



Equity Subcommittee

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

12-1:30pm

City Hall Lobby, Tribal Room

[Meeting Link](#)

Times given are an estimate and are subject to change

Land Acknowledgment & Welcome

12:00	Welcome and Introductions
12:05	City of Spokane Land Acknowledgement , and attendance
12:10	Approve April and May Minutes

Subcommittee Briefing Session:

12:15	Vote to Recommend Jordy Jones to join the Equity SC	Sebastian Ruiz
12:20	Equitable Budgeting Workgroup Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress • Equity Assessment 	Workgroup
1:00	Visioning Exercise – How would Equity SC use funding?	Sebastian Ruiz
1:20	Vice Chair Conversation	Sebastian Ruiz

Standing Update(s):

	Council Liaison Update	Council Member Dixit
	Share successes in life, work, or advancing equity	All
	Equity meetings moving forward	Sebastian Ruiz

1:30 Adjournment

- 1) Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, July 15, 2026, 12-1:30pm at Tribal Room, City Hall

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION: The City of Spokane is committed to providing equal access to its facilities, programs and services for persons with disabilities. The Council Briefing Center in the lower level of Spokane City Hall, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., is wheelchair accessible and also is equipped with an infrared assistive listening system for persons with hearing loss. Headsets may be checked out (upon presentation of picture I.D.) through the meeting organizer. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations or further information may call, write, or email Risk Management at 509-625-6221, 808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd, Spokane, WA, 99201; or mowmaster@spokanecity.org. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact Human Resources through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1. Please contact us forty-eight (48) hours before the meeting date.

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Equity Subcommittee
PICA Office 1215 N Monroe
4/15/2026

Call to Order: 12:09pm

Attendance

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sebastian Ruiz (Chair), Kiana McKena, Patricia Castaneda, KJ January,

Absent:

Staff Present:

Alex Gibilisco, Sebastian Pedinielli, CM Sarah Dixit

Others Present:

Approval of Minutes

- Voted to approve February minutes

Agenda Items

Briefing Items

1. Equitable Budgeting Workgroup Update – Sebastian Ruiz, Kiana McKenna
 - Sebastian R. and Kiana presented a slideshow setting guidelines for equitable budgeting framework for the city
 - Presented to CP Wilkerson and will be presented to CM Dillon and CM Zappone
 - Committee members gave feedback on the presentation to strengthen the information and identify potential weaknesses
2. Workplan: Priority Exercise–Sebastian Ruiz
 - Sebastian R. asked the members which of the five key purposes the committee should focus on for the rest of the year
 - Pat suggested collaborating with other sub-committees as an achievable and successful goal to focus on
 - Alex and Sebastian R. decided that members should rank which of the purposes are most to least important

- Kiana and KJ agreed that the top three were most important, there was consensus that these were what should be focused on

3. Lessons Learned from Atlanta – Kiana McKenna, Sarah Dixit

- CM Dixit was optimistic after her time in Atlanta and thought it demonstrated the progress that Spokane is making
- Kiana found that there were a lot of different challenges that communities were facing, but there were significant similarities as well
 - Kiana was also impressed with the accessibility of the city and county's budgets

Standing Updates

- Council Updates cut for time

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:37

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, May 17th, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

Prepared by:

Sebastian Pardinielli, Legislative Assistant to CM Dixit

Approved by:

Sebastian Ruiz
Equity Subcommittee Chair

EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES
City of Spokane
Equity Subcommittee
City Hall Lobby – Tribal Conference Room
5/20/2026

Call to Order: 12:07pm

Attendance

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sebastian Ruiz (Chair), Kiana McKena, Naghmana Sherazi, Pat Castaneda, KJ January

Absent:

Staff Present:

Sarah Dixit (Council Liaison), Alex Gibilisco, Andres Grageda,

Others Present:

Jordy Jones

Approval of Minutes

- Postponed the approval of the April minutes to the June meeting

Agenda Items

Briefing Items

1. Update on 10 Year Plan to End Poverty – Lindsay Morgan Tracey, WA Economic Justice Alliance
 - WEJA is a collaboration between experts with lived experience, community organizations, state and tribal governments, and legislators to implement a 10-year plan to dismantle poverty.
 - 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty
 - Undo racism and inequality
 - Balance Power
 - Increase economic opportunity
 - Support foundational health and well-being
 - Prioritize urgent needs
 - Build a holistic continuum of care
 - Decriminalize poverty
 - Prepare for the future of work

- How 1 and 2 have been going lately in response to the regression in the mission we've experienced since 2020
 - Paying attention to what we can protect, what we can nourish, and seeds we can plant now.
 - Shared that there seems to be a demographic that's missing: ALICE households, working immigrant community, etc. What failsafe is there for those communities?
 - The goal is to have a strong economic floor that no one can fall through
 - There is an opportunity/invitation to contribute to this mission; what can the City do to contribute?
 - CM Dixit asked what action steps the City can take to work towards the mission, especially since the east side of WA is so different from the west side
 1. Individual plans for each part of the state to build a case for the 10-year plan.
 2. Using funds to nourish the work that is being done and plant seeds for future progress
 - Asked what kind of influence and support WEJA could have on our local equitable budgeting work
 - Asked how they plan on partnering with community and local gov to achieve the goal; suggested a summit with all community partners to have a plan that everyone is on the same page about
 - Could come back with a proposal to latch on to and work towards
 - Mention that although there are similarities with the westside, there is constant disinvestment in the westside. When there are funding opportunities, the east side often gets overlooked.
2. Wellbeing and Civic Muscle – WA Economic Justice Alliance
 - Postponed for time
 3. Workplan: Priority Exercise – Sebastian Ruiz
 - Postponed for time

Standing Updates

- Council Updates
- Share Success in Life, Work, or Advancing Equity
- Equity Meetings Moving Forward

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:37

Next Equity Subcommittee Meeting, June 17th, at 12:00pm, City Hall, Tribal Room (1st floor)

Prepared by:

Andres Grageda, Legislative Assistant to CM Telis

Approved by:

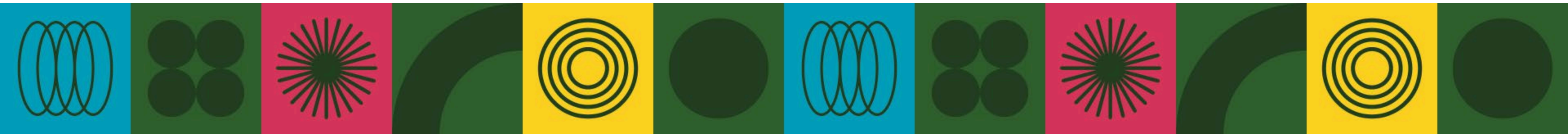
Sebastian Ruiz

Equity Subcommittee Chair



Legislative-Executive WorkFirst
Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force

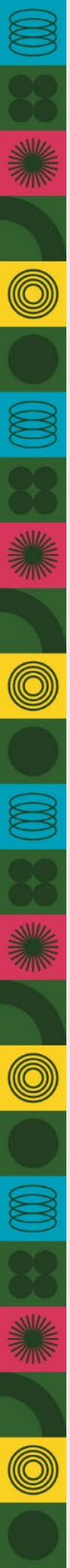
April 16, 2026 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm





Meeting Goals

1. Build shared understanding of Economic Justice Alliance current project and activities.
2. Understand 2026 Legislative action and share information in preparation for 2027-29 Session.
3. Maintain sustained focus on north star goals for Washington through continued collaboration.



