

2020 Disaster Housing Task Force

October 15, 2020



Oregon Housing and Community Services

Kenny LaPoint, Director of Public Affairs

ODHTF Chair

Legislative Update

- October Directors Message:
<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/Documents/DM/10-02-2020-Directors-Message.pdf>
- OHCS Government Relations:
<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/about-us/Pages/government-relations.aspx>

OHCS Programs

- Wildfire Damage Housing Relief:
<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/housing-assistance/Pages/program-wildfire-damage-housing-relief.aspx>
- Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force:
<https://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/get-involved/Pages/oregon-disaster-housing-task-force.aspx>





OREGON OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



OEM Brief

Joseph Murray

Planner, Mitigation and Recovery Section (MARS)
State Individual Assistance Branch Director (State IABD)

FEMA-4562-DR-OR

joseph.murray@mil.state.or.us



Response transitions to Recovery

Response

- *State Emergency Operations Plan* (State EOP)
 - Emergency Support Functions (ESFs)
 - 18 ESFs
 - Immediate response activities, such as transportation impacts, firefighting, sheltering, feeding, hazardous materials, law enforcement activities

Recovery

- *Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan* (ODRP)
 - Recovery Support Functions (RSFs)
 - 7 RSFs
 - Short-term, intermediate, and long-term recovery
 - Recovery and rebuilding from disaster while mitigating future impacts

Late last week, the State Emergency Coordination Center (State ECC) transitioned to becoming a Recovery Coordination Center.



Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan (ODRP)

- ODRP is on the OEM website at:
https://www.oregon.gov/oem/Documents/OR_RECOVERY_PLAN_MARCH_2018.pdf
- ODRP is comprised of seven State Recovery Functions (SRFs), which are led by the following “coordinating agencies”:
 1. Community Planning and Capacity Building (for recovery) – Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
 2. Economic Recovery – Business Oregon
 3. Health Services – Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
 4. Social Services – Oregon Dept. of Human Services (Oregon DHS)
 5. Disaster Housing – Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS)
 6. Infrastructure Systems – Team comprised of Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Public Utility Commission (PUC)
 7. Natural and Cultural Resources – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)



Task Forces

- The Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force (ODHTF) implements State Recovery Function #5, Disaster Housing
- For this event a Debris Management Task Force led by DEQ under SRF #7
- There is also an Erosion Threat Assessment/Reduction Team (ETART)
- A Natural and Cultural Resources Task Force has also been established under SRF #7; its work includes:
 - forest ecosystems
 - watershed (and water system) issues



Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan (ODRP), continued

- ODRP is comprised of three phases:
 - Short-Term
 - Intermediate
 - Long-Term
- For this event, we are in the short-term recovery phase.



Recovery Coordination Calls

- Occurring Monday/Wednesday/Fridays at 1:00 p.m.
- Calls are being led/facilitated by the State Disaster Recovery Coordinator (SDRC) for this event (FEMA-4562-DR-OR), Stan Thomas
- Involve the counties affected by the windstorm/wildfire event
- Involve the Tribes affected by the event
- Involve the coordinating and primary agencies for the seven State Recovery Functions



Hazard Mitigation

- Amie Bashant, State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO), leads this for the state
 - Hazard Mitigation Strategy – under development
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) – will follow in the weeks to come
 - Funding for HMGP based on 20% of FEMA's costs in Individual Assistance (IA) and Public Assistance (PA)
- There is also hazard mitigation funding via U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)



Questions?

