

Metro Budget Equity Assessment Tool

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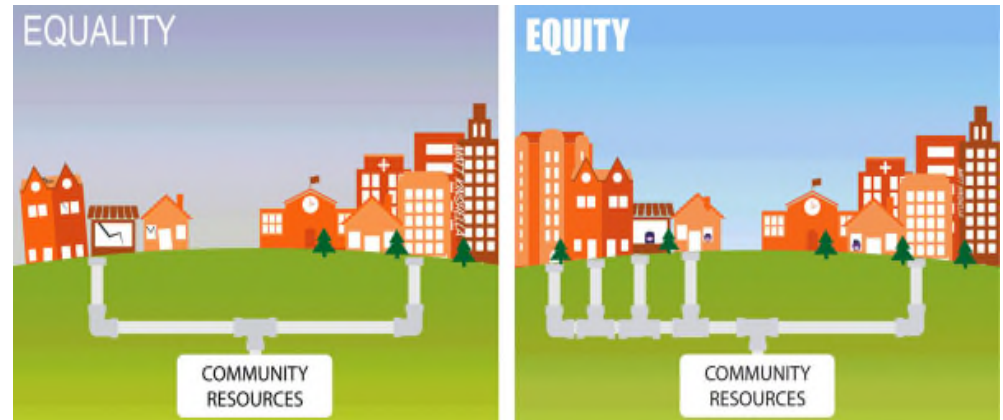
Background

September 2020 Executive Management Committee Meeting:
“Request a full analysis on current expenditures using the Equity Assessment Tool for our mid-year budget report. The Equity Assessment Tool should be used to evaluate each annual budget moving forward. Equity Officer to develop a racial and social economic equity action plan.”

What is Equity?

Equity is both an outcome and a process to address disparities to ensure fair and just access to opportunities for all.

Equity means that Metro's service delivery, project delivery, policymaking, and distribution of resources account for the different histories, challenges, and needs of communities across Los Angeles County; it is what we are striving towards.



What is a budget equity assessment?

Research:

- Review Level Options
 - Agency Level
 - Departmental
 - Budgetary Request
- Apply an equity lens: consider needs and disparities and assess potential benefit or harm to communities with the greatest need and facing the greatest disparities.

The MBEAT

- The Metro Budget Equity Assessment Tool (MBEAT) is a set of questions to guide Metro staff in considering racial and social equity explicitly in its budgetary decisions.
- There are two parts:
 - Part One applies to all budgetary adjustment requests. Budgetary adjustments include new, expanded scope, or reduced budget requests. This excludes requests for ongoing approved budgets and standardized increases, such as a cost-of-living adjustments.
 - Part Two applies to a Department's overall budget.

MBEAT Results: FY21 Mid-Year

- The first four departments were challenged to apply an equity lens and more explicitly explain how budgetary decisions might specifically benefit or potentially harm or negatively impact marginalized communities.
- There were 25 MBEAT Submissions.
- Benefits Identified:
 - Improved bus rider experience
 - Connect more people experiencing homelessness to services
 - Improve transparency in policing and reimagine public safety
- Ongoing efforts are needed to better identify, prevent, and mitigate potential harm.



Next Steps

- Complete the MBEAT Pilot
 - FY21 Mid-year Budget: OPS, SSLE, and CX
 - FY22 Annual Budget: All Departments
 - Capital Projects
 - MBEAT Training: February 2021
 - Non-Capital Projects
- Review and Improve for FY23