Mutual Expectations

- Maintain a respectful body language, tone, and volume when sharing our opinions.
- Value the many different sources of knowledge; listen to the entire message without editorializing or interrupting.
- Act in ways that edify collaboration.
- Seek first to understand before being understood.
- Be honest and explain why.
- Always assume good intentions; give people the benefit of the doubt.
- Look for places to agree, connect, and support – it helps us get to better solutions.
- Make it a safe environment to share – no personal attacks.
- Listen to the entire message, literally, and mentally:
 - › Don't interrupt – we are modeling respectful behavior; and
 - › Our listening implies that we care, even if we don't agree.



Housekeeping



TASKFORCE MEMBERS

- Panelists can participate in meeting; all other attendees are muted.
- Use your reaction/hand raise buttons to ask questions, speak and vote.
- Staff will count hands to determine outcome of votes.



Chat Function

- Chat function is turned off.
- There are two public comment periods; when it is your turn to speak, you will be unmuted.
- Use the Q & A if you have questions during the meeting.
- Q&A should not be used for comments or discussion.



Support Team

ASL Interpreting

Kelly Brunson and Amanda Wilkes from All Hands Community Interpreting Services.

Economic Justice Alliance Team

Lori Pfingst, PhD | Executive Director

Livey Beha | Assistant Director, Aligned Initiatives & Operations

Babs Roberts | Senior Advisor, Programs & Policy

Gwen Teok | Senior Analyst, Research & Policy

Lindsay Morgan Tracy | Director, Innovation & Outreach



Welcome & Opening Remarks

- Rep. Mia Gregerson, Legislative District 39
- Angela Ramirez, Secretary, DSHS



Welcome, New Members!



Josh Dye

Employment Security Department



Jason McGill

Healthcare Authority



Advisory Council-Chair Introductory Remarks



Johnathan Hemphill
Lived Expert



Amy Martinez
CEO, South Central Workforce

Legislative Session Review & LEWPRO Tra

Discussion and Decision





2026 Legislative session - Debrief

Significant challenges facing the state:

- Federal Funding Changes
- State Revenue Shortfalls
- Tax Revision

LEWPRO Trailer Bill

Proposed changes:

- Clarify Intent - new intent section
- Change the name - suggestions
- Membership and voting changes
- Update duties to reflect recent alignment decisions
- Updates Advisory Council to reflect changes

NEXT STEPS:

- Invite proposed new members to LEWPRO meeting with no voting status
- Continue alignment
- Begin or continue "duties" as described in bill
- Continue Advisory Council as described in bill

Public Comment

Listening

If you would like to comment, please use the “raise hand” feature or send an email to LEWPRO@dshs.wa.gov, which is also posted in the chat.



Washington RxKids Feasibility Study

Learning



RxKids Michigan

Dr. Mona Hannah



A Prescription for Health, Hope, and Opportunity

Cash for Moms and Babies

[Rx Kids | Prenatal & Infant Cash](#)

[Support in Michigan](#) ❤️



Perigee Award & Project Purpose

Washington Economic Justice Alliance convened a working group to study the political and fiscal feasibility of and develop a proposal to implement a direct cash transfer program for pregnant mothers and infants in their first year similar to the RxKids program in Flint, Michigan.