Centering Equity & Racial Justice in Disaster Recovery

Oregon Disaster Housing Task Force

Chelsea Bunch, Interim Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer

October 15, 2020



Statewide Housing Plan – Equity & Racial Justice Priority

- In 2019, OHCS launched Statewide Housing Plan (SWHP) with Equity and racial justice as a foundational guiding principle and priority
- By centering racial equity into all housing and community development strategies we strive to ensure that Tribal Nations and Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC) communities are centered instead of disproportionately burdened by our policies and practices
- No more important time to be laser focused on this priority than now – the deep impacts of COVID-19 and the wildfires require us all to be centering those who are most deeply impacted

Statewide Housing Plan – Equity &
Racial Justice



Level – Setting: *What* It Means to Center Equity & Racial Justice

Centering: to give a central focus or basis (Source: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>)

Equity: fairness, justice and focus on outcomes that are most appropriate for a given group, recognizing different challenges, needs, and histories. It is distinct from diversity, which can simply mean variety (the presence of individuals with various identities). *It is also not equality, or “same treatment,” which doesn’t take differing needs or disparate outcomes into account.*

Racial Justice: The systematic fair treatment of people of all races, resulting in equitable opportunities and outcomes for all. It is not just the absence of discrimination and inequities, but also the presence of deliberate systems and supports to achieve and sustain racial equity through proactive and preventative measures (Source: Race Forward, Race Reporting Guide <https://www.raceforward.org/reporting-guide>)

Racial Equity: when race can no longer be used to predict life outcomes and outcomes for all groups are improved. Equality and equity are sometimes used interchangeably, but actually convey significantly different ideas. Equity is about fairness, while equality is about sameness. (Source: Center for Assessment and Policy Development - <http://www.capd.org/>)

Key Definitions



Who We Center

- **State of Oregon Equity Framework** definition of historically and currently underserved communities include:
 - Native Americans, members of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes, American Indians, Alaska Natives;
 - Black, Africans, African Americans;
 - Latinx, Hispanic;
 - Asian, Pacific Islanders;
 - Immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers;
 - Undocumented, DREAMers;
 - Linguistically diverse;
 - People with disabilities;
 - LGBTQ+;
 - Aging/older adults;
 - Economically disadvantaged;
 - Agricultural workers, migrant workers; and
 - Living in rural parts of the state

Who Are We Centering



Why We Need to Center Equity & Racial Justice

- Despite the resilience of Tribal Nations and Black, Indigenous, & People of Color (BIPOC), in most cases, the emergency response and recovery efforts do not include, or ignore, the needs of the very communities most impacted by natural disasters
- Before disaster hits our communities, we need to understand that Tribal Nations and BIPOC communities are already dealing with existing disparities (i.e. higher rates of homelessness, high housing burden, lack of wealth generation, lack of health care access, etc.) disproportionately
 - *Tribal Nations and BIPOC communities have the worst outcomes no matter the link to other areas of oppression (LGBTQ+, gender identity, disability status, etc.)*
- We are navigating a multi-layered set of crises: lack of housing supply, COVID-19 and wildfire devastation
- When we center those most impacted, everyone benefits

Why We Center Equity & Racial Justice



Why We Need to Center Equity & Racial Justice

- “The outcomes of major disasters are nearly always inequitable, which increases the vulnerability of those who struggled before the disaster and often displaces large portions of communities - as disasters become more frequent and severe, it is more important than ever to determine what can be done to promote more just and equitable disaster recovery.” (Source: Jerolleman, Alessandra. 2019. “Disaster Justice for All: The Need for a More Equitable and Just Recovery Lens.” Research Counts 2(16). Boulder, CO: Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder. <https://hazards.colorado.edu/news/research-counts/disaster-justice-for-all-the-need-for-a-more-equitable-and-just-recovery-lens>.)
- Rural communities – place and space: unique challenges, including infrastructure, education, health care access, housing supply, and broadband connectivity

Why We Center Equity & Racial Justice



How We Center Equity & Racial Justice

- **Nothing for us or done to us, without us**
 - *It is critical that local, community-based organizations, particularly culturally-specific organizations, at the planning and decision-making table from the beginning*
- **Communicate, communicate...and communicate some more**
 - Not just about getting information out but includes the how – center language access and literacy. Multilingual community members must have materials and communication translated in a clear, and culturally & linguistic way that is responsive to the community you are working with (i.e. culturally specific media outlets, YouTube videos)
 - Communication includes ensuring people with disabilities also have access to information in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Collaborate with organizations who have trusted relationships with the communities you are trying to connect with
 - Be clear about what measures you are taking to ensure the safety of community members – zero acceptance of racism, xenophobia, violence, hate crimes or discrimination – be explicit!

