



## **Health Equity Zones Community Advisory Council Questions and Answers**

Includes responses to questions asked at November 4, 2021 community meeting

### **Questions about nomination and outreach**

Q: How do I access the nomination form?

A: The form is available on the [Health Equity Zones website](https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=HealthEquityCommAdvisoryCouncil) and here:  
<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/opinio/s?s=HealthEquityCommAdvisoryCouncil>

Q: Will there be support for persons with varying abilities who may apply?

A: Yes. DOH will provide support for people to fully participate in the application process, and for Community Advisory Council meetings. Please [contact Anne Farrell-Sheffer](#) about any access needs.

Q: Do you have to be vaccinated for COVID-19 to be nominated?

A: No, there is no requirement a person must be vaccinated for COVID-19 to be nominated.

Q: Can a person be nominated more than once?

A: Yes. People who are nominated more than once will go through the same process as everyone who is nominated.

Q: What kind of outreach has been done to find council representatives for nomination? Are all of the tribes aware of the new Health Equity Zones and Community Advisory Council?

A: We have shared information about Health Equity Zones and the Community Advisory Council with a number of our large outreach lists, including with members of the COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Collaborative. For tribal partners, we are following the Department of Health's formal government-to-government [consultation and collaboration procedure](#) with tribal nations.

Q: If this is an intentional effort to hear the voices of the communities most impacted, why is the demographics information optional in the nomination form?

A: DOH is seeking to center the voices and perspectives of communities most impacted by health inequities. We also want to be mindful of people who are unable or prefer not to share demographic information, which may be for a variety of reasons. Demographic information shared in the nomination form will be available to participants of the council member selection meeting. We strongly encourage applicants to include this information as it will help to create a more equitably representative council.

Q: How will you define "immigrants" when considering priorities for representation on the council?

A: We will prioritize representatives from immigrant communities who experience significant health disparities, regardless of how long they or their families have been in the United States.

## Questions about the Community Advisory Council

Q: How many people will be on this Community Advisory Council?

A: Community representatives will make up the majority of the council—between seven and 14 members. Additional members will represent tribal partners, Accountable Communities of Health, local public health departments, the Governor’s Interagency Council on Disparities, and philanthropy.

Q: How often will meetings be held?

A: Meetings will be held monthly through September 2022. They will last about 2.5 hours each.

Q: Will Community Advisory Council meetings be open to the public?

A: This has not yet been decided. In addition, information about the Health Equity Zones, including the Community Advisory Council, will be frequently updated on the website. We plan to share meeting materials, decision-making processes, and meeting notes. There will also be additional opportunities for community members to provide input into the HEZ development process in coming months.

Q: Will meetings be held in-person or virtually?

A: We plan to hold our initial Community Advisory Council meetings virtually. In the future, when the Washington State Department of Health returns to convening in-person meetings, the Community Advisory Council members will determine if they would like to meet in person and would do so in alignment with DOH guidelines.

If the Community Advisory Council meets in person, council members will receive travel reimbursement in addition to the stipend provided for council participation.

Q: Can a University of Washington researcher who works with community projects be on this council?

A: Anyone who identifies as a community representative can serve on the Community Advisory Council.

## Additional questions

Q: Will the Health Equity Zones Initiative use recommendations from Washington’s [10-Year Plan to Reduce Poverty and Inequality](#)?

A: Yes, the plan will inform Health Equity Zones work.

Q: Even though you will leave tribal data to the tribes and follow their guidance, will you still disaggregate the data to include American Indians/Alaska Natives in the regular data sets? Many tribal members do not live on a reservation.

A: Yes, whenever possible data will be disaggregated when it is shared with the Community Advisory Council to further identify health inequities within racial/ethnic categories.

Q: Does DOH keep disaggregated data for those who have already taken COVID vaccines? Can this information be shared with all of us, so we can use that to do our outreach activities?

A: Information on COVID-19 vaccines and related efforts can be found at:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/covid19/datadashboard>

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