

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MODEL POLICIES

Environmental Justice Task Force
July 16, 2020 Feedback Listening Session

RECOMMENDATIONS CAME FROM:

- Communities across Washington
- Advocates, academics, & practitioners
- Task Force Members
- Government & Non-Profit research
- Current & proposed legislation & programming in other states

TASK FORCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The EJ Task Force must provide recommendations for **model policies** and **measurable goals** to reduce environmental health disparities.

Today's focus is on model polices.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

Dedicated Revenue for
Overburdened Communities

State Reparations Task Force

Dedicated Equity & EJ Staff at
Agencies

Permanent EJ Task Force

Contract with Trusted
Community Organizations

Feedback

For each proposal:

Any immediate red flags? What needs
further discussion?

How can we strengthen a promising draft
recommendation?

Who do we need to engage with to refine
this idea?

What are the potential costs?

DRAFT MODEL POLICY RECOMMENDATION: Dedicated Revenue For Overburdened Communities

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

- For environmental legislative proposals tied to current or new revenue sources, dedicate a percentage of the budget to serving overburdened communities
- Greatest considerations for communities ranked 9 & 10 on EHD map

EXAMPLE

CalEnviroScreen & SB 535

Mandates that 25% of the proceeds from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund go to projects that provide a benefit to 'disadvantaged communities' as identified by CalEnviroScreen, a cumulative impacts map of CA.

EMERGING POLICY IDEA: Create A Statewide Reparations Task Force

STATE REPARATIONS TASK FORCE

Study & develop reparation proposals for WA

Can be similarly focused to the Draft CA commission

- Explore whether to include Native, Indigenous, & other People of Color, in addition to Black & African-American communities

Direct connections between reparations & EJ:

- Land theft
- Colonization
- Segregation
- Redlining
- Internment
- Employment discrimination
- Financial services discrimination

EXAMPLE: CA [AB 3121](#)

Assess the culpability in and benefits from the enslavement of and discrimination against African-Americans, by California families, governments, corporations and, especially banks and insurers, based in California.

Recommend measures that may be levied against culpable entities to provide reparations for their victims, from financial reparations to educational programs to formal apologies.

Determine how reparations due from California parties should be calculated, who should pay them, and who might be eligible to receive them.

DRAFT MODEL POLICY RECOMMENDATION

All agencies have a senior leadership position dedicated to equity & EJ.

RECOMMENDED RESPONSIBILITIES

Co-construct a community of practice within their own agencies & among other agency staff

- Support agency accountability to communities
- Facilitate equity & EJ training at agency
- Apply equity & EJ lens to agency work
- *Recommended Qualification:* relevant community or lived experience

DRAFT MODEL POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Convene a permanent EJ interagency workgroup that also includes members representing overburdened communities.

EJ Workgroup Draft Responsibilities:

- Engage with communities to document EJ concerns
- Support elevating community concerns to local & state government
- Prioritize communities with cumulative environmental & health burdens
- Prioritize sensitive populations
- Example: [CA EJ Task Force](#) & [OR EJ Task Force](#)

Alternatives to Creating a New Body:

- Add to scope of Office of Equity if/when advisory board is created; adequate funding needed
- Extended responsibility for Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities; adequate funding needed

DRAFT MODEL POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Agencies contract with trusted community organizations that have policy expertise in developing legislative & regulatory policies with community input.

- Trusted community organizations know how to appropriately solicit expertise from communities.
- Agencies have relationships with community organizations & consultants, but not always with communities.
- Communities are rarely compensated for assisting with developing & refining policy.
- As such, there should be more parity from agencies in how they engage with consultants and community organizations.
- *Option:* Leverage Department of Enterprise Services master contract list.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS AT A GLANCE

Measurable
Goals

EJ Metrics in Results WA

EJ & Equity in Missions &
Strategic Plans

Track & Evaluate Agencies on
EJ Principles

Amend RCWs to Adequately
Fund Community Engagement

Model
Policy

Dedicated Equity & EJ Staff at
Agencies

Contract with Trusted
Community Organizations

Dedicated Revenue for
Overburdened Communities

Permanent EJ Task Force

EJ Goal in GMA

Emerging
Policy
Ideas

Mandated Use of CIA Tools

State Reparations Task Force