

Attachment B - RACIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT LENS

One Orange - Let's Get REAL on Racial Equity

RACIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT (REAL)

Goal: When we achieve racial equity, race will no longer predict opportunities, outcomes, or the distribution of resources for residents of Orange County, North Carolina, particularly for communities of color. Therefore, it is important to evaluate initiatives and demonstrate how it aligns with the County's and/or Town's racial equity goals.

FAQ's:

What is the purpose of conducting this assessment? Conduct this assessment to measure how communities of color are affected by short- and long-term governmental decisions. It should be used by decision makers to evaluate new and existing initiatives. The word "initiative" is broadly used to cover policies, practices, processes, procedures, services, projects, and the like.

Who should use this assessment? Elected officials, boards, commissions, staff, community partners, and stakeholders to answer and evaluate "who, what, where, why and how" through a racial equity assessment lens.

When should the assessment be conducted? Each jurisdiction will determine when the assessment should be conducted. Once that decision is made, orientation on the assessment shall be provided to all relevant staff and/or stakeholders.

How do I conduct the assessment? The assessment is a worksheet that prompts users to consider the intention of the initiative and how it impacts communities of color. The assessment should generate discussion and analysis that helps government align its initiatives with the racial equity goal stated above. There is not a "correct" answer to the questions. The completion of the assessment has value based on its merit.

How do I get a copy of the lens? The Racial Equity Assessment Lens is included within this document below.

Racial Equity Assessment Lens (REAL)

NAME OF INITIATIVE PROGRAM/PROJECT	New or Existing?	Who is Conducting the Assessment?

ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

- For New initiatives – Why this initiative and why now?
- For existing initiatives- include background information and milestone dates

DESIRED RESULTS

What specific results/outcomes are intended for the community or organization? (How will this initiative achieve this goal? Is anything being created, removed, incentivized, mandated, allowed or assigned by this initiative?)

What policies are relevant to this initiative? How do racial and social inequities impact these areas? Consider topics and subtopics related to what you are trying to achieve, i.e., business, and economic development, labor and workforce development and retention, the judiciary, public safety, housing, education, health, transportation, environment, human services, youth, recreation, and COVID-19.

Topic/Issue	Baseline Data and Racial Disparities	Historical Root Causes of Disparities
For example, rather than write “education” below, list “attendance, school discipline, and commutes.”	What does available data or research say about this issue? What disparities already exist within this issue?	What caused the numbers to look like they do today? Were the causes in the distant past and/or more recent? Were they purposeful or unintentional?

What is the specific desired result statement -

DEMOGRAPHICS (be as specific as possible)

- Who is this initiative focused on? (Neighborhoods, geographic areas, racial groups, income groups, etc.)
- What data can you provide to describe the target population?
- What data is missing?

Consider groups based on race, earnings, education, geography, occupation, age, gender identity, sexual identity, religion, immigration status, etc. Consider atypical groupings.

	BENEFITTING INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS	BURDENED INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS
Funded initiatives		

If the new initiative is funded		
Existing initiative is funded		
Non funded initiatives		
If the new initiative is not funded		
If the existing initiative is no longer funded		

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

List the individuals or groups who will potentially benefit the most or be burdened the most by this

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you involved community members in developing this initiative? • Have you involved those directly impacted? • How have you addressed the concerns raised by community members? Especially those directly impacted. • Going forward, how do you plan to include voices of those most impacted / burdened? How? Please note if they are: (1) Already involved in the drafting of the process; (2) What is your first step in involving them; or (3) Why you are not involving them in the process. 	
Individual or Group	Already Involved, First Step to Involve, or reason for No Involvement

Who else from the community should be involved in designing, governing, or executing the Initiative? Please note if they are: (1) Already involved in the drafting of the process; (2) What is your first step in involving them; or (3) Why you are not involving them in the process.		
Individual or Group	Already Involved, First Step to Involve, or reason for No Involvement	
BENEFITS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which area(s) of the County/Town could be impacted by this Initiative? • Share any relevant data (link to jurisdictional map and/or information) • Consider differences such as towns, density between residential, commercial, rural, and suburban, access to resources, transit, geography, and proximity to health care services. 		
AREA	HOW AREA WOULD BENEFIT	HOW AREA WOULD BE BURDENED
If you mentioned communities of color in the table of above, how might this Initiative negatively impact them?		
If you mentioned people with low incomes in the table above, how might this Initiative negatively impact them?		
IMPACTS		
Considering the Section above when filling out the table below on unintended consequences.		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the unintended consequences of this Initiative? Investigate if there have been other Initiatives of this type. If yes, what is known about the effect of these Initiatives, especially of different racial groups? • What can be done to mitigate any negative impacts? • Are there any challenges that need to overcome? How? • Share any relevant data. 		

Type	Potential Unintended Consequence	Mitigation Strategies to Prevent Consequences and Advance Racial Equity
SOCIAL Consider native and long term residents, rural residents, transit, trust in government, education, etc.		
ECONOMIC Consider wages, competition, tourism, unemployment, small businesses, etc.		
HEALTH Consider impacts on pollution, health access, existing health disparities, etc.		
ENVIRONMENT Consider impacts on pollution, natural resources, transit, etc.		
OTHER Consider how a resident might interact with this measure "start to finish." Think through the best- and worst-case scenarios		

What challenges should be overcome? How?

Share any relevant data?

ACCOUNTABILITY

How will the impact of the initiative be measured?

What success indicators or progress benchmarks are incorporated in the proposed Initiative? (Provide indicators/benchmarks/metrics)

What is missing? What will happen if these metrics are met and what will happen if they are not met?

In what way does this Initiative deeply consider the experience of the residents it will impact?

How will you share you results with your leadership and other funders?

How will you share results with community members and stakeholders?

How will you acquire feedback from community members and stakeholders and incorporate findings?

RECOMMENDATIONS
SIGNATURES OF ASSESSOR(S):

DATE REVIEWED BY CORE TEAM:
RECOMMENDATIONS – CORE TEAM:

DATE REVIEWED BY RACIAL EQUITY COMMISSION:
RECOMMENDATIONS – RACIAL EQUITY COMMISSION: