



Environmental Justice Workgroup

Information

Workgroup description:

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH)'s Environmental Justice (EJ) Workgroup is a working group of the [DOH Community Collaborative](#) focused on advancing environmental justice issues at DOH. EJ means everyone has equitable access to clean air, clean water and clean soil, protection from environmental and health hazards, and access to the decision-making processes of policies and programs that influence them. This Workgroup will provide guidance on DOH-specific [Healthy Environment for All \(HEAL\) Act](#) implementation and, more broadly, elevate environmental justice and environmental health issues important to the most impacted communities to see if and how the Department of Health can take action.

Who we're looking for:

We're looking for 15 to 20 community members who represent a diversity of geographical areas, demographics, and experiences across Washington, who are impacted by environmental justice issues, and who are motivated to hold DOH accountable to work over the long-term in stronger, better resourced, and true partnerships with communities to advance environmental justice. In general, we are looking for workgroup participants who:

- Are committed to working towards environmental health and environmental justice.
- Have lived experience with environmental health and environmental justice issues or who work closely with frontline communities. This could include experiences with other intersecting issues such as housing, climate, food, water, land use, transportation, built environment, etc. Participants with lived or professional experience should have close relationships with communities who are currently facing EJ issues in Washington State.
- Are available to commit to monthly meetings from October 2024 through December 2025.

Time Commitment:

We anticipate a time commitment of about 3 hours a month, including one 2-hour meeting on the **third Tuesday of the month, from 4 to 6 p.m.**, and up to 1 hour of prep time leading up to this meeting and follow-up actions following the meeting. Preparation for meetings may include reviewing reading materials, previous meeting notes, and individual brainstorming. For participants who express an interest in a rotating, co-facilitation role, there will be an additional commitment of about 1 to 2 additional meetings per month to help plan agendas and evaluate progress. All workgroup participants should be able to commit to meeting monthly from October 22, 2024 through December 2025.

Compensation:

The wisdom, experience and expertise of community members is critical to the understanding and development of strategies to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington. DOH wants to compensate community members for their time and knowledge to honor the value placed on engagement. You are eligible for compensation in a workgroup if your organization does not have a contract relationship with DOH to participate in this work and you are not otherwise compensated to participate in this role.

Eligible workgroup members will be compensated at the rate of \$50/hour, facilitators will receive \$75/hour, up to \$200/day. Compensation options are direct deposit or store gift card to Amazon, Best Buy, Darden’s, Doordash or Uber Eats. We will review additional details on compensation at our first meeting to ensure workgroup members understand and complete required documentation and processes to make this process as easy as possible.

Tentative Timeline:

September 11, 2024: EJ Workgroup Applications due

By September 20: Notification of Selection

October 22, 2024: First meeting

To apply:

To be considered for the workgroup, please fill out the questionnaire linked below **by September 11, 2024**. If you would like to respond to this application in a different format, such as responding to the questions in a Zoom meeting with DOH staff, please email natalie.smith@doh.wa.gov.
[Work group member application](#)

Applicant Selection Process:

DOH staff will work with a selection committee of agency staff and community members to select participants. We will use the rubric included below for our application screening process.

Criteria	Weight Percent	High score = 4 to 5	Low score = 1 to 2
Interest in the Role and Commitment to Environmental Justice/Environmental Health	40%	Very strong interest in EJ advocacy, skill-building, connection-building, engaging on EJ issues with DOH	No expressed interest in EJ advocacy, connection-building, or engaging on EJ issues with DOH
Lived experience/connection to frontline communities	40%	Significant lived experience and some type of professional and/or personal commitment to this body of work, indicated close connections to communities facing EJ issues	Limited background, knowledge, and experience of EJ or related issues; does not have close ties to communities facing EJ issues
Availability	20%	Indicated availability for at least 75% of workgroup meetings through 12/2025.	Indicated they were unsure about availability or unavailable. Identified scheduling issues that will be challenging to work around.
Other priorities to balance	Geographic diversity Representation from diversity of communities experiencing EJ issues Experience/expertise vs. leadership development Individuals vs. Community-based organizations		

Contact Natalie Smith, HEAL Community Engagement Specialist, at Natalie.smith@doh.wa.gov with questions or to request application materials in another language.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.