Centering Equity & Racial Justice



How We Center Equity & Racial Justice

- **Data is key to decision-making**
 - Prioritize ***disaggregated data collection*** and share what you know
 - Data collection is not used to screen out or exclude anyone, but rather to get a clear understanding of the need, focus resources to most impacted communities, and to tackle inequities
 - It all counts – qualitative and quantitative
- **Communities are experts – *listen and invest***
 - Collaborate with curiosity; people know what they need, and we should invest resource, funds, and build capacity to meet the needs
 - Make no assumptions of what people need to recover – ask!
- **Consider unintentional impacts – *will people truly be better off?***
 - Ask intentional questions about potential intended impacts of decision making
 - Ground truth your decisions with impacted communities and stakeholders

Centering Equity & Racial Justice



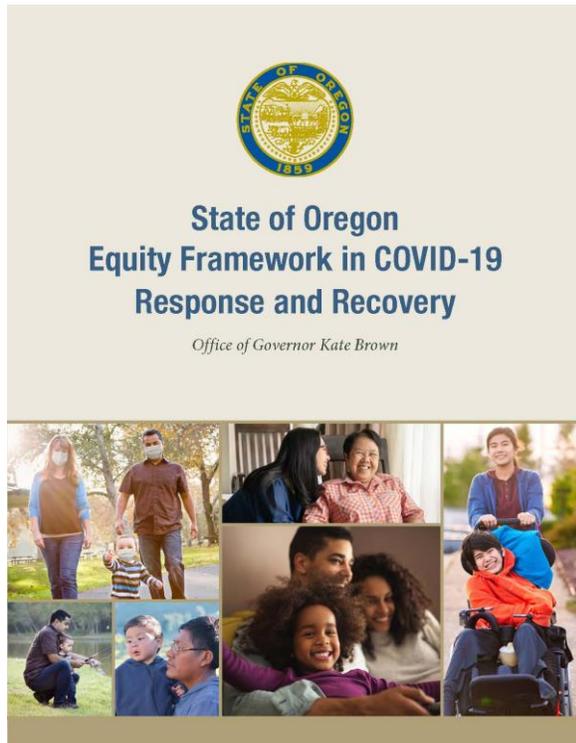
What Is A Racial Equity Framework?

- A support **structure** or **system** that allows you to think and act intentionally, with a disciplined laser focus on how race and ethnicity, and other places of identity, shift your analysis of problems, identification of solutions, and understanding of outcomes.
- Why **framework** & not lens?
 - “We need people to ditch the lens and get equity Lasik. We want folks looking through an equity framework all the time, not just when it’s convenient or popular or political.”
(Source: Blogpost by Sippin the EquiTEA - <https://medium.com/@eec/can-we-stop-using-an-equity-lens-c3425e0aa5dq>)

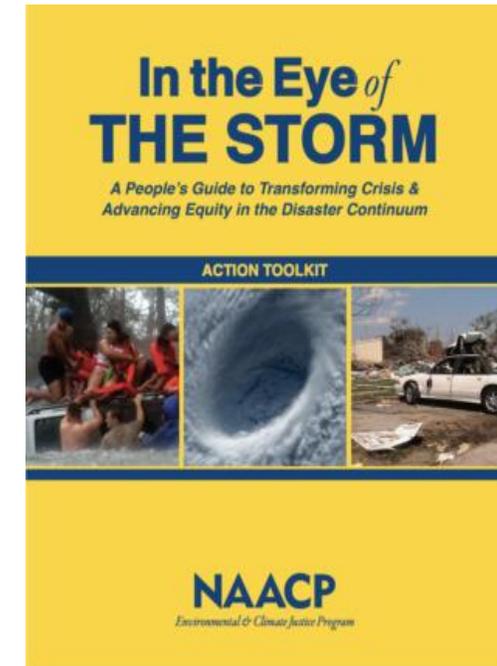
Equity Framework



What Is A Racial Equity Framework?



