



## **Race and Equity Pocket Questions**

**Title and purpose of this initiative:** Public Hearing on the Town of Carrboro's Use of CDBG-CV Funds for Emergency Housing Assistance

**Department:**

Housing and Community Services

**What are the racial and equity impacts?**

The racial and equity impacts of the public hearing are that marginalized communities may not be able to access information regarding the public hearing as readily as non-marginalized communities. Public hearing notices are placed in newspapers requiring payment to access. Viewing the public hearing or emailing comments may not be possible without internet or cable service or devices such as computers, cell phones, or television. There may be language barriers in reading the notices or in the understanding of public hearings as a function of their local government.

**Who is or will experience community burden?**

The public may be burdened by using their time and resources to participate in the public hearing. It can often be costly to find transportation or childcare if a resident does not have reliable transportation or has to take off work to attend the public hearing. Those who would like to participate, but do not have the means to do so, may be burdened and would not have their voices heard.

**Who is or will experience community benefit?**

The public will benefit from the public hearing by having the opportunity to speak on the use of the CDBG-CV funds granted to the Town for the purpose of stabilizing housing for low-income households. Their comments will become part of the public record and provided in the closeout of the grant.

**What are the root causes of inequity?**

Institutional policies, both intentional and unintentional, have created inequities for Black and other marginalized communities in employment, housing, generational wealth, and health outcome. These policies create barriers to participating in civic life as well as receiving the representation that participation can bring.

**What might be the unintended consequences of this action or strategy?**

Unintended consequences of holding a public hearing could be that marginalized communities feel that they were not informed adequately, if at all, or were able to access the information regarding the public hearing on the funds and service that may have benefitted the community. Another unintended consequence could be that some residents do not feel that their voices were heard or that the funds were used appropriately.

**How is your department planning to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences?**

Housing and Community Services has placed public notices in both English and Spanish language newspapers. Staff will also post the notices around town and on town boards located within communities. Staff will share the notices with our community partners so that they can spread the word to the people they serve. Public comments will also be accepted during a 30-day period and can be in written form (mail and email) or can be delivered by telephone. Auxiliary aids or services under the ADA or a language translator can be provided if requested.