

Environmental Justice and Equity Efforts at the Office of Nuclear Energy

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US Climate Commitments

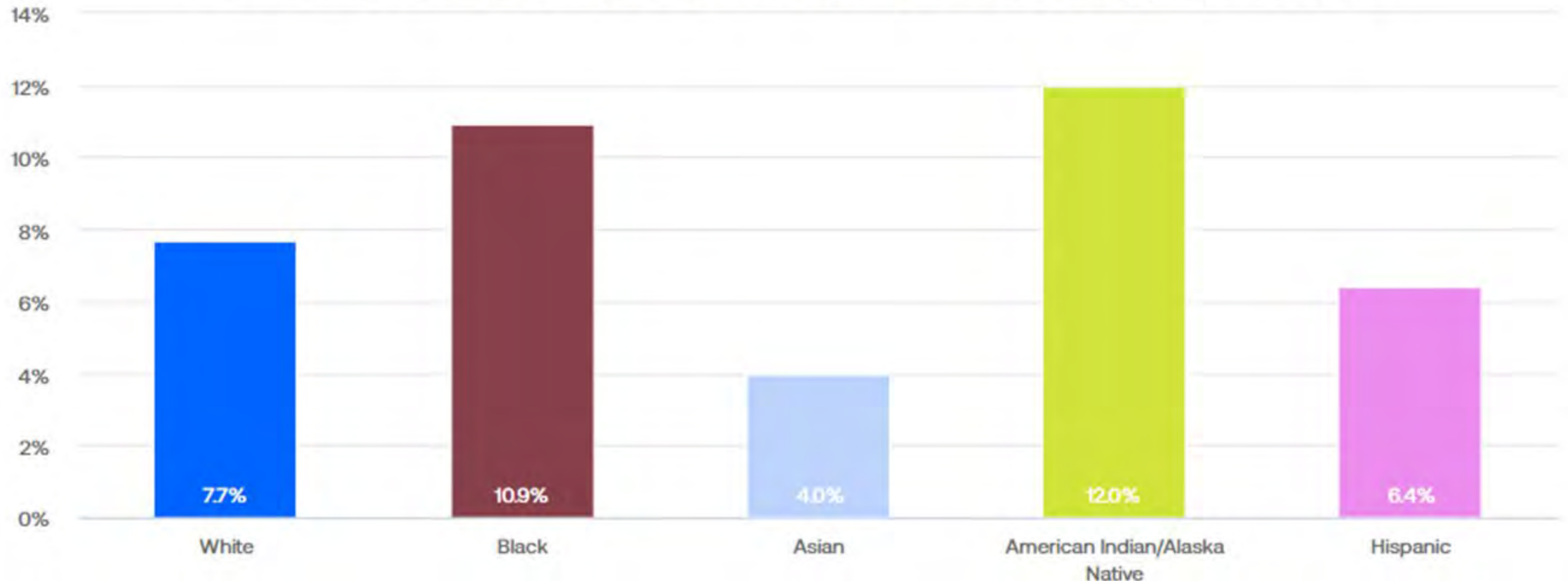
1. Decarbonize the electricity sector by 50 to 52% by 2030
2. Achieve a carbon pollution-free electricity sector by 2035
3. Puts the United States on an irreversible path to a net-zero economy by 2050



