



## Environmental Justice Working Group

**SCOPE:** The Environmental (EJ) Working Group is a working group of the DOH [Community Collaborative](#) focused on advancing environmental justice issues at DOH. This Working Group will provide council and guidance on DOH-specific [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act](#) implementation. The Working Group will determine the group's priorities within this scope. Possible topics could include:

- **Identification of policy gaps, opportunities, and priorities** for DOH to advance environmental justice for communities in Washington state.
- **Advise on strategy for how DOH completes Environmental Justice Assessments**, in accordance with [RCW 70A.02.060: Environmental justice assessment. \(wa.gov\)](#). (*The HEAL Act requires DOH to conduct Environmental Justice Assessments on significant agency actions to help make more equitable decisions.*)
- **Advise DOH on strategy for integrating EJ principles into budgeting and funding decisions** in accordance with [RCW 70A.02.080: Environmental justice obligations of agencies related to budgeting and funding](#).

**WHO SHOULD JOIN:** We're looking for at 10-15 community-based organizations or community members interested in environmental justice from all regions of WA State. This workgroup would include organizations interested in environmental justice and environmental health issues such as community resilience from extreme heat, clean drinking water, clean air, food justice, etc. or community members with lived experience with environmental justice issues.

**WORKING GROUP AUTHORITY:** The guidance provided by the EJ Working Group is intended to help shape implementation of the HEAL Act at the Department of Health (DOH). While there is no binding statutory authority associated with this Working Group, DOH HEAL staff will implement the Workgroup's guidance as closely to the original intent of the Working Group as feasible.

This Working Group will complement the [Environmental Justice Council](#) which advises statewide interagency implementation of the HEAL Act and Climate Commitment Act. This Working Group will support DOH-specific decision-making and does not have authority to provide guidance on HEAL implementation at other agencies.

**COMPENSATION:** Workgroup members will be compensated at a rate of \$50 per hour unless they are already compensated by their employer for their participation. Anyone who receives payment over \$600 will receive a 1099 tax form in the mail, and payment received may be subject to taxes.

**COMMITMENT:** Workgroup members should be able to commit to monthly virtual meetings of around 1.5 hours. Interpretation and materials can be translated in into other languages and ASL for those who require it. Committee members will be required to review information outside of meetings and will need access to a computer or a tablet with internet access. Exact time and dates will be determined by a poll of the interested collaborative members. Workgroup members should be able to

commit to at least six months of regular meetings. Workgroup members can have alternates from their organizations. Meetings will tentatively begin in September 2024.

**TO SIGN UP:** Fill out [this form](#) to sign up for the workgroup or to express your interest. If we have more interest than we have capacity for, we will reach out to those who filled out an interest form about a selection process by August 9. Contact Kayla Jackson, HEAL Community Engagement Manager at [kayla.jackson@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kayla.jackson@doh.wa.gov) for more information or with suggestions. To learn more about the HEAL Act, see our [DOH Environmental Justice website](#).