



## Race and Equity Pocket Questions

Title: 2026 Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Grant

Purpose: *This agenda item seeks approval from council to apply for the 2026 Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Grant to complete a street tree inventory and urban forestry management plan.*

Department: Town Manager's Office

1. **What are the root causes of inequity in Carrboro and/or overall as it pertains to this subject area?**

Root causes of inequity related to disparities in tree canopy coverage include income inequality, including access to financing for home ownership, as low-income families are unable to purchase housing in neighborhoods with larger yards and more trees. Disproportionate distribution of infrastructure investment has led to inequity in the tree canopy. Historical and systemic racism results in biased policies and effects low-income individuals' education, housing, financing opportunities, health, and environmental impacts.

2. **Who is experiencing community burden now? Who will experience community burden if this action is passed? Will others experience community burden if this action is NOT passed?**

No community burden will be experienced through applying for this grant.

The lack of equitable tree canopy distribution creates dangerous urban heat islands, leaving historically marginalized communities to bear a disproportionate burden of climate-related extreme heat.

3. **Who is experiencing community benefit now? Who will experience community benefit if this action is passed? Will others experience community benefit if this action is NOT passed?**

The residents of the Town of Carrboro have the potential to benefit from the program if the program is chosen for an award. No benefits will be experienced through applying for a grant. Enhancing the community's urban forestry program will build resilience in our community by providing much needed shade to urban heat islands and address environmental justice issues related to inequities in the tree canopy.



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

Unintended consequences include the opportunity costs of this project. Town spending on climate action and resilience could instead be spent to directly benefit disadvantaged communities in other ways.

5. **What steps has your department taken to mitigate any burdens, inequities, and unintended consequences? What strategies might your department take to address these in the future? NOTE: This does not reflect a formal commitment by the Town of Carrboro.**

The finance department, specifically the grants manager, will facilitate the grant application process. Transparency and accountability will be maintained throughout the grant application process. If issues arise, the Town will address.