



Equity Working Group Meeting

June 16th, 2022

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference. A video recording of the meeting is available upon request. The meeting presentations are available [here](#).

ATTENDEE LIST

Presenters:

Helen Dowling, Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Kathleen Knight, The Fund for Santa Barbara
Kirin Kumar, California Strategic Growth Council
Emily Rotman, SCAG
Marcos Vargas, The Fund for Santa Barbara

SCAG Staff:

Courtney Aguirre
Anita Au
Leslie Cayton
Kimberly Clark
Annaleigh Ekman
Lorianna Esturas
Dan Kato
David Milner
Anikka Van Eyl

Webinar:

Coline Bodenreider, Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Ana Bonilla, Public Health Alliance of Southern California
*Dakota Brown, Riverside County Behavioral Health Cultural
Community Liaison to People with Disabilities*
Gladys Bustos, Mgs:green
David Casazza, REMI
*Pat Davis, Housing is a Human Right, Orange County, CA
(HHROC)*
Raffi Der Wartanian, CSUSB
Ankitha Doddanari, SCE
Derek Eason-Towers, City of Ventura
Robert Flores, City of San Jacinto
Joseph Jamoralin, Caltrans
Rebecca Marsile, OCHCA
Heidi Matt, REMI
Jessica Medina, Metro
Courtney Oei, Public Health Alliance of Southern California
Richard Parks, Redeemer Community Partnership
Monique Reza-Arellano, SBCOG/SBCTA
Colleen Wallace, City of Banning
Warren Whiteaker, OCTA
Robert Wong, District 7
*Jose Zamora, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors 5th
District*

MEETING SUMMARY

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) | au@scag.ca.gov

Anita welcomed all participants.

2. RACIAL EQUITY RESOURCE HUB

Kirin Kumar, Equity and Government Transformation, California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) | kirin.kumar@sgc.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

Kirin provided a demo of the recently released Racial Equity Resource Hub, a website that serves as a repository of resources



focused on racial equity for community leaders, policy makers, government workers, and other stakeholders. The resource hub has a variety of vetted resources that can be used as templates or examples for policies and programs. It currently features plans, programs and mission statements from various agencies like CalEPA and CalTrans. The resource hub is updated periodically and programs and policies can be submitted through the website.

To learn more about the Racial Equity Resource Hub, visit: <https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/racial-equity/>

Questions and Answers:

Question: What are some lessons learned when you developed the resource hub?

Answer: One unique challenge would be finding resources that are ADA compliant was a challenge. We tried to directly link these tools and resources to areas that are already hosting the materials but we found out many agencies are not ADA compliant. It was more of an opportunity to express a need to increase ADA compliance rather than a challenge.

Question: Would you consider adding a filter to the hub to sort by agency type/resource?

Answer: Yes, we can consider that for a future update.

Question: If we want to have our resources uploaded, do you have a recommended method?

Answer: You can submit additional resources via email to sgc.info@sgc.ca.gov

Question: How often will the resource hub be updated?

Answer: This is still being determined but we anticipate updating the hub within this quarter and potentially a refresh each quarter.

Question: Would you also consider mapping the resources, like the origins, so people working within their area can see resources for their region?

Answer: As we build out the hub and add features, we hope to include filters by location or add mapping capabilities.

3. **REGIONAL CLIMATE COLLABORATIVES PROGRAM**

Emily Rotman, Assistant Regional Planner, SCAG | rotman@scag.ca.gov

Presentation Summary:

Emily presented on the Regional Climate Collaborative Program (RCC) and is soliciting input from the working group on interest in applying for the program and how SCAG can play a role in the process. The program is administered by the California Strategic Growth Council and its goal is to strengthen local coordination, leadership, knowledge, skills and expertise. The program focuses on increasing access to funding resources for climate action within underresourced communities and funding community-rooted and cross-sectoral collaboratives to conduct capacity-building activities. RCC anticipates \$8.35 million in funding in the first round and the second round to be released in spring 2023. RCC's core values align with many of SCAG's work including SCAG's Strategic Plan, the Racial Equity Early Action Plan, the 2022 Public Participation Plan, Connect SoCal, and SCAG's Regional Council resolution affirming climate change is a crisis in Southern California. SCAG is looking to support RCC applicants through various ways including joining as a partner on grant applications, facilitating grant applications and applying as the Managing Stakeholder to take on administrative responsibilities. SCAG will hold office hours to assist with developing actions plans and provide technical assistance. The RCC pre-proposal deadline is July 15th and the deadline for full applications is October 7th.

