

Equity and Opportunity Assessment

The Equity and Opportunity Assessment project of the Lane Livability Consortium seeks to identify and analyze issues of equity, access, and opportunity within our community and consider how these findings can inform agency plans, policies, and major investments. Like other efforts of the Consortium, this process is designed to engage multiple agencies and to help address the needs of those agencies. While there are many definitions of opportunity, the focus of this project is to identify the condition or situation that places individuals in a position to be more likely to succeed or excel. Through the assessment process, participating agencies will:

- 1) Establish a common understanding of how different community agencies approach issues of access, equity, and opportunity;
- 2) Examine and consider related data and analyzes;
- 3) Identify policies, programs, and investments that can be informed by the analysis; and
- 4) Develop recommendations for policies, programs, and investments based on the analysis.

The process and products of the Assessment will build on the existing efforts and plans within participating agencies and are intended to provide data and analysis that could be utilized by multiple agencies to inform future plans, programs, and decision-making processes. The geographic focus area for this analysis is the boundary of the Metropolitan Plan Organization which includes the Cities of Eugene, Springfield, and Coburg as well as unincorporated land surrounding these jurisdictions.

The project is led by a Core Team working on behalf of the Consortium, which is composed of members including LLC Project Manager, City of Eugene staff, City of Springfield staff, and staff from the Community Planning Workshop at the University of Oregon. The Equity and Opportunity Assessment Project is primarily supported through a Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant provided through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Project Approach

There are five major steps identified in the Equity and Opportunity Assessment.

Agency Interviews to Identify Key Issues and Data - The first step is to develop a baseline understanding of how each agency approaches equity and access issues through a series of agency interviews including jurisdictions, affordable housing providers, schools, transportation agencies, and United Way of Lane County. The Core Project Team will work with staff in each agency to identify priority data resources and issues.

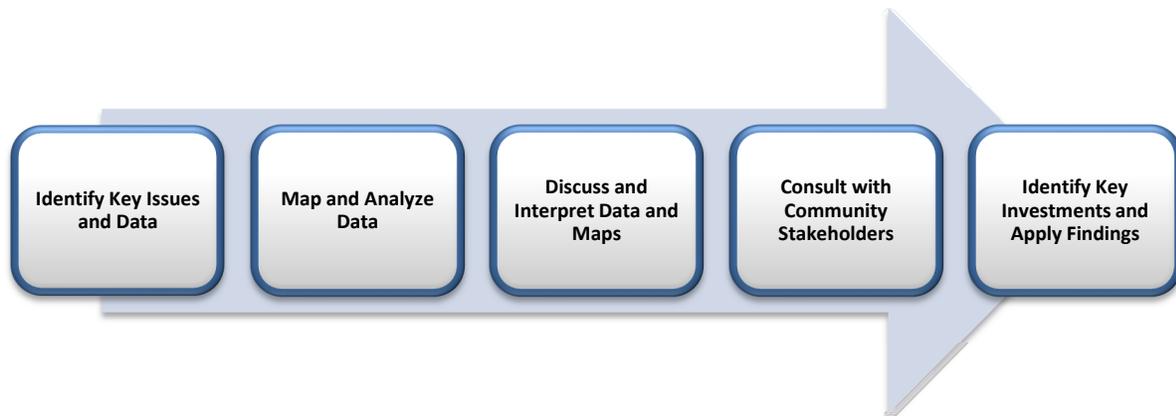
Select, Map, and Analyze Data - The second step is to assemble, map and analyze data resources. The Project Core team will draw on existing data and analyses to: 1) compose a broad understanding of where different groups of people live within our community; 2) identify how jobs, schools, and services are distributed through the region; and 3) uncover disparities in access and opportunity.

Discuss and Interpret Data, Maps, and Analyses – Through multi-agency interactive workshops, participants will consider the data and maps and identify key trends, questions, conclusions, and possible applications to policies, programs, and investments. These meetings will take place in February

and March of 2013 and will include interdisciplinary representatives of jurisdictions, schools, affordable housing organizations, transit agencies, public health, and local funders. Targeted populations, geographic areas, and key conclusions will be developed based on the data analysis and TAC discussions. Additional data may be gathered in targeted areas.

Community Consultation – Following the initial review and interpretation of data, consortium agencies will identify opportunities for presentation, discussion and feedback from community stakeholders such as Housing Policy Board, the Eugene Human Rights Commission, transportation advisory, and also with agencies and organizations that work with specific populations. Based on the results of the analysis, there will also be consultations with residents of particular census block groups and organizations that are active in those communities. Where possible, consultations will leverage existing networks, forums, and gathering places. Community partners will also be recruited to participate in subsequent workshops to apply findings to key investment areas. This step of the process will take place in March and April 2013.

Identify Key Investments and Apply Findings – The final step in the process is to identify key investments, policies, or programs that can enhance equity, access, and opportunity. Staff with key responsibilities in the areas of planning, transportation, affordable housing, economic development, and health will organize workshops on each area to apply the findings of the analysis to specific plans, programs, investments, and policies. This step of the process will take place in April and May 2013



Development of Final Report

The findings from each step of this project will be incorporated into a final report with sections on process, data analysis and maps, and recommendations. The report will be designed in a way that it can be used as a resource for governmental and nongovernmental agencies and a wide variety of planning and program development efforts. The report will be completed by October 2013.