

Planning, Policy
&
Programming

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Project Title:
Community Engagement Difficulties
Metric for Pilot Equity Index

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Community Engagement Difficulties Metric for Pilot Equity Index

Develop an Equity Indicator that will Measure Community Engagement.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Most government agencies are grappling with the right metrics, datasets, and ultimately, the right indicators for assessing racial equity within their programs and policies.

The Caltrans Office of Race and Equity (CORE), over the course of 2021-2022, will be piloting of a suite of equity analysis tools that centers around the creation of multi-indicator metric referred to as an Equity Index.

There is a notable gap in the scientific literature on an equity indicator of this type, and it has been deemed as a crucial component to obtaining a comprehensive Equity Index to be piloted by the Department. Therefore, the creation of an equity indicator that measures the quantity and quality of community engagement is essential for a successful pilot trial of the Equity Index.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We will conduct an extensive literature review for methodologies on creating public sector community engagement indicators in an equity context. We will then propose novel methodologies for creating a community engagement equity indicator metric and a scoring scale within a California context. Finally, we will run the proposed community engagement equity indicator through several scenarios of various geographic California regions and analyze results.



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WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this research request is to have a durable, versatile equity indicator metric that will accurately measure the level of community engagement in a given geographic region and be inserted into a larger Pilot Equity Index. The metric will be utilized for future Equity Index Pilot projects as the Department continues to refine and integrate the Equity Index.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This study will help the Department develop an equity indicator that will measure the level of community engagement in a specific geographic area. It will also help the Department understand and measure equity in the State. It will also help measure the disparities faced by disadvantaged groups over time. Furthermore, these indicators can support policy development, demonstrate the effectiveness of current policies and initiatives, and highlight areas where new policies and initiatives may be needed. By making data publicly available, they increase transparency and accountability, allowing the Department an inside view into the disparities in the State and where progress is—and is not—being made.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

A kick-off meeting will be scheduled in May 2022.

IMAGE



Image 1: Equity-Centered Community Engagement Strategy