Driving Equity with State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Economic recovery from the pandemic is a top priority for the Biden-Harris Administration and the Treasury Department.

- Across the country, a strong economic recovery is taking hold, but concerted work is still needed to ensure that recovery is swift, equitable, and sustainable.

- The pandemic also laid bare the need for rapid, highly-effective implementation of relief programs.

- Reflecting the urgency of this work, Treasury created the new Office of Recovery Programs to:
  - Implement recovery programs as expeditiously, effectively, and equitably as possible;
  - Ensure a coordinated, cohesive approach – both within Treasury and with our partner agencies – to implementing these programs and supporting the recovery; and
  - Provide accountability and transparency for outcomes in these programs.
An “Ambitious” Mandate

“Our country faces converging economic, health, and climate crises that have exposed and exacerbated inequities, while a historic movement for justice has highlighted the unbearable human costs of systemic racism. Our Nation deserves an ambitious whole-of-government equity agenda that matches the scale of the opportunities and challenges that we face.” –President Biden

Three key principles should ground agency activities pursuant to EO 13985:

• Advancing equity must be a core part of management and policy making processes.
• Successful equity work yields tangible changes that positively impact American lives.
• Equity benefits not just some of us, but all Americans.
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Overview

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 created the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program to deliver $350 billion for state, territories, municipalities, counties, and Tribal governments much needed aid.

The key objectives for SLFRF are to:

• Support the urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;

• Replace lost revenue for eligible recipients to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;

• Support an equitable recovery through immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and

• Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.
State and Local Fiscal Recovery: Reporting Guidance

The Reporting Guidance addresses priority areas to ensure a speedy and equitable recovery.

Equity Focused

Community Empowering

Worker-Centered

Results and evidence focused

Detailed information on reporting requirements and deadlines is available at: www.treasury.gov/SLFRP
Activity for Participants

• Think about the highest impact service you provide.

• How do you know if those services are reaching the intended beneficiaries and those most in need?

• Who else could you talk to/engage to learn more than you know now?
Panel Discussion

- **Kim Leary**: Senior Equity Fellow, White House Office of Management and Budget (Moderator)

- **Veronica Briseno**: Chief Economic Recovery Officer, City of Austin

- **Ashleigh Gardere**: Executive Vice President, PolicyLink

- **Leila Al-Hamoodah**: Operations Advisor, Colorado Governor’s Office
Leading with Equity in Austin’s Economic Recovery Programs
Starting with Equity

“Equity is the condition when every member of the community has a fair opportunity to live a long, healthy, and meaningful life. Equity embedded into Austin’s values system means changing hearts and minds, transforming local government from the inside out, eradicating disparities, and ensuring all Austin community members share in the benefits of community progress.” - Austin Strategic Direction 2023

- The Austin City Council adopted a resolution in 2015 directing the City Manager to evaluate the impact of existing city policies and practices on racial equity and develop an Equity Assessment Tool that can be used across City departments during the budget process.

- Austin established an Equity Office in 2016 to focus on advancing equity in all aspects of City operations. The first Chief Equity Officer began this work in October 2016.

- Austin’s Chief Equity Officer is part of the City’s COVID-19 Economic Recovery Core Directors Team.
Economic Recovery Program Impact

• Distributed $115M through 13 programs since April 2020
• Served over 204,580 households and 1,640 businesses
• Assisted thousands of Austinites through additional supportive services and programs:
  – Austin Civilian Conservation Corps
  – Austin Mental Wellness Support Line
  – Healthcare Access Program
  – No-Cost Business Coaching
  – Deferred City Property Tenant Payments
  – Utility Disconnection Moratorium
Equitable Program Administration Strategies

• Translated applications to several languages including Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Vietnamese.
• Partnered with local multi-ethnic Chambers of Commerce (Austin Asian, Austin Hispanic, Austin Black and Austin Gay & Lesbian Chambers of Commerce) to inform local businesses about relief opportunities.
• Funded community-based organizations to advertise relief programs and help locals apply for relief opportunities.
• Published application questions and documentation requirements several days before grants opened - ensuring applicants had time to prepare materials.
• Promoted grant programs via community-specific media outlets (e.g., Univision).
• Partnered with the City of Austin's Equity Office to ensure guidelines did not disproportionately disadvantage business owners of color.
Examples of Equity-Oriented Program Guidelines

The Austin Live Music Venue Preservation Fund required applicants to attend three racial equity workshops and create an Equity Strategic Plan before receiving grants up to $40,000 a month for six months (not to exceed $140,000).

The Austin Non-Profit Relief Grant and the Austin Small Business Relief Grant scored applicants using a matrix that included criteria for need, vulnerability, and equity.