For more information about the Regional Climate Collaboratives Program, visit:

https://sgc.ca.gov/programs/cace/docs/20220511-Fact_Sheet-RCC-Program-R1.pdf

Questions and Answers:



Question: When is the deadline?

Answer: The pre-proposal deadline is July 15th and the full application deadline is October 7th.

4. **HEALTHY PLACES INDEX 3.0**

Helen Dowling, Public Health Alliance of Southern California | hdowling@phi.org

Presentation Summary:

Helen presented on the recently updated Healthy Places Index (HPI 3.0). HPI 3.0 evaluates the relationship between 23 social drivers of health and life expectancy at birth to determine health community conditions and produces a score of 0 to 100 representing a “ranking” of conditions compared to other neighborhoods. The tool also includes measures organized in eight policy action areas: economic, social, education, transportation, neighborhood, housing, clean environments, and health access. HPI 3.0 focuses on applying a race and place frame to data to help provide sound, quality data for residents, advocates and leaders, to help communities better advocate for their unique needs, to guide leaders to develop more equitable, community-forward solutions, and to inform leaders and community providers to scale resources appropriately for each region. The update allows community leaders, academics, advocates and residents to use HPI 3.0 to explore community conditions, rank geographies in areas of interest, pool scores to better understand specific areas, compare data, examine the link between race and place, filter geographies by race, consider policy opportunities, and view historically redlined neighborhoods.

To learn about HPI 3.0, visit: <https://www.healthyplacesindex.org/>

Questions and Answers:

Question: Where are your data sources from? Is it Census Data or community informed? It’s also great to see the data visualization.

Answer: A lot of the data comes from American Community Survey five year estimates at the neighborhood level. We also draw on other data sources depending on the indicator. We have 375 decision support layers from many public data sources across the state and country and we have an exhaustive list of data sources for each indicator provided in the technical report.

Question: Have you considered an indicator of quality of life in HPI? For example, how “happy” a community is? Or how many sick days experienced a year?

Answer: We would love to be able to include that within our decision support layers but the challenge is data availability. There may be private data sources like the Gallop Foundation with quality of life data but they are usually not publicly available and unlikely to be at refined geographies. We do have a measure of mental health in our decision support layers.

Question: Did you experience and challenges in achieving statistical significance with some of these factors? For example, it’s been really challenging to get some levels of significant for public health data for all races and ethnicities.

Answer: We don’t do significance testing within the creation of the index itself (see technical report for details on the creation of the index) but for the individual indicators, at the census tract level, they’re not disaggregated by race and ethnicity because the data is not available. In order to improve statistical reliability and validity, we have some inclusion criteria for our census tract data so we make sure to include data on tracts that have populations over 1,500 and for group quarters population under 6% (excluding small tracts and other areas like prisons, dormitories, etc.). Even with the criteria, we have scores for over 95% of census tracts in California.

Question: Can HPI integrate more data on active transportation, beyond commuting, as that has a high correlation with public health?



Answer: Yes, we would like to incorporate additional measures and welcome anyone to suggest and provide the data sources needed to do that. We have discussed working with San Diego County and looked into adding bike and pedestrian count data at the local level but we want to be able to include data that covers most of the state.

5. CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL EQUITY INITIATIVE

Marcos Vargas & Kathleen Knight, The Fund for Santa Barbara | mvargas@fundforsantabarbara.org,
kathleen@fundforsantabarbara.org

Presentation Summary:

Marcos opened the presentation with a brief introduction of the Fund for Santa Barbara which is a non-traditional community foundation that supports organizations and groups working for progressive social change in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties. The Central Coast Regional Equity Study focuses on Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties but the intersectionality of equity and inequality can be applied widely to Southern California and California in general. The study is guided by a vision of regional equity and acknowledges shared history, socioeconomic integration and interdependence and the long and growing history of bi-county activism. The research sought to be multi-dimensional and inclusive, accomplished through community consultations to inform and elevate key issue areas and quantitative US Census based data analysis. This work was meant to provide data driven analyses of the crises of inequities faced in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, serve as a benchmark to track progress over time towards a more just and equitable future, and serve as an action-based initiative framework to advance a regional vision of equity within the Central Coast.

