



DOH 141-045 October 2021

Health Equity Zones Community Advisory Council Application Overview

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else to the council, please complete and [submit the online application](#) and nomination form by 11:59 p.m., November 22, 2021. Please contact [Anne Farrell-Sheffer](#) if you have any questions or would like to access this information in a language other than English. Everyone who nominated themselves or an individual for consideration on the Health Equity Zones (HEZ) Community Advisory Council will be invited to participate in a virtual HEZ council member selection meeting. An [An optional informational Zoom meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm](#). Detailed information on meeting agenda and logistics for both meetings will be made available closer to the meeting date.

Purpose of the Health Equity Zones Community Advisory Council:

The purpose of the Health Equity Zones Community Advisory Council is to convene a group of people, the majority of whom are community representatives, to establish the foundation of the Washington State Health Equity Zones Initiative - a new initiative to support communities in addressing the health disparities they want to prioritize. This group will ensure efforts are community-centered and health equity-driven, with focused attention given to communities experiencing the greatest health inequities. Community representatives will also help identify and shape stories that provide insight on the health inequities facing communities in Washington, and the public health data that document how these groups are disproportionately impacted.

The outcomes and purpose described in this document will be revisited by the council after the Health Equity Zones are established. This will likely occur between June and September of 2022. We ask that each member commit to participating through September 30, 2022.

Outcomes:

- Identify between two and three geographic Health Equity Zones within Washington state using a council-approved selection criteria and decision-making process.
- Develop a one-year workplan for Health Equity Zone selection including major milestones, and connections to other Department of Health-supported workgroups.
- Establish shared member commitments, group norms, and how decisions will be made.
- Support the gathering of broad community input and guidance to inform key decisions.

Why this project now?

When Senate Bill 5052 became law, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) was asked to create Health Equity Zones (HEZ) across the state. We, DOH, are responsible for working with the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities, local health jurisdictions, and Accountable Communities of Health to review public health data and partner with communities to self-identify areas in Washington for potential Health Equity Zones. We must provide technical assistance to communities to develop projects to address their identified health needs.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to highlight systemic inequities harming health, we have also seen community-based resources and other local supports across our state become even more important. We recognize that local communities working together are often best able to recognize the greatest needs in their communities. They are also the best equipped to develop solutions to meet those needs. As we strive for an equitable recovery from COVID-19 across the state, the HEZ Initiative provides the structure and DOH support for community representatives to confront health inequities through community-centered solutions and projects.

Please contact [Anne Farrell-Sheffer](#) if you have any questions or would like to access this information in a language other than English.

Access needs:

Please let us know if you have any access needs, support requests, or accommodations that you would need to review these materials or participate in meetings. Access needs include translation of materials into a language other than English and interpretation services. We value your input and contributions. We want to ensure you can fully participate.

Commitment:

The following reflects our best estimate of the time commitment based on our understanding of the work. The hours may change once the Health Equity Zones (HEZ) Community Advisory Council is formed and members have a better sense of the work. We estimate the first meeting of the HEZ Community Advisory Council will occur in December 2021 and will continue monthly through September 2022.

Duties:

- Attend and fully engage in monthly meetings (approximately 2.5 hours per month)
- Complete pre-work and work between meetings (approximately 2 hours per month)
- Engage in meetings outside of scheduled HEZ meetings, including engaging with community stakeholders or in small groups with the Washington State Department of Health and other agency staff as needed (approximately 2 hours per month)

Selection criteria:

We are seeking to maximize diversity of expertise, geographic representation, and connection with priority populations. The HEZ Community Advisory Council will be majority community representatives. Other public health and state agency stakeholders will also be represented, based on the legislation that created this project. A multi-stakeholder group will bring diverse experiences and perspectives, ensuring that decisions are community-rooted, community-centered and collaborative.

Community representative criteria:

- Commitment to BIPOC and historically marginalized groups.
- Commitment to relationship and trust building.
- Commitment to processes that center equity, racial justice, and accountability.
- Interest in developing new structures and methods to address community needs.
- Willingness to work through conflict and communicate preferences about difficult decisions.
- Experience participating in community groups and collaborative processes.
- Ability to contribute to the vision, goals and strategy of the Health Equity Zones.
- Openness to using public health data (i.e. the Washington Tracking Network and storytelling strategies to inform decisions.
- Interest in exploring connections between issues of health and well-being in communities, to gaps in resources and inadequate systems.

Community representatives will be the majority membership of the HEZ Community Advisory Council, with between 7 and 14 community representatives selected to join. The Community Advisory Council is an early opportunity for community representatives to contribute to the Health Equity Zones Initiative at the ground level. As the initiative continues to develop, there will be additional opportunities, including community engagement meetings.

Selection process:

If you are nominated, or if you nominate another person, you will be invited to attend a virtual HEZ council member selection meeting. Detailed information on meeting agenda and logistics will be made available closer to the meeting date. Together, meeting attendees will decide who will be on the HEZ Community Advisory Council.

Stipends:

Community representatives will be eligible, but are not required, to receive a stipend for their time and expertise. The stipend rate is \$35 per hour, up to \$280 a month, based on engagement with the HEZ Community Advisory Council. At this time, the meetings are scheduled to be virtual. In the future, should the HEZ Community Advisory Council collectively

decide to hold in-person meetings and travel is involved, participants will also receive travel reimbursements.

Please complete the separate application form online by 11:59 p.m., November 22, 2021.

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