

# **Recommendations for the Community Input Stage of the Carrboro Comprehensive Plan using the Racial Equity Toolkit**

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## **Executive Summary**

This project sought to lay the groundwork for promoting racial equity in the early stages of the Carrboro Comprehensive Plan. We collaborated with community organizations and leaders and did external research to understand where Carrboro can and should improve its strategies for gathering community input in the most racially equitable way possible. The information here can be used as the town begins to seek community participation and visioning that is racially equitable.

Carrboro has a racial minority population that is quickly growing. However, the inequity that exists between different racial and ethnic groups is vast and often isolated into certain geographic areas. Historically, community engagement has been widely taken advantage of by white individuals in Carrboro with little effort made to engage minority individuals who face a number of barriers to participation. Through this project, we sought to provide tangible ways to break down those barriers and magnify the voices of those who are so often unheard.

Our proposal presents various methods that can be applied to bring racial and ethnic minorities into the planning process. Some examples include holding focus groups, implementing targeted canvassing, and establishing a commission to oversee the execution of this task. This methodology seeks not only to assess the opinions of minorities, but to provide pathways for the overrepresentation of these individuals' inputs so that Carrboro can begin to overcome the racial inequity that already exists.

The community engagement that will take place during the initial stages of the Comprehensive Plan has the ability to impact all of the people who live, work, and play in and around the town. Our recommendations rely on the existing relationships that have been built over time between dedicated services partners and community members. By partnering with service organizations, the leaders of Carrboro can begin to engage community members in meaningful ways, create lasting relationships, and make steps towards a town that is a champion for racial equity.