

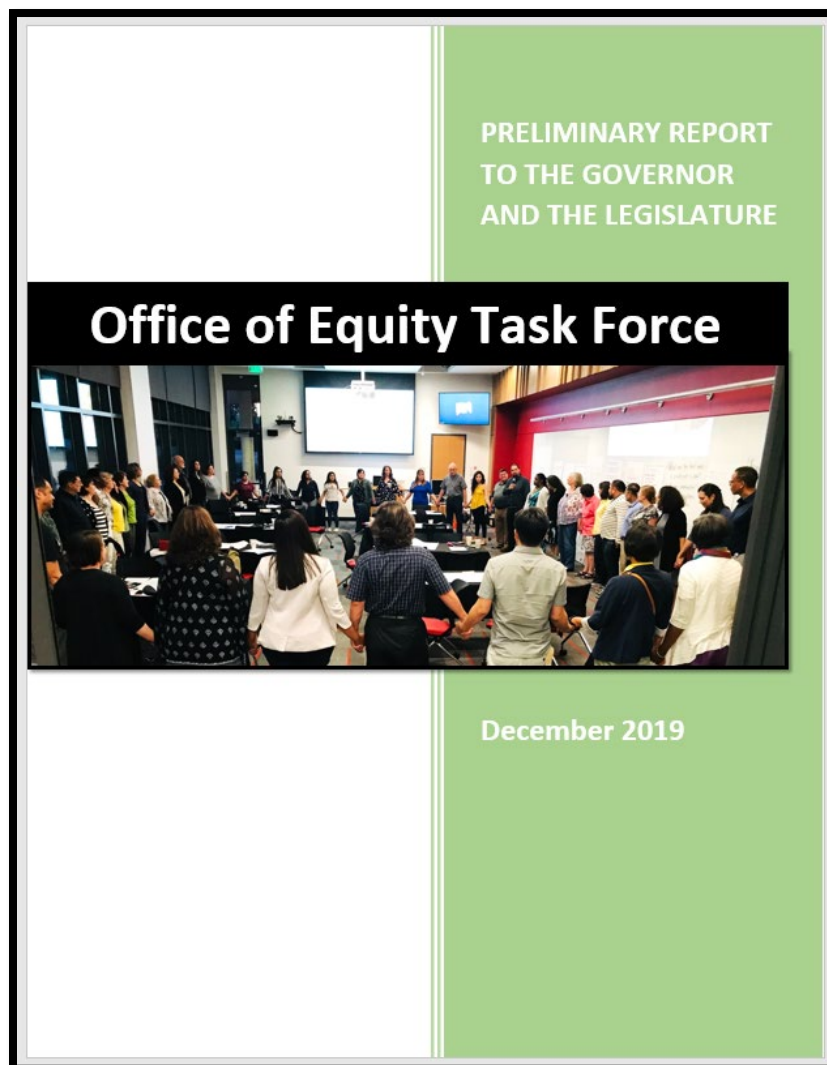
Announcing the Equity Office Task Force’s Preliminary Report

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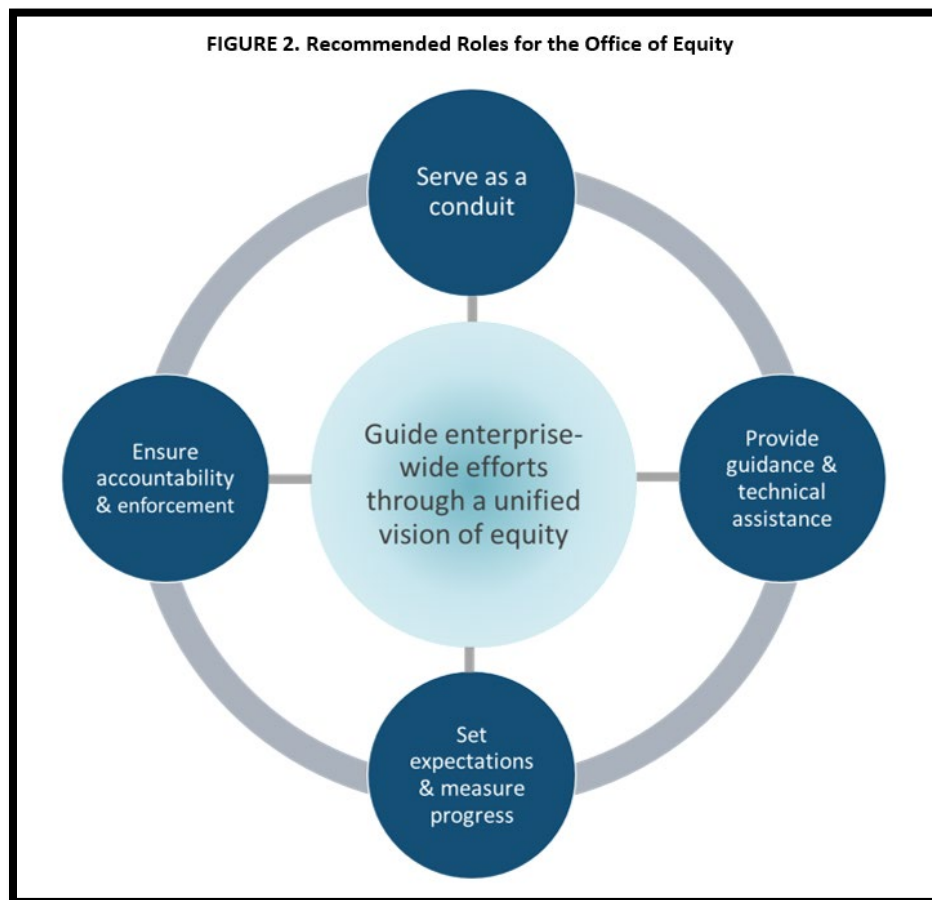
January 30, 2020

The [Equity Office Task Force](#) has submitted its [preliminary report to the Governor and Legislature](#), and we are excited to share this report with our friends and partners.

The Equity Office Task Force, established in July 2019, is developing a proposal for the creation of a Washington State Office of Equity. [Task Force members](#) include representatives of communities, state legislators, and staff from agencies and commissions. Since the project began, the Task Force has opened [public comment](#) and held [monthly public meetings](#) throughout the state to gather community input and feedback. The preliminary report details the Task Force’s work thus far and includes recommendations for the Office of Equity’s general structure, primary roles, and estimated operating budget.



The Office of Equity represents an evolution of government. The Task Force envisions the Office of Equity playing an integral role in coordinating and elevating diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts in state government. The Office’s work would promote smarter government by helping agencies invest resources in an equitable way and toward effective strategies.



The Task Force’s preliminary recommendations have been considered by the Governor in his [proposed supplemental operating budget](#), which allocates just under \$1 million to start up the Office in its first year. The Task Force’s recommendations have also been considered by legislators as they crafted amendments to what is now [E2SHB 1783](#), which passed out of the House of Representatives on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and is awaiting hearing in the Senate.

Through June 2020, the Task Force will explore additional accountability mechanisms and other areas of interest to build out an operations plan for the Office of Equity. It will take into account enterprise-wide DEI efforts that continue to evolve. The Task Force will submit a final proposal to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2020.

The Task Force’s [next public meeting](#) is on Friday, February 21 in the Olympia area. We will send more information through our distribution list closer to the event. Members of the public are able to submit [written comments](#) to the Task Force ahead of each meeting. We encourage community members to attend these meetings to engage in conversations with the Task Force, share their stories, and help shape Washington’s more equitable future.