Direct Cash Transfers Outcomes

Improved Financial Stability



Ability to pay bills



Savings



Full-time employment

Improved Health and Well-being



Receiving medical care



Stress levels and anxiety



Prenatal care utilization

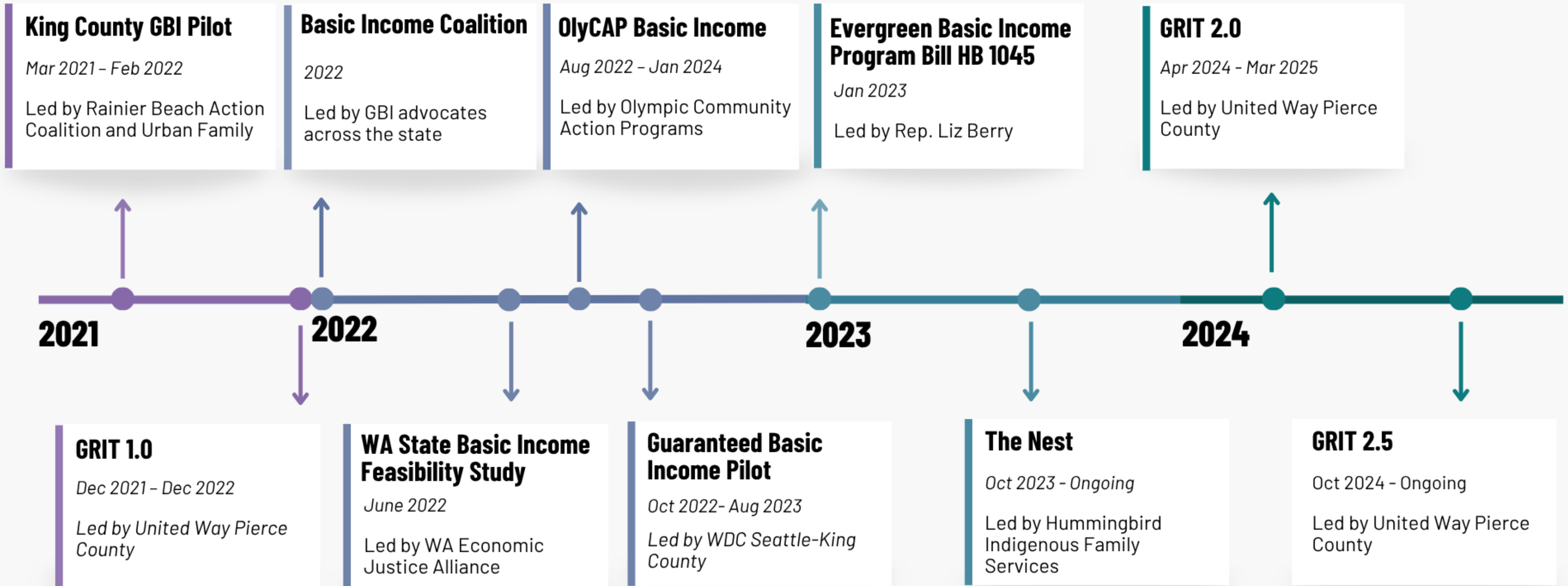
Improved Community Investment



Helping out in communities



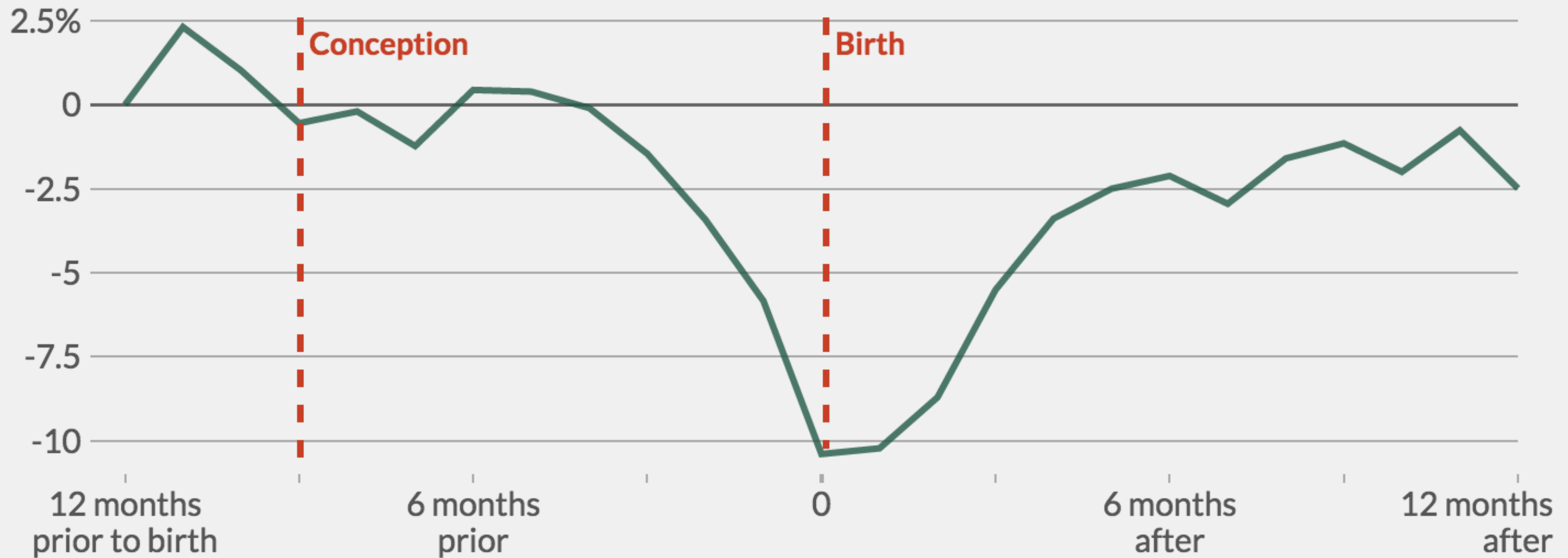
Guaranteed Basic Income Work in Washington



Economic Insecurity is Especially Acute at Birth

Family income drops sharply near the birth of a child

Percentage change in gross U.S. household income compared to 12 months prior to birth



Source: Stanczyk, Alexandra. (2016). "The dynamics of household economic circumstances around a birth." Washington Center for Equitable Growth working paper series.



- Universal & unrestricted cash
- Time-bound
- Evidence-based
- Public-private partnership



Financial Stability

Housing stability

Improved food access

Maternal Wellbeing

Prenatal care

Reduced maternal stress

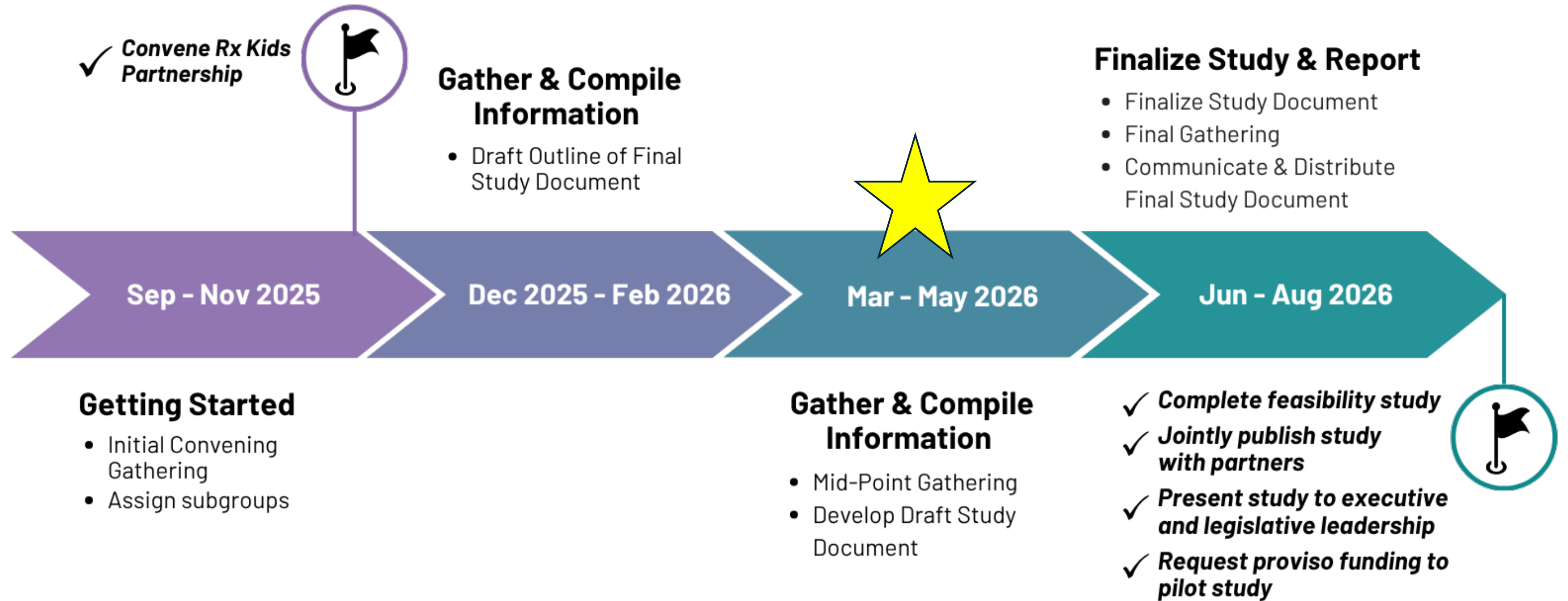
Infant Wellbeing

Improved birth outcomes

Reduced involvement with Child Welfare/ Protective services



Project Timeline



Disbursement Amount and Number of Recipients

We recommend basing disbursement on the **average** Self-Sufficiency wage:

\$2,000	- 1 x Prenatal	}	\$10,100 Per Person
\$675	- 12 x Postnatal		

We recommend a **minimum of 5,000 mother-child recipients**, to achieve an evaluation design that would show detectable effects and rates of outcomes.

Notes

- Amounts rounded for clarity
- Disbursements should be updated based on inflation and/or new SSS wage estimates.



Site Options Exploration Overview

Quantitative Indicators

Perinatal/ Maternal Health

- Preterm births
- Infant mortality
- First trimester
- Prenatal Care
- Late or no prenatal care
- Low birth weight
- % smoked during pregnancy

Violence

- Victims of child abuse and neglect
- Child injury and accident hospitalizations
- Domestic violence

Context

- Recent closure of birthing centers
- Affected by toxic releases from facilities
- Tribal lands
- Rural/ Urban
- Border county
- Unique economic feature

Poverty/ Economic

- Median income
- Unemployment rate
- Uninsured children
- Child poverty rate
- Basic Food recipients
- Gini Index
- Poverty rate

Births

- Number of births
- Births per 1000 women

Housing

- Eviction filing
- Homelessness prevalence

Others

- Single parent homes
- Births to young mothers (10-17)

Demographics

- Age
- Race/ ethnicity
- Sex



Evaluation Options & Return on Investment

To complete a quantitative evaluation of RxKids in WA, we need to measure **enough people** to know whether the program was **effective** or not.

What does **effective** mean?

By effective we mean that there is a measurable change/improvement in outcomes based on receiving RxKids intervention.

Sample size considerations were framed around our ability to measure 3 key outcomes*:

1. Low Birth Weight Babies
2. Pre-term Births
3. NICU Admissions

* we will also evaluate other outcomes, but these 3 guided sample size discussions

How many is **enough people**?

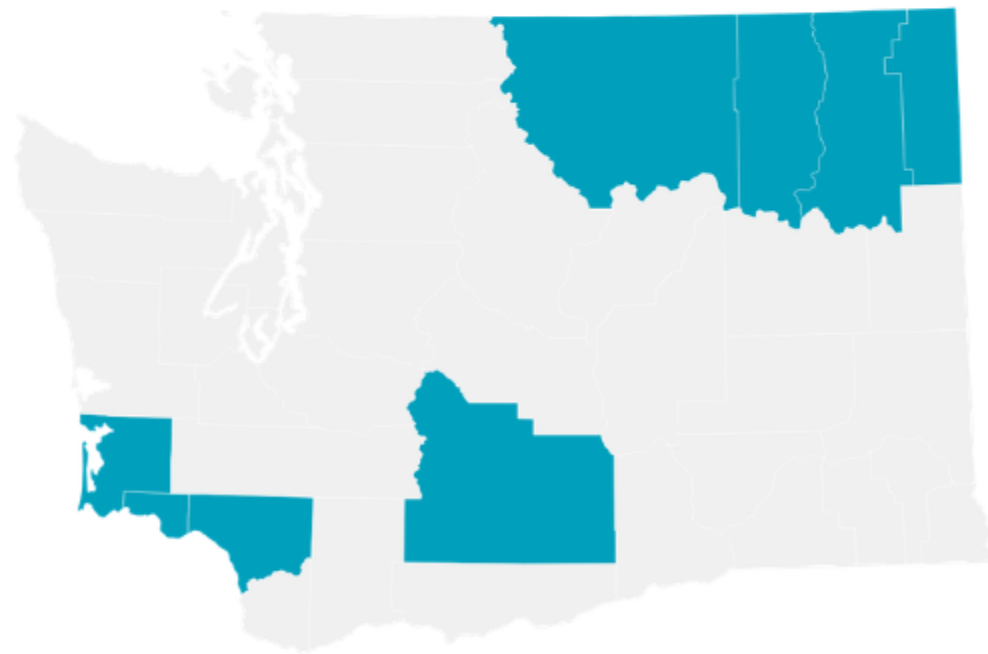
Based on possible evaluation design options and assumptions about minimum detectable effects and baseline rates of outcomes, we suggest a minimum of 5,000 RxKids interventions.



Proposed Pilot Options

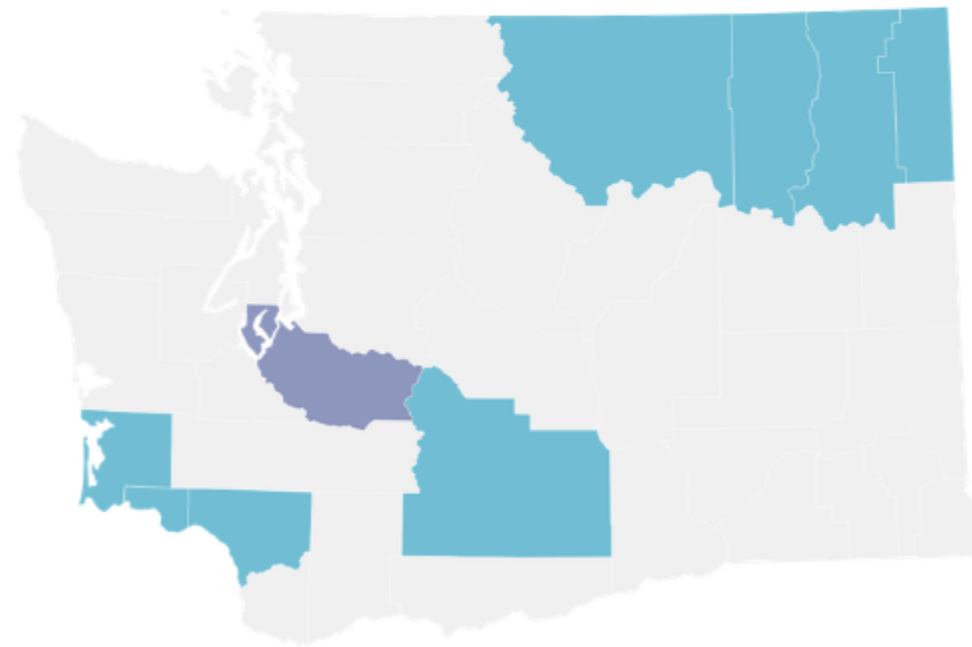
Minimum

- Yakima
- Eastern WA cluster (Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille)
- Southwest WA cluster (Wahkiakum, Pacific, Cowlitz)
- Total births=6,000



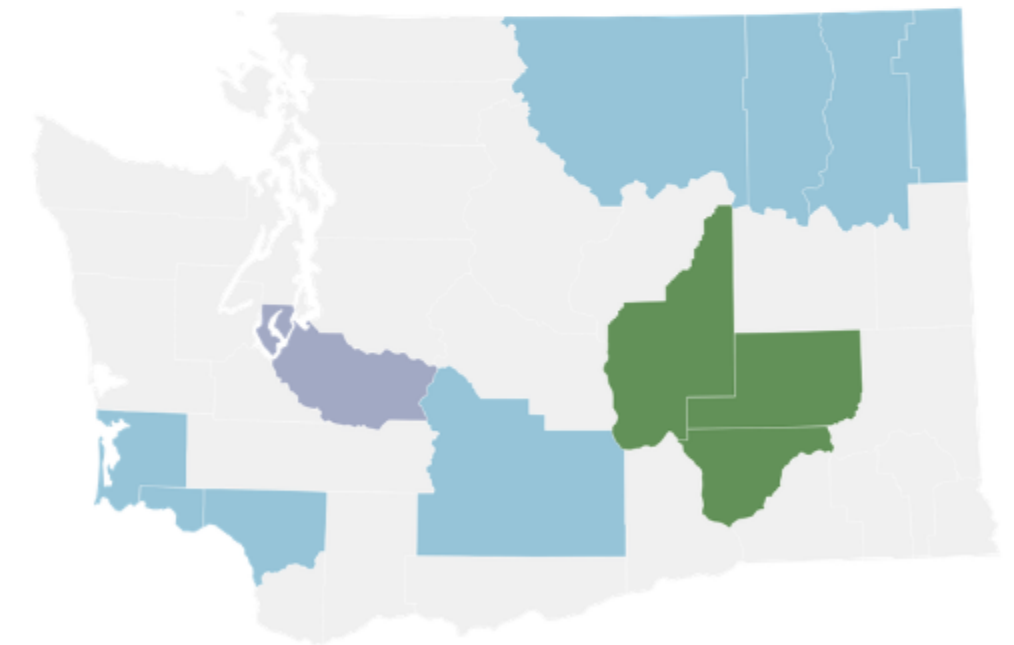
Recommended

- Minimum Option sites
- City of Tacoma, City of Lakewood, Joint Base Lewis-McChord
- Total births=9,000



Optimal

- Recommended Option sites
- Columbia Basin cluster (Adams, Grant, Franklin)
- Total births=12,000



Proposed Pilot Options Rationale

Minimum

Yakima County

Southwest WA (Wahkiakum, Pacific, Cowlitz)

Eastern WA (Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan)

Total births

~6,000 births in 2022

Data

- High number of preterm births
- High rate of Medicaid-paid perinatal care
- High rate of infant mortality
- Low rate of receiving perinatal care
- High rate of uninsured children
- High rate of poverty
- High rate of child poverty
- High rate of homelessness prevalence
- High rate of victims of abuse and neglect
- High rate of unemployment

Context

- Recently closed birthing center
- Has tribal lands
- Mostly rural
- Border counties
- Impacted by Hanford site
- Strong farmworkers presence
- High presence of Hispanic folks
- High presence of Alaska Native/ American Indian folks

Recommended

Yakima County

Southwest WA (Wahkiakum, Pacific, Cowlitz)

Eastern WA (Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan)

Pierce County (Tacoma, Lakewood, JBLM)

Total births

~9,000 births in 2022

Data

- Rate of low birthweight babies as high as #1 county
- Infant mortality rate as high as #2 county
- High rates of child abuse and neglect
- Highest rates of domestic violence as compared to counties

Context

- Adds highly urban setting
- Along I-5 corridor
- Has tribal lands
- Highest presence of Black folks
- Highest presence of Pacific Islander folks
- Includes military community
- Has history of basic income programs
- Has history of legislative support
- Has history of philanthropic support

Optimal

Yakima County

Southwest WA (Wahkiakum, Pacific, Cowlitz)

Eastern WA (Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan)

Pierce County (Tacoma, Lakewood, JBLM)

Columbia Basin (Grant, Adams, Franklin)

Total births

~12,000 births in 2022

Data

- #1 Medicaid-paid perinatal care
- #3 highest rate of preterm births
- #4 low-birth weight babies
- #4 preterm births
- #1 highest rate of child poverty
- #3 highest rate of children in extreme poverty
- #3 highest rate of uninsured children
- #2 & 6 highest number of Basic Food recipients
- #1 rate of birth to young mothers

Context

- Highest presence of Hispanic folks
- Impacted by Hanford site
- Strong farmworkers presence
- Strong farming industries



Communication & Narrative Messaging

- **Overall Narrative/Messaging Development**
 - Briefing materials
 - Op-Ed
 - Social Media
 - Presentation materials
- **Target Audiences**
 - Executive & Legislative Leaders
 - Philanthropic Funders
 - Communities and Community leaders
 - Potential participants
- **Focus Groups with Target Audiences**
(In Progress)





Requests for LEWPRO

We would love your support in:

- 1) Engaging with potential supporters
- 2) Hosting or connecting with groups to host focus groups locally
- 3) Building connections with your legislative and agency peers



Next Steps

- Consultation with WSIPP
- Finalize site recommendations
- Complete evaluation design and ROI
- Conduct Focus Groups
- Begin/conduct presentations to socialize concept
 - Executive / Legislative branch
 - Philanthropy
 - Communities
- Finish first draft of document

Executive Council

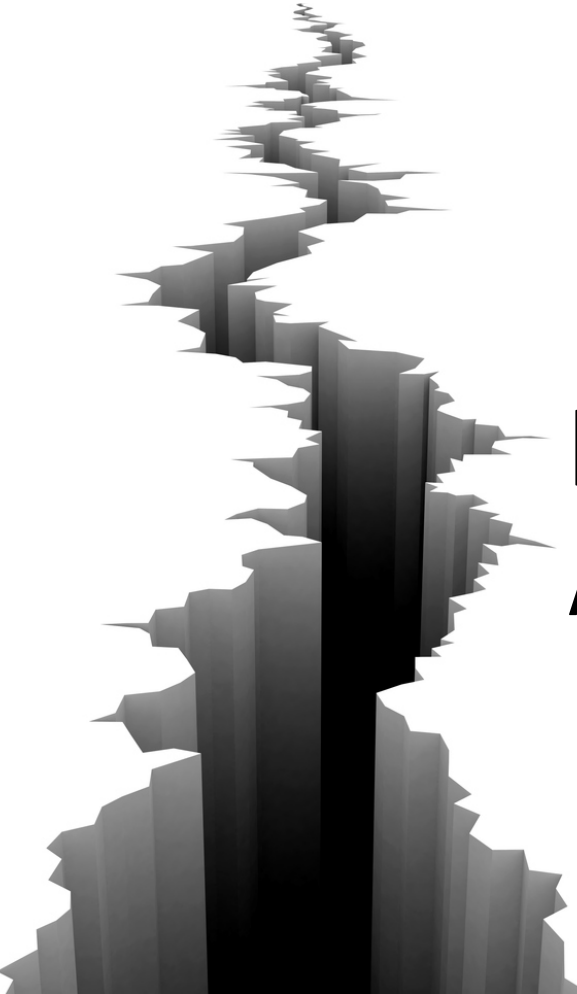
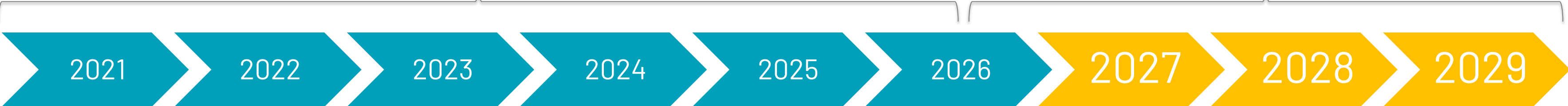
Update



10-Year Plan Midpoint Reflections

450 actions

What impact do we want to have in the next 3-5 years?



Federal government,
AI, economy



Hot Off the Press!

**WELLBEING
ECONOMY**

Course

Case Study

The Washington Economic Justice Alliance



**WELLBEING
ECONOMY
ALLIANCE**

WELLBEING ECONOMY GOVERNMENTS (WEGO)

The Wellbeing Economy Governments partnership (WEGo) is a collaboration of national and regional governments interested in sharing expertise and transferrable policy practices to advance their shared ambition of building Wellbeing Economies. Membership of the group has grown organically since its launch in 2018 and currently involves the governments of Scotland, Iceland, New Zealand, Wales and Finland, with Canada actively participating.



Wellbeing Economy Retreat



Funding



RWJF Sparks Grant ✓

...will accelerate a foundational pillar of our work to build a well-being economy in Washington: Civic Commons' We Belong Here initiative.

