



Puget Sound Regional Council

Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) Frequently Asked Questions

What is PSRC?

Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is a public agency dedicated to issues that cross city and county borders in the King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish County region. These include transit and traffic, climate change, housing, and planning for new population and employment growth. PSRC doesn't have taxing authority or run programs, but the agency does shape transportation, economic development, and growth planning. PSRC also distributes federal transportation funds based on a regionwide application process. Additionally, PSRC provides data to help local governments and the public, develops guidance and research to inform decisions, and adopts plans that span the next 20 or 30 years. PSRC's boards are made up of elected officials, and they are appointed to represent all local governments in the region. Officially, the agency is a [Metropolitan Planning Organization](#) and a [Regional Transportation Planning Organization](#). PSRC is paid for through federal and state funding and membership dues from cities, counties, and other public agencies.

What does the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC) do?

The EAC is a working group composed of residents as well as governmental and community-based organizations in the Puget Sound region representing Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities and other marginalized groups. The EAC co-creates products (such as data tools and planning resources) with staff and the Executive Board. The EAC also advises PSRC committees and boards on policies and programs with an equity lens.

Why did PSRC form the Equity Advisory Committee?

The region is becoming increasingly diverse. However, the elected leaders who serve on PSRC boards / committees and the staff that represent the agency don't currently reflect this regional diversity. Consequently, like many other agencies, PSRC has blind spots that can lead to continued marginalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities and unintended consequences that can add additional harm. This committee creates a space where community can collaborate with PSRC staff and the elected officials of cities, towns, counties, Tribes and other agencies across the region to remove barriers, tap into the brilliance of BIPOC communities and other marginalized groups, and improve the region's overall quality of life.

Why should someone serve on the Equity Advisory Committee?

Key functions of PSRC include:

- Provide regional leadership to spotlight important issues
- Establish policies and recommendations that guide local decisions
- Distribute federal transportation funding

Committee members will have the opportunity to use expertise from their lived experience and/or their employment / academic background to inform these key functions and improve outcomes for their community. Committee members will work with PSRC staff and elected leadership to help ensure an inclusive environment where racial equity is valued and advanced. Committee membership provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth, as members learn more about regional and local government and the role of regional planning in advancing racial equity at all levels of local government.

What are the criteria to serve on the Equity Advisory Committee?

Applicants must reside and/or work in King, Kitsap, Pierce, or Snohomish counties. Emphasis will be made to select members from communities that are not often reflected in decision-making at PSRC, which includes Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities, low-income residents, people with disabilities and youth.

What is the application process?

[Submit an application online](#) or contact Charles Patton, Equity Manager, at CPatton@psrc.org or 206-971-3285.

Can changes be made to an application after it has been submitted?

Yes, if an applicant would like to make changes prior to the deadline (September 18th), please contact Charles at CPatton@psrc.org or 206-971-3285

What is the timeline for the Equity Advisory Committee appointment process?

Applications are due September 18th. PSRC will review applications, schedule interviews, and appoint members by December 7th.

Who makes committee appointments?

The current Equity Advisory Committee will work with PSRC staff and the executive committee (the co-chairs serving on each PSRC board) to review applications, conduct interviews, and make nominations to PSRC's Executive Board. The Executive Board will formally appoint committee members.

Is PSRC accepting nominations for the Equity Advisory Committee?

PSRC encourages sharing this opportunity with interested community groups and residents. Suggestions for committee outreach should be shared with Charles at CPatton@psrc.org or 206-971-3285.

Can an application be submitted on behalf of someone else?

No, applications cannot be submitted for someone else. PSRC encourages sharing this opportunity with community members. If an interested resident needs assistance completing the application, please contact Charles at CPatton@psrc.org or 206-971-3285.

How can board members get involved with the Equity Advisory Committee?

The EAC is an advisory committee to the Executive Board (including the Operations Committee) and Growth Management and Transportation Policy Boards. These PSRC boards can request the EAC to weigh in on decisions prior to taking action. PSRC board members are also welcome to observe EAC meetings. If interested, please find a link to an upcoming meeting in the [EAC agenda](#).

How can applicants not selected to serve on the Equity Advisory Committee participate in this work?

PSRC encourages those not selected to serve on the committee to sign up for the EAC [interested parties list](#) to receive meeting agendas and other committee updates. Committee meetings are open to the public, so interested parties are welcome to attend. As committee work begins, subcommittees may also form. This is an opportunity for non-committee members to be involved.

How often does the Equity Advisory Committee meet?

The EAC meets on the first Thursday evening of the month from 5:30p to 7:30p. Meetings may be canceled, or additional meetings may be scheduled, by the EAC as needed.

What is the time commitment to serving on the Equity Advisory Committee?

Committee meetings will usually happen monthly and be 2 hours long, depending on the meeting materials to discuss. Committee members should expect to spend 1-2 hours reviewing materials in advance of the meeting.

Does the Equity Advisory Committee meet virtually or in person?

Currently, all EAC meetings are virtual. However, in the future we may explore a hybrid model where members can attend in-person or virtually based on their needs. For members who would prefer to meet in-person, PSRC will select various meeting locations throughout King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties to accommodate committee member needs. Depending on the EAC's workload, monthly meetings may be canceled or additional meetings may be added.

Is it necessary/mandatory to attend every committee meeting?

Yes, committee members are expected to attend and actively participate in meetings. PSRC asks to be notified in advance of meetings if a member cannot attend.

How long do applicants serve on the Equity Advisory Committee?

Members will serve a two-year term with an opportunity to re-apply.

Is there a fee to serve on the Equity Advisory Committee or will members be paid for committee work?

There is no fee to serve on the EAC. Members of PSRC committees who are not already being compensated by their employers or other organizations for participating in PSRC meetings are compensated \$125 per meeting. This is a flat rate that is intended to cover time preparing for each meeting as well as other expenses such as childcare, food, and travel.