
News Release

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SCAG briefs leaders on draft framework to eliminate barriers, promote racial and social equity

Los Angeles – A newly formed committee comprised of leaders from across six Southern California counties was briefed Wednesday on a draft framework to promote racial and social equity and an inclusive economic recovery strategy.

The Special Committee on Equity and Social Justice was convened by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) as part of its commitment to combat racism, social injustice and an equity gap that has reached historic levels. Last July, SCAG declared racism a public health crisis and in the months since has led regionwide discussions on ways to eliminate barriers that reduce opportunity for millions of Southern Californians.

One outcome has been a partnership with the California Community Foundation (CCF), the Chan Zuckerberg Institute and the Irvine Foundation to promote community-driven equitable growth strategies throughout the six counties that comprise SCAG. Earlier this month, CCF put out the formal call for applications for funding awards to local nonprofits to support programs that promote equitable growth strategies. SCAG is dedicating \$1 million of Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant funds toward this program, which will combine with additional dollars from the foundation partners.

“For Southern California to truly recover from the devastation of the pandemic, we need to close this growing racial equity gap, and long-range planning for transportation and land use has a critical role to play,” said Rex Richardson, President of SCAG and Vice Mayor of Long Beach. “As we build our recovery strategy, creating an environment where everyone has the opportunity to succeed is essential to building a strong, resilient, sustainable economy.”

At Wednesday’s meeting, SCAG staff presented an early action plan for the agency’s overall equity work and outlined steps for developing an Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy, including 20 to 30 small group strategy meetings across the region over the next two months. Those meetings, along with a survey of stakeholders, will help build out an action plan and identify opportunities for coordination and collaboration.

Among the potential components of the Regional Inclusive Economic Recovery Strategy identified by staff:

- **Transportation** – projects of regional significance that promote clean transportation, increase access to jobs and housing, are ready to move forward and will create equity-ready jobs.

- **Infrastructure** – projects that promote sustainable infrastructure, improve quality of life and will create equity-ready jobs.
- **Sector Based Strategies** – identifying the top needs of growth sectors and growing businesses that provide the greatest opportunities for family supporting jobs and economic mobility.
- **Housing Production** – support efforts to provide a range of housing for households at all income levels, as well as an economic generator for family-supporting construction jobs.
- **Human Capital** – identifying the supportive infrastructure that creates opportunities for economic mobility, such as job training/education, childcare, public and mental health, access to capital and affordable housing.

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About SCAG

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and nearly 19 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG, please visit: www.scag.ca.gov.