
Community As Collaborators
Empowering Community Voices in Public Processes

Who we are

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*WA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, OFFICE OF
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NATALIA KOSS VALLEJO

PUBLIC POLICY LEAD
BDS PLANNING & URBAN DESIGN



Why we are here

Community As Collaborators

- Inclusive Process
 - Planning should be participatory, comprehensive, strategic, and implementable
 - Amplify racial, environmental, and social justice to empower diverse communities
- Outcomes can differ greatly based on who is included at the table
- Nothing about _____ without _____

Why we are here.

Compensating our Community Collaborators...

- Increases participation from low-income people
- Incentivizes participation from under-represented groups
- Shows that we value the expertise of project participants
- Increases follow-through, reduces participant drop-off or “flake” rate
- Builds longer lasting relationships for future work

**WA STATE
APPROACH TO
COMPENSATING
COMMUNITY**

Statewide Office of Equity

The population of Washington state has become increasingly diverse over the last several decades.

As the demographics of our state change, historically and currently marginalized communities still do not have the same opportunities to meet parity as their nonmarginalized counterparts across nearly every measure including education, poverty, employment, health, and more.

Inequities based on race, ethnicity, gender, and other characteristics continue to be deep, pervasive, and persistent, and they come at a great economic and social cost.



Statewide Office of Equity

Equity is not equality. Equity requires developing, strengthening, and supporting policies and procedures that distribute and prioritize resources to people in identify groups who have historically been and currently are marginalized, including tribes

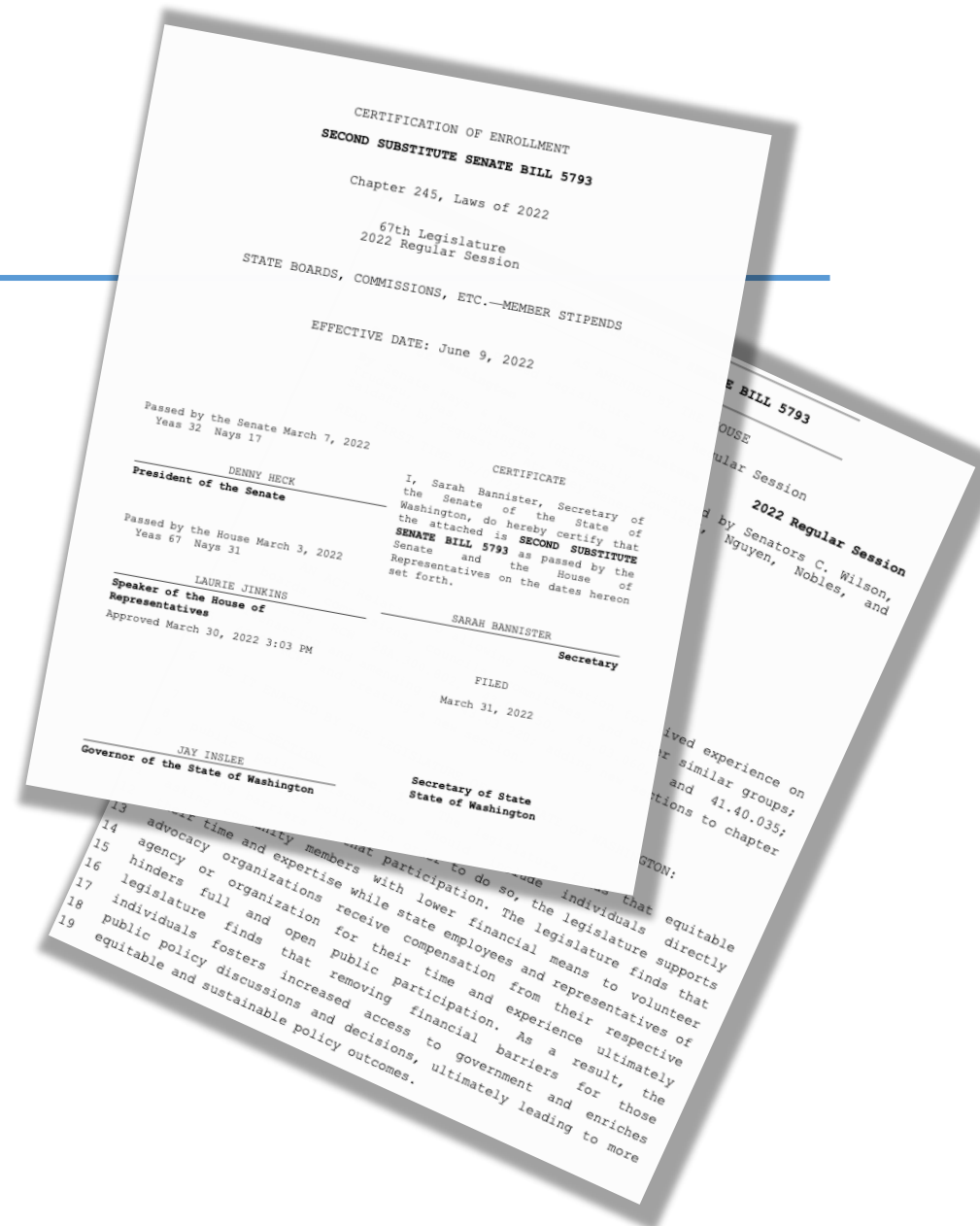
Equity requires the elimination of systemic barriers that have been deeply entrenched in systems of inequality and oppression; and