The cover page features the State of Oregon seal at the top center. Below it, the title "State of Oregon Equity Framework in COVID-19 Response and Recovery" is displayed in a blue serif font, followed by "Office of Governor Kate Brown" in a smaller, italicized font. The bottom half of the page is a collage of nine photographs showing diverse people: a woman and a man walking, a woman and a child, a woman in a wheelchair, a man and a woman, a man and a child, a woman and a child, and a woman and a child.



The cover page has a yellow background. The title "In the Eye of the Storm" is in large blue font, with "A People's Guide to Transforming Crisis & Advancing Equity in the Disaster Continuum" below it. A blue banner reads "ACTION TOOLKIT". Below the banner are three images: a group of people, a storm drain, and a damaged car. The NAACP logo and "Environmental & Climate Justice Program" are at the bottom.

Equity Framework



A Sampling of Key Questions to Consider

- Whose voices and perspectives are not at the table? What can we do to ensure they are part of our decision-making process?
- How do we collect and respond to feedback? How are we ensuring these partnerships do not exploit the communities we seek to engage?
- What data or evidence guides the policy/decision/program/practice/etc.?
- What impacts do Tribal Nations, Black, Indigenous and People of Color, immigrants, and refugees experience in the areas of environmental, economic and social justice?
- How are public resources and investments distributed geographically (such as funding, housing, education, transportation)?
- How does the policy, decision, program, practice build community capacity and power in communities most affected by inequities?

Sample of Key Questions



Oregon Health Authority – Community Engagement

- OHA stands up team to work with over 170 community-based organizations around the state
 - COVID-19 contact tracing
 - ***Outreach & community engagement***
 - ***Social services/wraparound supports***
- **Webpage:** <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/ABOUT/Pages/Community-Engagement.aspx>

Community Engagement



Let's Hear from Community

- ***Gustavo Morales***, Executive Director of Euvalcree

Hearing from Community



Resources:

- **Report:** State of Oregon Equity Framework in COVID-19 Response & Recovery - https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policy/Documents/EquityFrameworkCovid19_2020.pdf
- **Article:** Disaster Justice for All: The Need for a More Equitable and Just Recovery Lens – <https://hazards.Colorado.edu/news/research-counts/disaster-justice-for-all-the-need-for-a-more-equitable-and-just-recovery-lens>
- **Example of an Equity Lens:** Multnomah County Equity & Empowerment Lens - <https://multco.us/diversity-equity/equity-and-empowerment-lens>
- **Toolkit:** NAACP Toolkit on Advancing Equity in the Disaster Continuum - <https://naacp.org/climate-justice-resources/in-the-eye-of-the-storm/#:~:text=The%20%E2%80%9Ceye%E2%80%9D%20refers%20to%20how,and%20take%20action%20on%20inequities.>

Resources



Thank you!

Chelsea Bunch

Interim Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Officer

Oregon Housing & Community Services

Email: chelsea.bunch@oregon.gov

Contact Information & Thank You!



Regular Scheduled Taskforce Meetings

- The Task Force will routinely meet, share and distribute information, and assure new Task Force representatives are familiar with its work and its membership.
- The Task Force will convene frequently to identify:
 - Anticipated housing needs of individuals and families affected
 - Resources available to address anticipated identified needs
 - Potential shortfalls in available housing or resources
 - Solutions to fill the shortfalls

Meetings are currently scheduled biweekly on **Thursdays at 2:30**.
The next meeting will take place **October 29**.



Resources:

- Encourage Oregonians to register with FEMA to access individual assistance. Every Oregonian who is eligible should receive the assistance they need. Let's spread the word. Contact: 800-621-3362, download the FEMA app or visit <http://DisasterAssistance.gov>
- Please continue to share the wildfire.oregon.gov website with your networks.



Contact

Kenny LaPoint, Director, Public Affairs
Oregon Housing & Community Services
503-986-6758|
Kenny.LaPoint@Oregon.Gov