RWJF Collective Wellbeing Grant ✓

...invested in regional collective wellbeing hubs and community-led strategies that roll into a statewide wellbeing economy agenda.

New Pluralists (TBD)

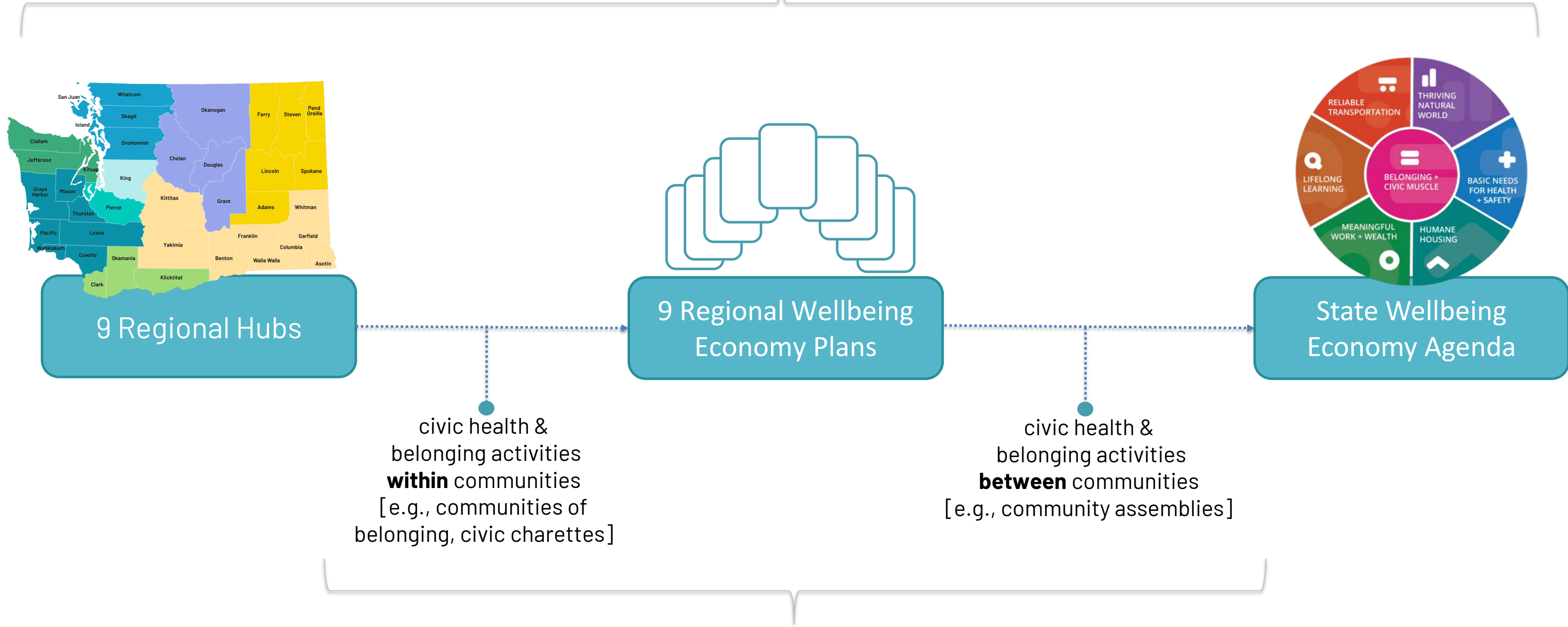
...to deepen the Alliance's investment in pluralistic practices proven to build trust, belonging and civic muscle within and between Washington state's diverse communities.



Grant Activities

core team

coordination, technical assistance,
project management, communications

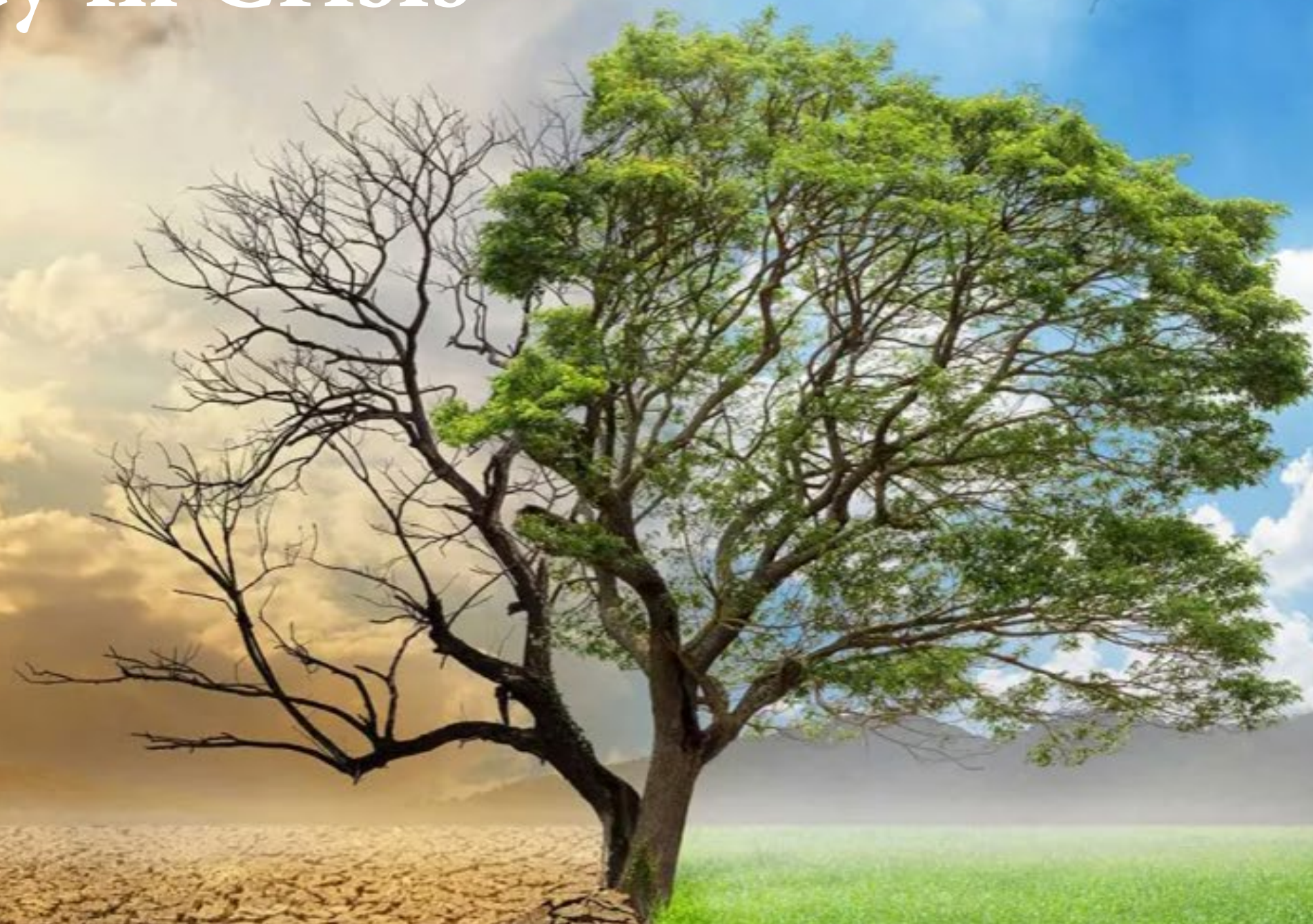


ethnographic & research consultants

community stories, narrative-building,
communications campaign



Opportunity in Crisis



Advisory Council

Discussion and Recommendations



Aligned Initiatives Highlights

1

Direct Cash Programs

Support the enhancement of the Working Families Tax Credit and the Economic Security for All program. Develop a pilot for the RxKids program.

