Sustainable Agriculture
9. Build Social Capital
10. Rebuild Infrastructure

APA AWARDS

SOCIAL EQUITY CRITERIA

Proposed Modifications to the American Planning Association's Washington Chapter's Annual Award Criteria

To promote a focus on social equity in planning practice the Social Equity Working Group drafted new social equity criteria to be incorporated in the award criteria used to score all APA Awards (adapted from the [Puget Sound Regional Equity Network's "Principles of Equitable Development"](#)).

DRAFT "Contributes to Social Equity" Criteria:

Submittals shall include a description of efforts undertaken to contribute to social equity, such as:

- **Prevent displacement.** Does the plan incorporate policies, programs and incentives that maximize the ability of current residents to remain in their homes in the face of gentrification, and discourage displacement of viable small businesses that serve community needs?
- **Understand and respond to local context.** Does the plan respect local community character, cultural diversity, and values while building upon local assets?
- **Preserve and expand affordable housing options.** Does the plan complement or support healthy, safe and affordable housing for all family sizes and incomes in all neighborhoods?
- **Promote environmental justice.** Does the plan eliminate disproportionate environmental burdens on low-income communities and communities of color?
- **Achieve full accessibility.** Will the future projects in the plan be accessible and welcoming to people regardless of age, physical condition, or language?
- **Advance economic opportunity.** Does the plan help increase quality living wage jobs for people in all neighborhoods and enhance community-serving establishments?
- **Promote broader mobility and connectivity.** Does the plan include linkages to effective and affordable public transportation network that provides equitable access to core services and amenities?
- **Practice meaningful community engagement.** Was the plan developed with local community participation and leadership in decision-making to reflect a diversity of voices, including targeted strategies to engage historically marginalized communities?
- **Develop healthy and safe communities.** Does the plan enhance community health through public amenities (schools, parks, open spaces, complete streets, health care

Fostering Social Equity Working Group

and other services), access to affordable healthy food, improved air quality, and safe and inviting environments?

Description for the Community Engagement Award

To promote meaningful and inclusive community engagement the Social Equity Working Group proposed a re-naming of the "Citizen Involvement Award" to "Community Engagement Award" and drafted clarifying award description language (based on ["The City of Seattle's Inclusive Outreach and Public Engagement Guide"](#)).

DRAFT "Community Engagement Award" Description: Inclusive community engagement includes: sharing power between the planning entity and affected communities; valuing cultural differences as assets; using racially and culturally appropriate outreach methods; addressing barriers that prevent disadvantaged communities from participating in traditional planning processes; and exchanging (rather than collecting) information with target communities.