

REGIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

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COG Board of Directors
March 13, 2024

Planning for Equitable Development Initiative

- Goals
 - Further COG's work to advance equity within COG's program areas and local governments.
 - Provide in-depth training for local government planning, housing, and equity staff to learn best practices and tools for advancing racial equity within comprehensive plans.
 - Establish a set of guiding principles to serve as a regional model and standard for local governments to implement equitable development processes and policies through land use planning and housing actions.

Regional History

- The disparities in outcomes we see today are a result of systemic and structural racism not individual decision.
- Long history of racial inequities through governmental planning, zoning, and housing policies:
 - Red lining
 - Discriminatory housing practices
 - Predatory lending
 - Displacement
- Life expectancy varies by 27 years across the region

Sources: Urban Institute; Uneven Opportunities Report: How Conditions for Wellness Vary Across the Metropolitan Washington Region

Determinants of life expectancy in the region



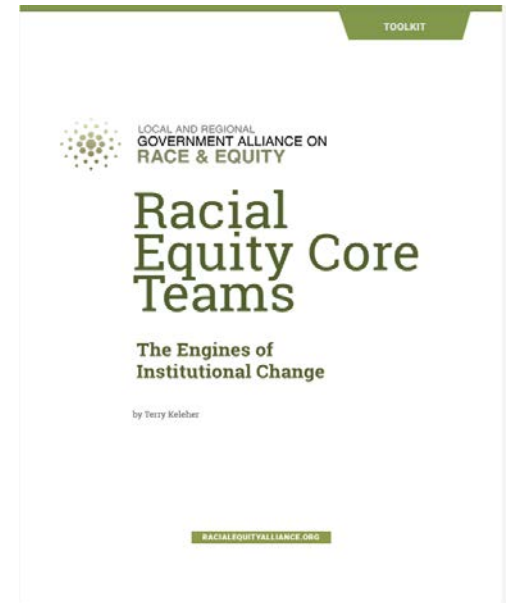
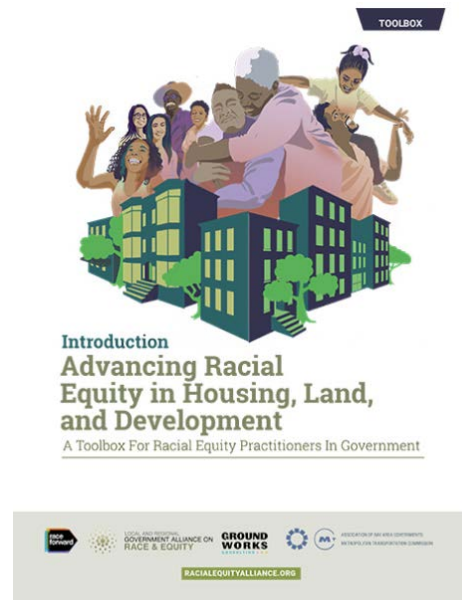
Uneven Opportunities Report: How Conditions for Wellness Vary Across the Metropolitan Washington Region
Figure 3. Determinants of life expectancy in the metropolitan Washington region

The Value of Equitable Development in Planning

- Comprehensive plans need to be deliberate in centering equity to realize equitable outcomes
- Make racial equity tangible through built and natural environment
- Coordinated and collaborative regional approach
- Implementation is key

Partnership with Race Forward

- Partnership with Race Forward’s Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE)
- Content experts and facilitators
- National best practices



Process & Collaboration

- Summer/Fall 2023: Initiative development with COG Chief Equity Officers Committee
- November 2023: COG Equitable Development Regional Event
 - Development of Regional Principles
- December 2023: Principles reviewed by COG Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee
- January 2024: Principles reviewed by COG Housing Directors Advisory Committee
- February 2024: Principles reviewed by COG Chief Equity Officers Committee
- February – May 2024: Launch of Equitable Development In-depth Training Cohort (4-part series)
- March 13, 2024: Principles presented to COG Board of Directors for adoption

Proposed Regional Principles – Process



1. Acknowledge history and repair past harms



2. Commit to Internal capacity with community transparency



3. Practice inclusive and meaningful community engagement

Proposed Regional Principles – Outcomes



4. Advance economic mobility and opportunity



8. Promote people-centered multi-modal mobility and connectivity



5. Prevent residential, commercial, and cultural displacement



9. Develop healthy and safe communities



6. Expand affordable housing options and preserve existing affordability



10. Promote and regulate for environmental justice



7. Support and strengthen diverse community values



Guiding Regional Principles – Local Application

- Establish a regional foundation and model for centering equity in comprehensive plans
- Empower local governments to advance equity through new and updated policies and plans
- Lay a groundwork for policy implementation

Recommendation

- The COG Chief Equity Officers Committee, Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee, and Housing Directors Advisory Committee recommend adoption of Resolution R13-2024, approving the set of 10 regional equitable development principles.

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