The Austin Childcare Provider Relief Grant awarded additional grant funds to childcare operators located in historically marginalized communities.

The Austin Mental Wellness Support Line provided mental health counseling in English, Spanish, and over 150 other languages.
Economic Recovery Program Dashboards

Launched several interactive dashboards, available at ATXrecovers.com:

- **Austin Childcare Provider Relief Grant**
- **Austin Creative Space Disaster Relief Program**
- **Austin Economic Injury Bridge Loan Program**
- **Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund**
- **Austin Non-Profit Relief Grant**
- **Austin Small Business Relief Grant**

Types of information includes:

- Number of applicants
- Applicant profiles
- Applicant City Council districts
- Approval/denial rates
- Industry sectors
- And much more
Diverse Economic Recovery Focus Groups

• Convened diverse focus groups to inform City of Austin’s economic recovery and resiliency efforts:
  – Personal services (e.g., salons/barbers, cleaners, etc.)
  – Manufacturing
  – Experience (e.g., festivals, hospitality, nightlife, etc.)
  – Creative (e.g., arts, media, entertainment, etc.)
  – Food/Restaurants
  – Cross-Sector (e.g., workers rights, chambers, etc.)

• The focus groups identified 45 opportunities to foster a more equitable, competitive, and resilient post-pandemic economy.
Driving Equity Through Data

State of Colorado
Build Back Stronger Listening Tour

Regional Meetings

- **Pueblo & Southern Colorado**
- **Western Slope**
  - Sunday, March 28th
- **Northern Colorado**

Community Meetings

- African American
- Latino Community
- AAPI Community
Data and Evidence in State Government

The State Measurement for Accountable, Responsive, and Transparent (SMART) Government Act requires us to:

- Establish a **performance management system** for managing state agencies
- Incorporate continuous process improvement
- Ensure state employees are trained in performance management and process improvement

[LINK to Colorado Performance Management Guidelines]
Using an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Lens

Performance management should advance equity, diversity, and inclusion.

When developing your performance goals, ask yourself:

- Could this goal proposal unintentionally burden traditionally underserved or disadvantaged communities?
- How will this goal proposal benefit traditionally underserved or disadvantaged communities?
- What would the impacted communities say about your goal and its strategies, and are they able to provide feedback without language, accessibility, or technological barriers?
- Do the impacted communities have the means to hold my agency accountable?
- What additional data will I collect to make sure my activities are benefitting a broad range of Coloradans and/or serving particular populations of interest?
## Identifying Stimulus Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric Type</th>
<th>Proposed Metrics to Track</th>
<th>Can you collect:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Geographic Detail? (Y/N)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Performance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Output(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outcome(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Required metric(s) (per Treasury guidance)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Operational (optional at this stage)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Throughput/Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer Experience</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other/Misc.</td>
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10 Priorities for Advancing Racial Equity Through the American Rescue Plan Act

A Guide for City and County Policymakers
A Guide for City and County Policymakers

10 Priorities for Advancing Racial Equity Through the American Rescue Plan Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Priority</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Explicitly name racial equity as a goal, with specific targets to produce results at scale</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Engage historically underserved communities in prioritizing investments</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Connect unemployed and low-wage workers with good jobs and careers</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Stabilize and grow businesses owned by people of color and immigrants</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Restore and expand public services that deliver critical physical and care infrastructure to disadvantaged communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Invest in frontline, Covid-impacted, and disinvested communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Prevent displacement and increase community ownership of land and housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Strengthen civic infrastructure that builds the power and capacity of marginalized communities</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Prioritize a few deep, cross-sector, high-impact equity investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Track disaggregated data to ensure accountability to equity goals</td>
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Developed in partnership with community leaders, chief equity officers, policymakers, economic development practitioners, research and policy organizations, and philanthropic partners, the report suggests municipal strategies for deploying ARPA funds equitably, efficiently, and strategically.

Website: [https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/american-rescue-plan-10-priorities](https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/american-rescue-plan-10-priorities)
The guide lays out a framework for equitable decision-making around ARPA spending and investments with prompts that local leaders can use to not only ask hard questions around racial equity, but also seek to address them.
More Information

To Explore Austin’s Equity Tool: http://austintexas.gov/department/equity

To Explore Colorado’s Listening Tour: https://www.buildbackstrongerco.com/

For More Information on Colorado’s Performance Management Guidelines: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Or51AkWJx3BAD0NP-xfPHzkJq8ZEAaS3voMah9NfojI0/edit

To Explore PolicyLink’s Equity Tools and Resources: https://www.policylink.org/resources-tools/american-rescue-plan-10-priorities


To Request State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Please visit www.treasury.gov/SLFRP

For General Inquiries on State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Please email SLFRP@treasury.gov