

Galveston Bay Estuary Program

EQUITY STRATEGY



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Objectives

- Equity Frameworks
- Goals
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Key Elements
- Your Participation



SOURCE: MAP OF GALVESTON BAY.
IMAGE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET AND INCLUDED
IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 17 U.S.C. SECTION 107.

EQUITY FRAMEWORKS

DEI

FOUNDATIONAL

DEIB

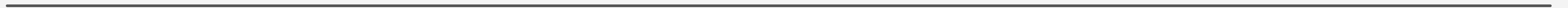
HUMAN-FOCUSED

DEIA

HYBRID

JEDI

SYSTEMS-FOCUSED



EQUITY STRATEGY

Goals + Standards

Goals:

- Ensure that benefits of BIL funding reaches disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- A national target of 40% of funds directly benefiting DACs

EPA Standard:

- Increase equitable distribution of BIL funds to DACs
- Track use and benefits of BIL funds to DACs

GBEP Standard:

- Expand and diversify meaningful partnerships with organizations and communities in Galveston Bay
- Target of 40% of funds directly benefiting URCs

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

- **Reminder**
 - The most impacted communities are often the least meaningfully engaged in decision-making
 - Without engagement, we cannot invest or expand investments
- **Goals for Stakeholder Engagement:**
 - Diversify means of communication and engagement (responsive to preferences of our partners)
 - Don't wait until the end to engage! Engage at all key project activities
 - Conduct interviews and focus groups
 - Create an environment where all partners are able to provide open feedback to GBEP.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

- **Identification of impacted communities**
 - Environmental Justice Screening Tool (EJScreen)
 - Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
- **Our systems of identification incorporate justice**
- **JEDI**
 - Systems-focused
 - Inequitable system of funding or resource distribution
- **Human-focused**
 - Non-system-based forms of identification
 - Engage real people/communities
 - Consider their needs

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
vs.
Underresourced Communities (URCs)

Disac

Up

These terms are NOT to serve as labels for these communities or individuals that reside there. They do not represent the identities of these communities.

They are categories we impose to establish criteria for funding and support.

ACs)

s

Starting Point - Baseline Calculations

Table 3. Total Projects and Funds Invested in Under-Resourced Communities in GBEP Area between 2017 and 2023.

Year (Project Start Year)	# Projects funded that include priority communities	% of total projects funded (per project start year)	Funds dedicated to priority communities (\$)	% of total funds distributed
2020	1	14.8%	\$89,323	10%
2021	2	25%	\$185,549	28%
2022	3	50%	\$163,140	47%
Total	6	24%	\$438,012	16%



Equity Strategy

KEY ACTIVITIES

Expanding Expert Partnerships

**Engaging Equitable
Selection Practices**

**Establishing Ongoing
Stakeholder Engagement**

Evaluating the Approach

EQUITY STRATEGY

Your Participation

Some Suggestions...

- Consider reading the Equity Strategy
- Participate in ongoing learning
 - I am a resource!
 - There are also online resources
 - Community partners
 - Other subcommittees
- Stay responsive to the community partners you engage
- Keep your eyes open for...
 - Opportunities to incorporate equity
 - Opportunities to challenge status quo
 - Opportunities to diversify the types of resources you rely on
 - Opportunities to collaborate and cultivate community

THANK YOU!
LET'S DISCUSS!

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