2

Reduce TANF Benefit Cliffs

Time Limit Extensions, post-Workfirst support, and aligning the cash grants to the need standards.

3

Connections between workforce programs

Sharing resources in a constrained budget environment to ensure Washingtonians have maximum access to workforce programs across agencies.

4

Connections between state agencies creating technology solutions

Across the system, there are several efforts offering service finders and “universal” application systems. These efforts could work together to maximize state resources.

5

Basic Needs Support Services Pilot

Providing wrap-around services and concrete goods to Child Welfare-involved families.



Consent Agenda Decision



Consent Agenda

Presented by:

- Secretary Angela Ramirez , Department of Social & Health Services

Items for Approval:

- April 2026 Meeting Agenda
- November 2025 Meeting Notes

Items for Information:

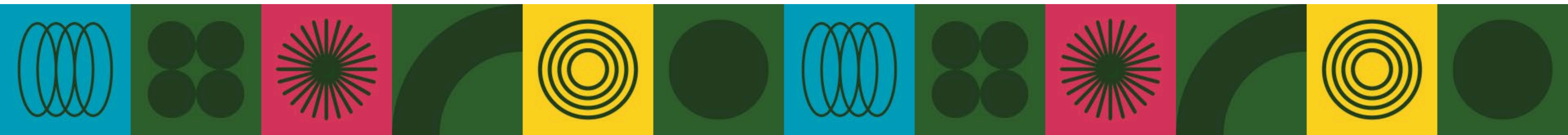
[WorkFirst Performance Measures | DSHS](#)



Public Comment Listening

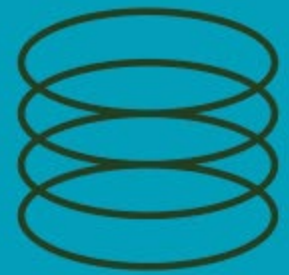


Good of the Order





Thank you.





Spokane City Council

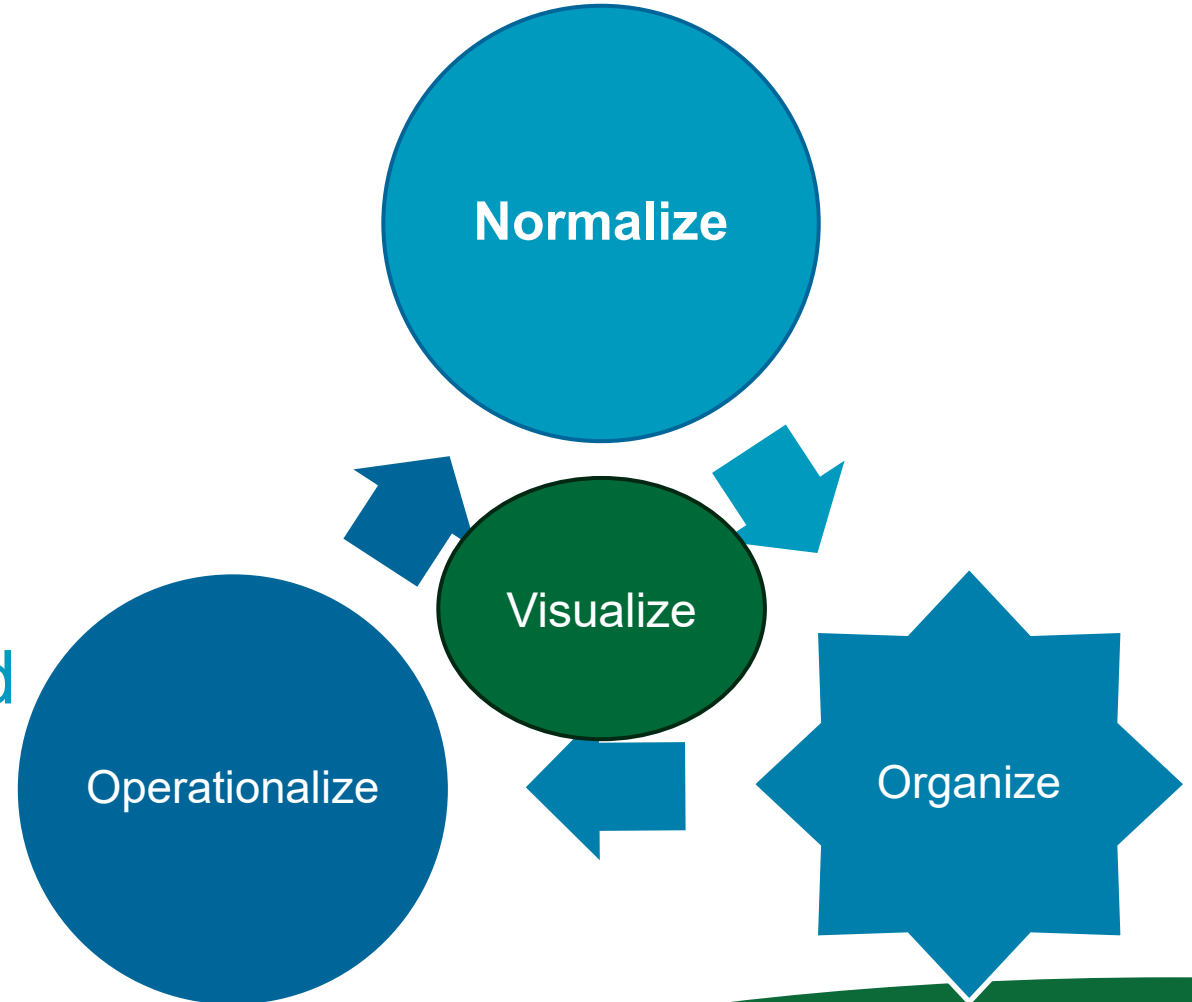
Equity Assessment 2026





Pilot – Equity Resources and Assessment

- For the next six months
- Role – support council offices work through the equity assessment tool
- It will live in the council office SharePoint
- Provide feedback recommend sources to improve it





The purpose

- To have a conscious consideration of equity in city functions, and to examine how communities of color, low-income, and other impacted populations will be affected by a proposed policy/budget decision of the city.
- A data informed approach
- Encourages community engagement
- We are introducing two assessments
- Use a targeted universalism approach