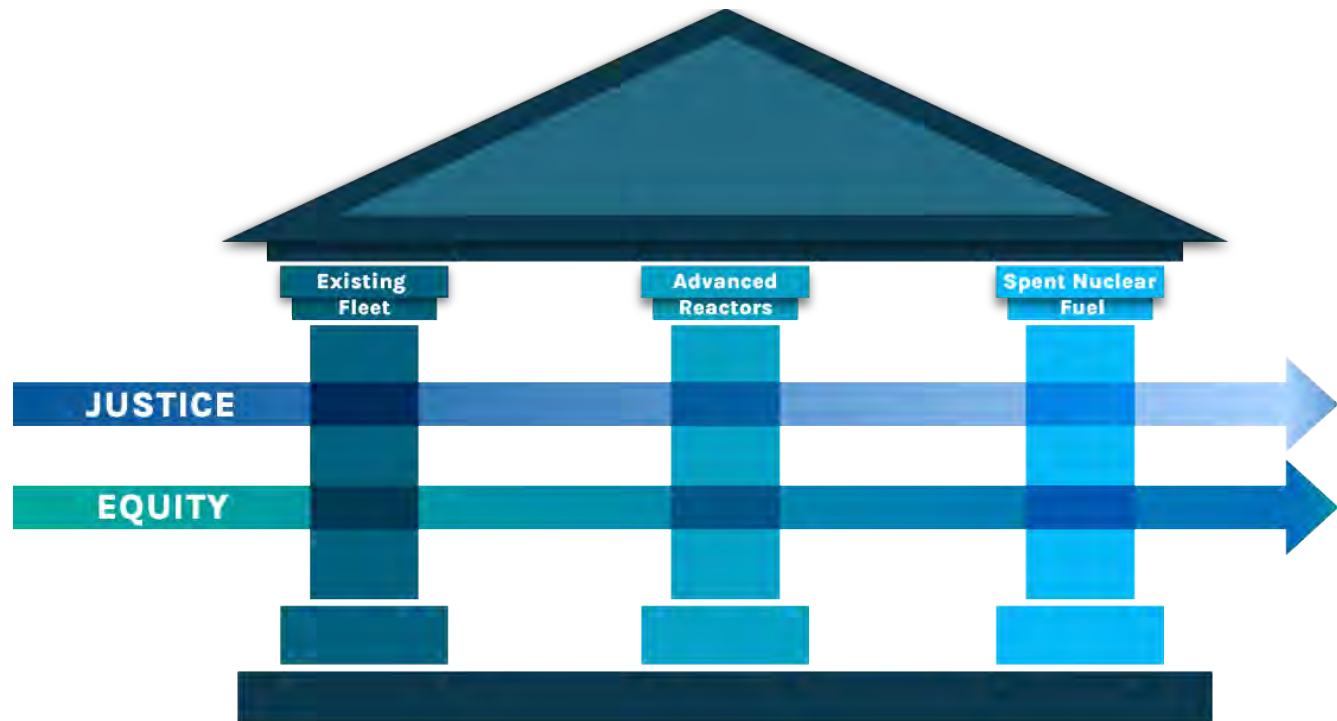
Current asthma rates are greatest among Blacks and American Indians/Alaska Natives, and lowest among Asians



Source: CDC. NHIS 2018. Analysis by the American Lung Association Epidemiology and Statistics Unit.



Equity and Justice Are Cross-Cutting Principals for Our Work



EO14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Sec. 223 Justice40 Initiative

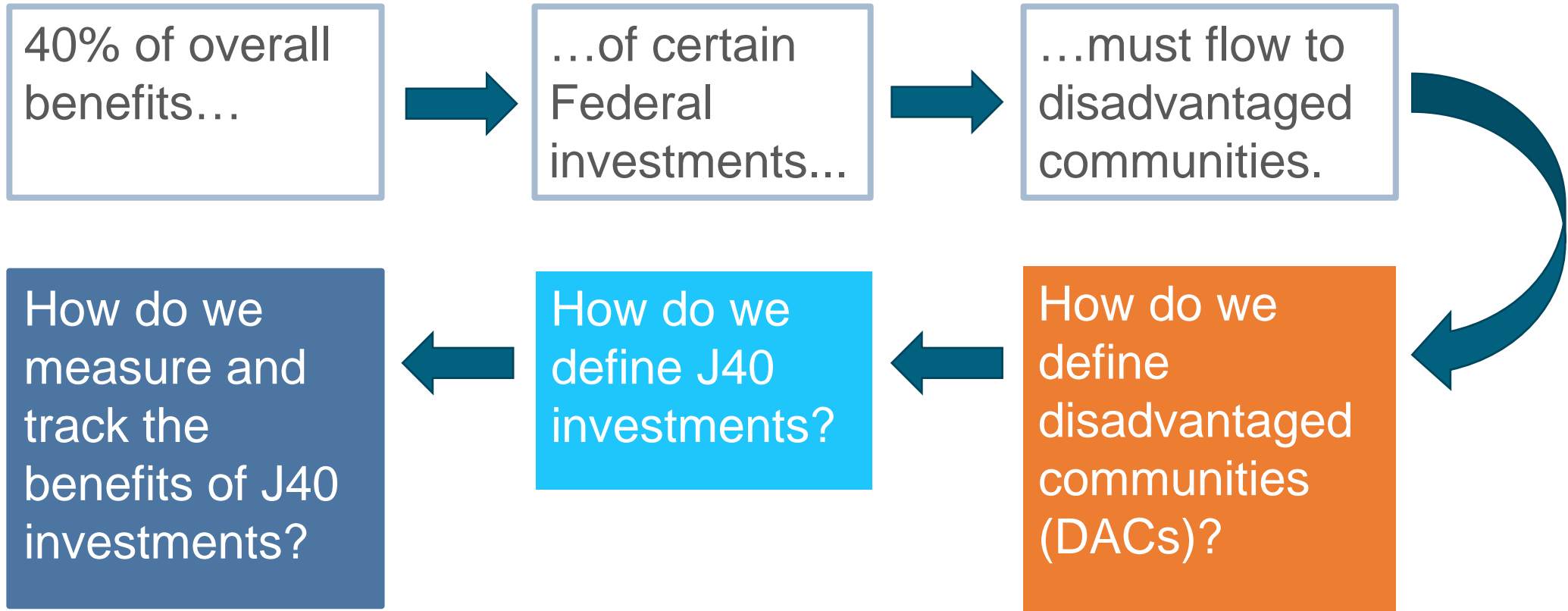
40% of the overall benefits of certain Federal investments—including investments in **clean energy** and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; **training and workforce development**; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of clean water infrastructure—must flow to disadvantaged communities.

