GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES FOR POPULATIONS SERVED

To address the project evaluation criteria for PSRC's 2021 Transportation Alternatives Program, project sponsors are asked to identify the populations and user groups within their project area and identify how the project is providing a benefit to those populations. Benefits may be improved access to jobs, services and key destinations; a safer transportation route; or other benefits.

PSRC has provided an [interactive web map](#) to assist sponsors in answering these questions. The web map will allow sponsors to zoom to the geographic area in which their project is located, and choose from a variety of data layers, including the following:

- PSRC's regional demographic profile, with information on the following populations:
    - People of color
    - People with low incomes
    - Older adults (age 65+)
    - Youth (age 5-17)
    - People with disabilities
    - People with limited English proficiency

- The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's Community Air Tool (CAT 2.0) data showing areas disproportionally impacted by poor air quality

- PSRC's Opportunity Mapping

Each of these layers is further described below, with some additional guidance for how sponsors might utilize the information provided in the web map. The web map also provides information on the location of regionally designated growth and manufacturing/industrial centers and the federally designated rural/urban boundary, as an additional resource.

Please note: This is not a comprehensive inventory of all data that may be available to sponsors regarding various populations within their project area, or data that may assist sponsors in addressing how their project improves health and equity. For example, King County has tools and resources available such as the [Equity Impact Review](#) tool and maps featuring key demographic data within the county related to equity. Pierce County also has [Health Equity Maps](#) available, related to a variety of measures including income and environmental health. Two additional examples of available tools include the United States Environmental Protection Agency's environmental justice mapping and screening tool called [EJSCREEN](#), and the Washington State Department of Health's [Environmental Health Disparities Map](#). Sponsors are welcome to provide more community-specific data if it is available and are encouraged to contact their county health departments or other local resources for further assistance.

PSRC Web Map Data Layers

Regional Demographic Profile

The Central Puget Sound Demographic Profile includes key demographic data on people of color and people with low incomes in the region, as well as other populations of interest such as older adults, youth, people with disabilities, and people with limited English proficiency (LEP). The data is based on the 2019 5-year estimates American Community Survey.

The web map layers indicate census tracts above regional average of each population within U.S. Census tracts:

- Census tracts containing percentage of people of color at a higher level than their regional average of 35.9 percent
- Census tracts containing percentage of people with low incomes, at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, at a higher level than their regional average of 20.7 percent
- Census tracts containing percentage of people with disabilities at a higher level than their regional average of 11.0 percent
- Census tracts containing percentage of older adults (defined as age 65 and older) at a higher level than their regional average of 13.4 percent
- Census tracts containing percentage of youth (defined as age between 5 and 17) at a higher level than their regional average of 15.4 percent
- Census tracts containing percentage of people with Limited English Proficiency at a higher level than their regional average of 8.5 percent

Sponsors should review the data in the web map to determine if their project impacts areas with any of the populations above, and if so, identify how the project might provide benefits to these populations. For example, is the project improving access to jobs, services or destinations, improving safety, etc.

Air Quality Focus Communities

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency has identified focus communities that bear the highest impact of air pollution and also tend to have greater socioeconomic challenges. The agency prioritized their efforts based on the following criteria:

- Diesel pollution
- Household income
- Health sensitivity
- Industrial density
- Race
- Limited English proficiency
- Primary wood burning households

The web map layer identifies the top 10% of Census blocks meeting the highest number of total criteria above. Sponsors should review the data in the web map to determine if their project impacts any of these areas, and if so, identify how the project might improve health conditions for these populations.

More information on this topic may be found on the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency's website at: https://pscleanair.gov/372/Community-Equity-Access.

PSRC Opportunity Mapping
Originally part of the Growing Transit Communities program, PSRC has conducted a geographic analysis of opportunity in the Puget Sound region, analyzing factors such as housing and neighborhood quality, education, jobs, transportation, and health.

The web map provides data on the Comprehensive Opportunity Index, which is the compilation of all five factors. Areas are identified as ranging from very low to very high opportunity. Sponsors should review the data in the web map to determine if their project impacts areas of moderate or below opportunity, and if so, identify how the project might improve opportunity for these locations. For example, by improving access for these communities to jobs, services, and other destinations.

More information on the Opportunity Mapping may be found here.