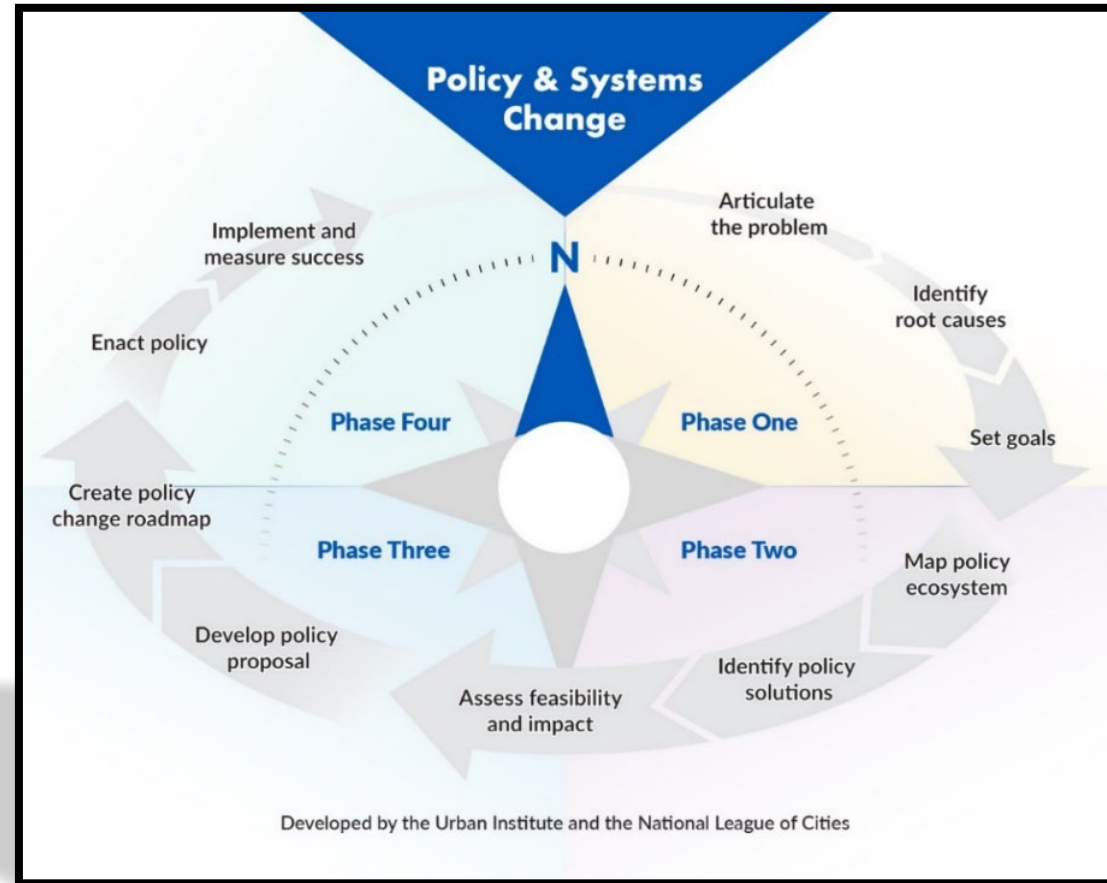
Rolling it Out

- The tool is on SharePoint site
- Identify a policy idea with each council office to pilot this tool
- Equity and Inclusion Initiative Staff Support
- Build community connections as needed
- Provide feedback to improve



When to use it

- Use the tool as early as possible
- When considering policies, workflows, programs, and budgets
- Consider it a living document
 - As adjustments are made- update it





What you will find

- Definitions
- Resources
 - Trainings
 - Data Sites
 - City and Regional Plans
 - Other Resources
- Equity Assessment Tool
- Fast Track Equity Assessment



Let's Look at It

[Council SharePoint Link](#)

Spokane City Council Equity Assessment Tool

Purpose of this tool: To facilitate conscious consideration of equity in city functions, and to examine how communities of color, low-income, and other impacted populations will be affected by a proposed action/decision of the city.

Using the approach known as “Targeted Universalism,”¹ we collect and analyze group-level data to inform how we approach each group, and from there ensure each group can fairly access a particular city service or opportunity. We also use data to understand how the city’s practices, processes, and policies may be unfairly disadvantaging groups of people and causing them to be farther from the universal goal.

Instructions

Use this tool as early as possible in the development of the City policies, public rules, workflows, programs and budgets.

This analysis should be completed by staff with different racial and socioeconomic perspectives. When possible, involve those directly impacted by the issue. Include and document multiple voices in this process.

The order of questions may be re-arranged to suit the individual department.

BEGIN ANALYSIS

Understanding the project and what it is trying to achieve.

- 1. What is the primary goal of the policy or project and or the challenge you are trying to address?**
 - 2. Are there potential unintended consequences among populations like BIPOC, low-income, youth, people with disabilities, and renter households?**
 - 3. What current inequities might this policy or project address? (consider all including race, gender, people with disabilities, geography, and income)**
-

4. **Based on the data you have gathered and reviewed how might the policy or project impact disparities be affected? Will they improve or worsen? (Share data being used, disaggregate by race/ethnicity, gender, people with disabilities, and age. Include geography)**

5. **Identify systems that can be impacted directly or indirectly. (internal, external)**
 - a. **Internal (departments, divisions, offices, other government organizations)**
 - b. **External (community organizations)**

Engagement

6. **Are you collaborating with individuals and communities most impacted – particularly Black, Indigenous People of Color – in the Policy or Project planning process? If not, why not?**

7. **What is your plan to include community members to ensure meaningful input from the planning phase through implementation and performance monitoring?**

Evaluating and Improving

1. **Based on the answers above, what specific changes need to be made to the proposal to achieve your goal and avoid the continuation of racial and other disparities (Ex. Partnering with and/or investing in groups representing communities most impacted by the proposed initiative.)**

2. What performance measures will you use to evaluate the proposal's impact following implementation, including the impact on racial and ethnic disparities? *Qualitative and quantitative measures are encouraged.*

3. Have you identified milestones that you will use to ensure ongoing review and periodic adjustments?

Barriers to improve policy or program

4. What limitations might complicate this proposal and what is the plan to address them? Are there recommendations for additional policy changes or programs?

5. Are there recommendations for additional policy changes or programs?

City of Spokane – Fast Track Equity Assessment

Instructions

This abbreviated version of the Equity Assessment Tool is intended for issues on a short timeline or without a widespread impact.

Examples:

- single piece of policy already drafted and introduced.
- creation of a single position description and job posting for an open position
- development of a single budget item proposal

For broader policies and legislation in its beginning phase, please use the full version of the Equity Assessment.

This tool should be completed by people with different racial and socioeconomic perspectives. When possible, involve those directly impacted by the issue. Include and document multiple voices in this process. The order of questions may be re-arranged to suit your situation.

Begin Analysis

What

What is the primary goal of the policy or project and or the challenge you are trying to address?

What current inequities might this policy or project address? (consider all including race, gender, people with disabilities, geography, and income)

Who

Are there potential disproportionate impacts on communities of color or low-income communities? Who would benefit? Who would be burdened?

Why

Based on the data you have gathered and reviewed how might the policy or project impact disparities? Will they improve or worsen? (Share data used, disaggregate by race/ethnicity, gender, people with disabilities, and age. Include geography)

How: Recommendations

Based on the answers above, what specific changes need to be made to the proposal or process to achieve your goal and avoid the continuation of racial and other disparities (Ex. Partnering with and/or investing in groups representing communities most impacted by the proposed initiative.)