

Racial Equity Public Engagement Forums

Discussion Groups

Discussion of Goal #2: DC Government is committed to eliminating racial and ethnic inequities.

Overview

To know if we're reducing inequities, we have to be able to measure progress. There is no single, simple way to measure racial equity. Instead, we try to measure many different pieces of residents' lives where there might be equity gaps. The numbers we use to measure these gaps are also called "indicators."

For example, a racial wealth gap indicator shows us that Black and white residents in DC do not have the same opportunities to earn and grow wealth. ORE plans to use racial equity indicators from seven themes to track progress toward a more racially equitable DC. The seven themes are:

- **Housing:** DC residents, regardless of race, are stably housed.
- **Economic Opportunity:** DC residents, regardless of race, are financially secure.
- **Health:** DC residents, regardless of race, are healthy.
- **Public Safety:** DC residents, regardless of race, are safe from violence in all forms.
- **Education:** DC residents, regardless of race, receive quality learning opportunities.
- **Neighborhood Life:** DC residents, regardless of race, are thriving in their communities.
- **Civic Engagement:** DC residents, regardless of race, can access and engage high-quality public spaces, services, and officials.

Discussion Questions

1. What actions could DC Government take for all residents, regardless of race or ethnicity, to be:
 - Housed
 - Financially secure
 - Healthier
 - Safe from violence
 - Receiving quality learning opportunities
 - Thriving in their communities
 - Engaged in their communities
2. Do the indicators on the handout seem appropriate, is anything missing that should be added?

Learn more about ORE at ore.dc.gov.



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Discussion of Goal #3: DC Government is committed to meaningfully engaging community and strengthening community partnerships.

Overview

The Office of Racial Equity works with government agencies (e.g., Department of Health, Department of Energy and Environment, Metropolitan Police Department) to determine if programs and policies are working for everyone, especially communities who have been most harmed and have the greatest needs. We also advise Mayor Bowser on policies and other projects.

An important part of this work is to work directly with residents and community-based organizations to help solve problems and come up with new programs and services.

Discussion Questions

1. What should DC Government keep doing in terms of engaging with your community?
2. What would help DC Government engage with your community? For example, it could be a workshop for government staff, training, or other type of resource.
3. Community-based organizations are an important partner for DC Government agencies. Effective partnerships can help improve the quality of life for District residents. What does a strong community partnership look like to you?