towards a more sustainable Buffalo Niagara

Fair Housing Equity Assessment Advisory Committee

Anthony Armstrong, Facilitator
Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Intro to the Fair Housing Equity Assessment

Timeline

A Shared Definition of Equity

Barriers to Equity and Opportunity

Next steps
An Introduction to: The Fair Housing Equity Assessment

The Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) is a comprehensive examination of the current state of racial and ethnic inequality within the region. This examination takes into account current barriers to opportunity as well as historical causes of segregation and exclusion.

Though not required, most other HUD regional planning grantees have taken the opportunity to do some level of analysis for additional protected classes.
An Introduction to:
The Fair Housing Equity Assessment

1. **Understand** the historical, current and future context for equity and opportunity in the region and the data and evidence that demonstrates those dynamics

2. **Engage** regional leaders and stakeholders on findings and implications of analysis

3. **Integrate** knowledge developed through the Regional FHEA exercise into the strategy development process (e.g., priority setting and decision making)
An Introduction to: The Fair Housing Equity Assessment

Ultimately, the goal of the FHEA is to help guide strategy development within the regional planning process to alleviate geographic inequalities and provide opportunities to all residents.

“...where one lives determines how one lives, influencing quality of life factors such as education, employment, transportation options, public services, safety, recreational access, and a general sense of community.”

CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING: DRAFT FAIR HOUSING AND EQUITY ASSESSMENT: MAY 10, 2013
An Introduction to:
The Fair Housing Equity Assessment

Essential Elements:

1) Segregated Areas and Areas of Increasing Diversity and/or Racial/Ethnic Integration

2) Racially/Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty

3) Access to Existing Areas of High Opportunity

4) Major Public Investments

5) Fair Housing Issues, Services, and Activities.
An Introduction to:
The Fair Housing Equity Assessment

But the FHEA is not an Analysis of Impediments:

1) Does not necessarily consider all protected classes
2) Does not necessarily examine existing programs or challenges by municipality
3) Although it identifies Fair Housing Issues, Services, and Activities; it does not require strategies or an action plan
FHEA Process and Timeline

Late-September: Advisory Committee meeting 1: intro to the FHEA
Work Product: draft definition of equity based on regional inputs and best practices
Advisory Committee Task: review, refine definition; outline barriers historic and current; who is missing from table?

Late-October: Advisory Committee meeting 2: the regional picture
Work Product: narrative outline and regional data presentation
Advisory Committee Task: comment on data, historical factors, & current barriers, refinement of shared vision of equity

Early November: gathering input at Community Congress
Work Product: Brief material on FHEA, its intended outcomes
Solicit public feedback on geographic equity & opportunity
FHEA Process and Timeline

Early December: Steering Committee Update
   Working draft of shared vision of equity for comment and narrative outline, compiled public comments

Early January: Steering Committee Update/ Presentations to Working Groups
   Share narrative draft of FHEA

Early January: Advisory Committee meeting 3: telling our story
   Work Product: narrative draft of FHEA, compiled public comments
   Advisory Committee Task: feedback on above
FHEA Process and Timeline

Mid-January: Public draft of FHEA; commence 30-day comment period

Late February: Advisory Committee Meeting 4: final review draft and next steps
   Work Product: final draft of FHEA
   Advisory Committee Task: final comments, monitoring progress and follow ups as appropriate

March: Completed FHEA approved by Steering Committee, sent to HUD for approval
A Shared Definition of Equity

HUD provided a definition of social equity, but expects each region to develop a shared understanding of and definition for equity and opportunity.

Social Equity. The term social equity involves the process of identifying structural disparities and creating pathways for prosperity:

- fair and equal access to livelihood, quality education, and core amenities
- full participation in the political and cultural life of the community; and
- self-determination in meeting fundamental needs of individuals, families, and communities.
A Shared Definition of Equity

• Structural Disparities
  • poor health outcomes
  • high unemployment
  • poor school outcomes

• Fair and Equal Access to Livelihood
  • jobs
  • small business opportunities

• Quality Education
  • pre-K to college
  • new economy job skills

• Core Amenities
  • affordable transportation
  • homes
  • parks
  • fresh food
A Shared Definition of Equity

Other Grantees’ Definitions: Rhode Island

Regions are equitable when all residents—regardless of their race/ethnicity/nativity, neighborhood of residence, or other characteristics—are fully able to participate in the region’s economic vitality, contribute to the region’s readiness for the future, and connect to the region’s assets and resources.