What is Environmental Justice?

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

[What Is Environmental Justice? | Department of Energy](#)

Implementation of Justice40



Defining Community

- The Interim Implementation Guidance for the Justice40 Initiative (M-21-28) **provides 2 definitions of “community”**
- **A community is-**
 - a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another
 - a geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions

Defining Disadvantaged

M-21-28 suggests Agencies should consider appropriate data, indices, and screening tools to determine whether a **specific community is disadvantaged based on a combination of variables that may include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Low income, high and/or persistent poverty;
- High unemployment and underemployment;
- Racial and ethnic segregation;
- Linguistic isolation;
- High housing cost burden and substandard housing;
- Distressed neighborhoods;
- High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access;
- Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts;
- Limited water and sanitation access and affordability;
- Disproportionate impacts from climate change;
- High energy cost burden and low energy access;
- Jobs lost through the energy transition; or
- Access to healthcare.

Variables Included in DOE Interim DACs Definition

ENERGY BURDEN (4)

- Transportation Burden
- Housing Energy Burden
- Power outages
- Duration of outages

FOSSIL DEPENDENCE (3)

- Jobs in oil/gas/mining
- IWG coal community ranking
- IWG fossil energy community ranking

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS (20)

- Housing burden
- Food desert
- Job access (-)
- Park access (-)
- Commutes > 30 mins*
- No vehicle*
- Low Income*
- No GED*
- Linguistic Isolation*
- Renters*
- No internet
- Uninsured
- Disability
- Incomplete plumbing
- Single parents
- Mobile homes
- Unhoused
- Age over 65*
- Unemployed

ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE HAZARDS (10)

- Lead paint
- Diesel particulates
- Cancer
- Traffic volume
- Water discharge
- NPL sites
- RMP facilities
- TSD facilities
- FEMA climate risk
- PM 2.5

* Denotes that these variables are not inherently negative, but increase the vulnerability of the population to climate, environmental, and energy hazards

DOE Justice40 Policy Priorities

- (1) Decrease **energy burden** in disadvantaged communities (DACs).
- (2) Decrease **exposure to pollutants and environmental burdens** in DACs.
- (3) Increase **parity in clean energy technology access and adoption** (e.g., solar, storage) in DACs.
- (4) Increase **access to low-cost capital** in DACs.
- (5) Increase **MBE/DBE clean energy enterprise creation** in DACs.
- (6) Increase the **clean energy job pipeline and job training** for individuals from DACs.
- (7) Increase **energy resiliency** in DACs.
- (8) Increase **energy democracy** in DACs.

