



February 2012

Using the Equity Impact Review Toolkit

The best examples of applying the Equity Impact Review tool or variations of it have occurred in informing budgets, policies and decision making. Some examples include:

1. Department of Parks and Natural Resources developed a score card approach to look at equity impact review related to Parks. Equity assessments of DNRP included distribution of parks, open space, trails and Farmer's Markets in King County by race, income and language spoken
2. Equity impact review in policy decisions:
 - The Department of Transportation applies social equity service guidelines in making decisions related to reductions or enhancements in transit service. This policy was established because of our focus on applying an equity lens to policies and using data related to equity impacts to move a transit task force to propose and the County Council to pass the new service guidelines.
 - The Department of Natural Resources and Parks has made a policy decision to keep selected parks open within the Urban Growth Area and invest in improving parks in underserved, low income, racially diverse communities based to mitigate equity impacts.
 - The Environmental Health division of Public Health – Seattle & King County applied the EIR Tool to a decision to eliminate Rodent Control outside of the City of Seattle due to lack of funding. The review team mapped complaints for rodents and illegal dumping, and analysis showed "hot spot areas". Highest numbers of complaints were in unincorporated areas and among the most diverse communities (e.g., Skyway, White Center, Auburn). Based on the negative impact on equity of eliminating this program, mitigation steps were taken to restore this service in partnership with the funder of another program.
3. The 2012 budget applied an equity lens throughout all stages of development including:
 - Multiple trainings for budget analysts and department finance managers on ESJ background, current Countywide expectations, and new ESJ elements within budget forms and process; train staff on use of ESJ review tool to complement decision-making on budget changes
 - 2012 budget process modified to include an equity and social justice section in department business plans and in the budget book narrative

4. Budget decisions were made based on equity considerations and prevention opportunities such as:
 - The Prosecuting Attorney's Office proposes as a one year pilot project to expand truancy prevention education and enhance juvenile detention diversion with potential to save money.
 - The Parks Division will maintain youth recreation programs in White Center, a diverse and low income urban unincorporated area of the County.
 - The Sheriff's Office will re-open the Skyway and White Center storefronts in response to community concerns in these diverse, low income, unincorporated communities.
5. The EIR tool has been used to plan new models of service delivery and consider potential impacts on equity. The tool was also used in program planning for the County's healthy incentives program. Specifically, the mitigation part of the tool was used to offer more flexible options for completing the required health assessment.