Strong, equitable regions:

- Possess economic vitality, providing high-quality jobs to their residents and producing new ideas, products, businesses, and economic activity so the region remains sustainable and competitive.
- Are prepared for the future, with a skilled, ready workforce, and a healthy population.
- Are places of connection, where residents can access the essential ingredients to live healthy and productive lives in their own neighborhoods, reach opportunities located throughout the region (and beyond) via transportation or technology, participate in political processes, and interact with other diverse residents.
A Shared Definition of Equity

Other Grantees’ Definitions: Boston

An equitable region, where "all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential" is one featuring a diverse labor force prepared for the region’s knowledge economy; healthy residents and low health care costs; and communities where people of different ages, incomes, races and ethnicities have real options to live, work, learn and play side by side.

MetroFuture, the region's plan for growth through the year 2030, directs us to achieve this vision by eliminating unfair, preventable, and systematic differences between groups that not only harm individuals and families, but threaten the vibrancy of our region.
A Shared Definition of Equity

Local Visions & Values Statements

REDC/ Buffalo Billion Investment Development Plan

Western New Yorkers aspire to create a sustainable prosperity by utilizing and enhancing the strengths of our people, by continuing our rich tradition of human innovation; by leveraging our region’s natural beauty and abundant natural resources; and by taking full advantage of our unique and strategic location in the world. We will create a region that is admired worldwide, that attracts more people to live, learn, work and visit; where entrepreneurs and businesses want to invest their time and capital, and where all our institutions reflect a culture of inclusion, continuous improvement, adaptation and excellence.
A Shared Definition of Equity

Local Visions & Values Statements

Framework for Regional Growth

As the broadest, biggest picture statements regarding the region’s future, the following principles serve as the primary foundation for the Framework’s policies and strategies:

- A Vital Economy
- Sustainable Neighborhoods
- Strong Rural Communities
- Improved Access & Mobility
- Efficient Systems & Services
- Effective Regional Stewardship
- Conserved Natural & Cultural Assets

#oneregionfwd
A Shared Definition of Equity

Local Visions & Values Statements

City of Buffalo Comprehensive Plan

We intend to build a city that is a prosperous, green regional center providing livable communities for all its citizens. It will have a thriving, progressive economy with leading edge companies; inclusive community life and harmonious social relations; prestigious medical, academic, and public institutions; and fully restored and enhanced natural, cultural, and built heritage.
A Shared Definition of Equity

Local Visions & Values Statements

One Region Forward Draft Regional Vision & Values (1 of 2)

- Create a more competitive and prosperous 21st century regional economy.
- Build on existing infrastructure and invest in developed areas to lower costs, improve efficiency and enhance quality of life.
- Provide broader transportation options to improve access to jobs and services and promote energy efficiency and safety.
- Preserve our housing stock and foster neighborhoods that are great places – safe, well-served and distinctive.
A Shared Definition of Equity

Local Visions & Values Statements

One Region Forward Draft Regional Vision & Values (2 of 2)

• Protect farmland, support farmers, connect farms to local markets and ensure access to healthy food.
• Protect our water and other natural resources to promote a healthy ecology, economy and community.
• Protect and develop culture, heritage, and waterfront resources for economy and quality of life.
• Foster collaboration, coordination, and strong implementation, and plan with an engaged public.
A Shared Definition of Equity

Discussion Draft for One Region Forward

Buffalo Niagara will be an equitable community when:

all people -- regardless of how they look, who they know and who they love, what language they speak, when or where they were born, where they live, where they go to school or why they call this place home -- have the ability, opportunity and the tools needed to fulfill their potential, lead healthy and fulfilling lives with rewarding work and experience all our region has to offer while ensuring future generations may do the same.
Barriers to Equity & Opportunity

Past, Present and Future Challenges:

What are the historical factors and current policies and practices creating the segregation and inequities in the region?

Policy?
Practice?
Infrastructure?
Services?
Enforcement?
Coordination?
Barriers to Equity & Opportunity

Past, Present and Future Challenges:

What are the historical factors and current policies and practices creating the segregation and inequities in the region?

Government ?
Private Sector ?
Institutional ?
Other ?

#oneregionfwd
UBRI will prepare and present:
A draft outline and structure of the FHEA
A synopsis of regional data collected and analyzed to date

Advisory Committee:
Will be asked to review and comment on the draft outline and presentation with a focus on refining the shared definition of equity, barriers to equity and opportunity and identifying missing or qualifying data and data sources.
1RF would like to utilize existing communication networks as we prepare for our next Community Congress this November.
Fair Housing Equity Assessment Advisory Committee

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us

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