Key
Outcomes
of
Justice40

Wealth Creation

Workforce Development

Reduced Burden

Long-Term Investment

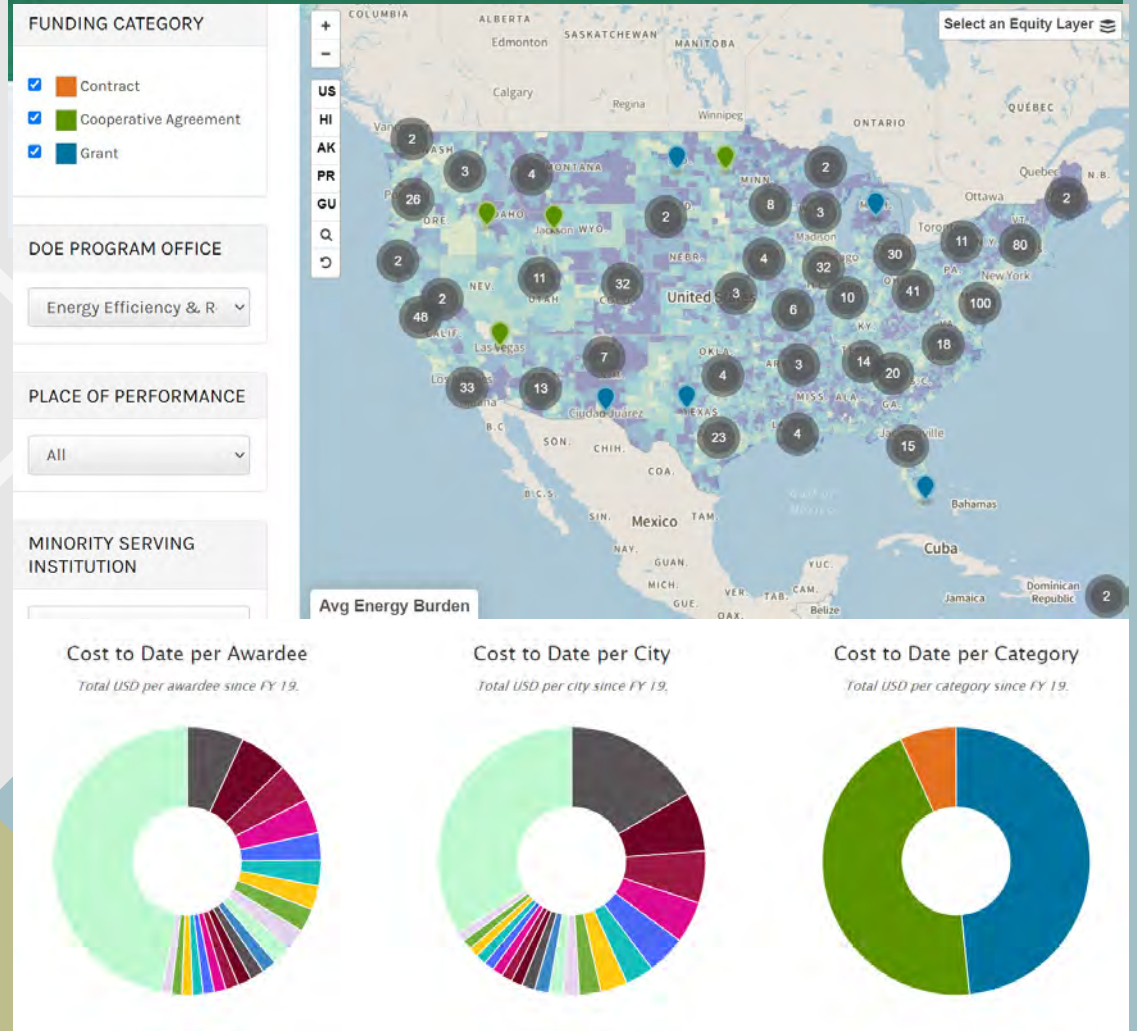
Accountability & Transparency

Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)

A tool to measure and track DOE progress toward Justice40 and see investments in real time.

Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)

Office of Economic Impact and Diversity



EO13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government

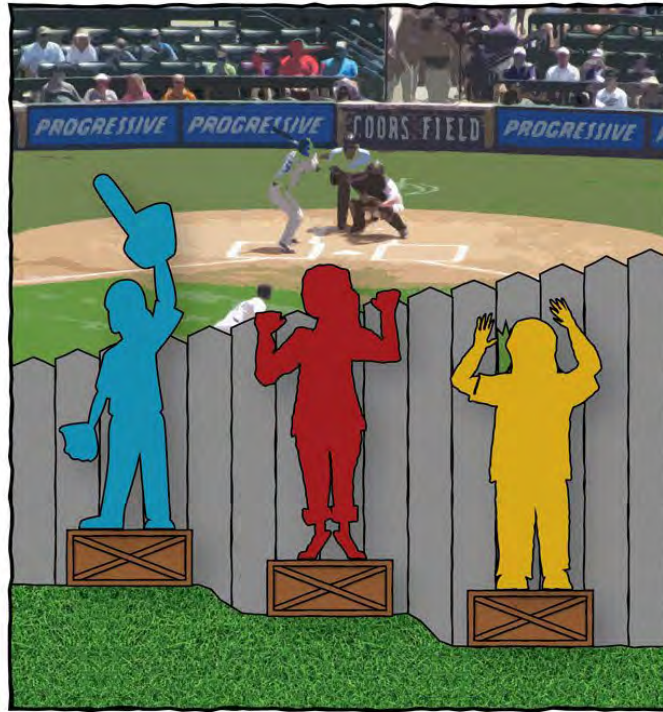
Assess:

- Potential barriers in **enrollment** in, and **access to, benefits and services**
- Potential barriers in taking advantage of **agency procurement and contracting opportunities**
- Whether **new policies, regulations, or guidance** are necessary to advance equity
- Operational **status and level of resources** at DOE that serve underrepresented or disadvantaged communities

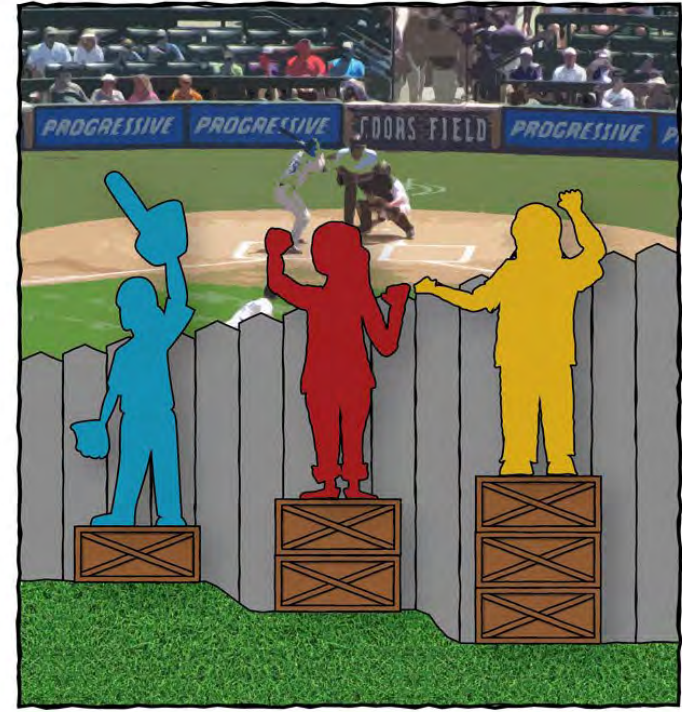
Equity as Defined in EO 13985

The consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to **underserved communities** that have been denied such treatment, such as **Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American** persons, **Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders** and **other persons of color**; members of **religious minorities**; **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+)** persons; **persons with disabilities**; persons who **live in rural areas**; and persons otherwise adversely affected by **persistent poverty or inequality**.

Equality vs. Equity



EQUALITY



EQUITY



Coming Soon: Equity Action Plan

The top five priorities areas:

- data collection
- procurement
- financial assistance
- stakeholder engagement
- access to demonstration and deployment



Opportunities for Engagement

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Demonstration Projects
 - [RFIs and RFPs open now](#)
- [Community Benefits/Workforce Agreements](#)
 - Work with industry partners to negotiate equities in infrastructure projects
 - “legal agreements between community benefit groups and developers, stipulating the benefits a developer agrees to fund or furnish, in exchange for community support of a project. Benefits can include commitments to hire directly from a community, contributions to economic trust funds, local workforce training guarantees and more.”

Thank you!

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