The study found that the bi-county central coast region face injustices in wages, employment, housing, criminal justice, education, environmental exposures, and access to healthcare that disproportionately effects working class communities of color. Through the Fund's diverse coalition and community-based knowledge they report 11 key findings. These include (1) respect the rights and experiences of Indigenous people, (2) center equity and justice as foundational economic values, (3) invest inclusive, universally accessible infrastructure of opportunity and social provision, (4) advance racial and intersectional justice, (5) recognize, respect, and protect immigrant rights, civic integration and political voice, (6) protect tenants, preserve communities, and make housing affordable for all, (7) be a leader in environmental and climate justice, (8) bridge digital divides for underserved communities, (9) create platforms for collaborative, community-engaged equity research, (10) build from our victories, (11) open avenues to participatory democracy.

To view the Central Coastal Regional Equity Study, visit: <https://fundforsantabarbara.org/regional-equity-study/>

Questions and Answers:

Question: Is the methodology documented for potential replication of analysis in other areas?

Answer: Our methodology is documented in the technical appendix. We partnered with the Equity Research Institute at USC to collect the quantitative data but we also relied on community participation with over 160 member participants that came together to collect qualitative data to paint a larger intersectional picture. We hope this will be a model to be replicated. USC's Equity Research Institute and PolicyLink's Equity Atlas are great resources as well.

Question: Are you experiencing any challenges with engaging city and local practitioners in trying to motivate their work at the local levels?

Answer: We anticipated push back but have been met with a ton of enthusiasm. In fact, the two CEOs of Ventura and Santa Barbara declared their intention to use the data and framework from the study to push an equity agenda within their counties.

Question: Do you have any tips to localities that are just starting this work?



Answer: We encourage you to look at our equity study to understand the inequities happening in California in general. And utilizing data as a leveraging tool can be really power and important in pushing forward an equity agenda. We also recommend considering reimagining what partnerships look like to see how manifestation of equity really looks like for each region.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anita Au, Senior Regional Planner, SCAG | au@scag.ca.gov

Anita shared the following announcements:

- The Connect SoCal Sustainable Communities Program Fourth Call for Applications which focuses on civic engagement, equity, and environmental justice will be releasing its draft guidelines next month with an anticipated opening of the call in September 2022. Visit the SCAG Sustainable Communities Program [webpage](#) for more information.
- SCAG awarded its first ever Equity Award as part of the Sustainability Awards at the 57th Annual SCAG Regional Council and General Assembly in May! Congratulations to Port of Long Beach on their Community Grants Program for winning the Equity Category and AdvanceOC for their Equity Map and Social Progress Index for their honorable mention. A short video of the Port of Long Beach’s Community Grants Program is available on SCAG’s [website](#).
- Back in April, over 90 Federal Agencies released Equity Action Plans to implement Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. We have mainly been engaged with the Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency’s plans. For more information, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/equity/#equity-plan-snapshots>
- The 2022 GARE Annual Membership Meeting was held in Portland, OR and virtually back in April. If you attended the conference, you now have access to [recording](#) of all the sessions. Some of the presentations and resources are available to staff of GARE Member agencies, even if they didn’t attend the conference.

Anita wrapped the session with Offers, Requests, and Connections. Participants were welcomed at this and future meetings to share their equity-related work, request assistance on any work challenges they are experiencing and connect with others doing similar work. The following questions were prompted:

- Offers: Has your agency been working on any equity-related work you would like to share?
- Request: Are there any issues you have experienced since we met last that you would appreciate resources/support on?
- Connection: Are you interested in connecting with other agencies around a specific topic?

If you have questions about this meeting, please feel free to reach out to Anita Au au@scag.ca.gov. SCAG also encourages participants to reach out if you have a topic, project, program, tool, or resource that you think should be highlighted in a future meeting. The next Equity Working Group meeting will be held in September 2022.