Equity achieves procedural and outcome fairness, promoting dignity, honor, and respect for all people.



Senate Bill 5793

“The legislature finds that **equitable public policy discussions should include individuals directly impacted by that policy.** In order to do so, the legislature supports removing barriers to that participation. The legislature finds that asking community members with lower financial means to volunteer their time and expertise while state employees and representatives of advocacy organizations receive compensation from their respective agency or organization for their time and experience ultimately hinders full and open public participation. As a result, the legislature finds that **removing financial barriers** for those individuals fosters increased access to government and enriches public policy discussions and decisions, ultimately **leading to more equitable and sustainable policy outcomes.**”



Building the Community Compensation Guidelines

- Underlying goals & philosophy
- Process
- Outcomes



**SPOTLIGHT ON
IMPLEMENTATION:
DEPT. OF COMMERCE**

Commerce - Engagement and Compensation

400 community members compensated in engagements

Workgroups include:

- Advisory groups
- Committees
- Interview panels
- Procurement reviews
- Listening sessions



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

Commerce - Engagement and Compensation

Examples of Workgroups within Dept. of Commerce

- Office of Homeless Youth Workgroup, Advisory Committee, Youth Convening
- HUD proposed data changes Listening Sessions
- Electric Vehicle Coordinating Council Advisory Committee



Serving Communities ▾ Building Infrastructure ▾ Growing the Economy ▾ Promoting Washington ▾ Q

Office of Homeless Youth Committees and Workgroup

The Office of Homeless Youth works with various stakeholders across the state to address youth homelessness. The workgroup and committee listed encompass agencies and key stakeholders that are charged with reducing and end youth homelessness.



Do you need help?

The Office of Homeless Youth does not provide services directly; please refer to this list of resources for youth and young adults in your area.

Program Links

- [Office of Homeless Youth](#)
- [Office of Homeless Youth Technical Assistance](#)
- [Youth Homelessness Prevention](#)
- [Research, Data and Reports](#)

News and Announcements

Contact

Email: youthhomeless@commerce.wa.gov

[OHY Staff List \(PDF\)](#)

Interagency Work Group on Youth Homelessness

— About the Work Group

Gov. Inslee established the Interagency Work Group on Youth Homelessness (IAWG) with directive 17-01, signed on Jan. 24, 2017. The workgroup convenes state agency partners to develop shared goals, outcomes, and action plans to prevent and design a system response to youth homelessness in Washington.

Commerce - Engagement and Compensation

Implementation Considerations:

- Establishing policy and process for consistency
- Informed consent for
 - Public disclosure
 - Tax and benefit implications
- Continuing to iterate based on feedback



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**SPOTLIGHT ON
IMPLEMENTATION:
BDS PLANNING &
DESIGN**

BDS Planning & Design – Types of Engagement

Low-Engagement

- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Unlikely to earn \$600 total per calendar year

High-Engagement

- Likely to earn \$600 total per calendar year
- Advisory Committees
- Trusted Messengers
- Community Liaisons



BDS Planning & Design – Methods of Compensation

Determining Eligibility

- Client requirements and community member background

Paying Community Members

- Gift card vs. checks, tax reporting requirements,



BDS Planning & Design – Upsides and Downsides

Third party payment through a consultant or planning firm on behalf of a state agency offer many benefits and a few drawbacks, all of which should be communicated to the recipients clearly.

- Benefits of outsourcing to third party
- Payment schedule and invoicing steps
- Challenges and obstacles



BDS Planning & Design – Impact Examples

Project Examples involving Community

Compensation

- Permanent Supportive Housing Advisory Committee
- Homeless Service Provider Workforce Report, Trauma Study
- Burien Community Connectors Program



Q&A

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