

An Equitable Budget for Contra Costa

January 30th,
2024





Commitment To Equity

Analysis of Budget Cycle 2022-
2023

Equity Campaign

The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition focused on two elements of the budget process within six key departments

- Analyzed current equity measures and metrics that reflect both internally and externally.
- Explored each department's current process for engaging with community members who are impacted by the department's services, and how their input influences budgetary priorities.

Key Findings



**Documented
internal and
external
budget
development
processes**



**Identified
gaps**



**Explored
equitable
budget
models &
engagement
tools**

Process & Challenges

- During meetings with each County Department we gained knowledge on
 - Budget timelines
 - key stakeholders
 - Overall engagement with community
 - Current process for soliciting input
- Gaps Identified:
 - Many departments lack a robust community engagement process
 - Limited capacity to track and analyze equity metrics throughout programs and overall departmental structure
 - Resident or advisory body input may or may not influence programmatic priorities and budgetary decisions

Recommendation:

Equity Budget Tools

- Santa Clara County's budget equity model promotes equitable access, opportunity, and inclusion of community members in County operations, policies, and budget decisions. This is done through a set of evaluation questions that can help identify and strengthen equity metrics at the departmental level.
- County of San Diego Budget Equity Assessment Tool is designed to help reduce disparities and advance equitable outcomes for all by critically analyzing budget decisions and processes to implement transformative and sustainable change.

**Equity &
Accountability**

Recommendation: Community Engagement Tool

The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership: This framework charts a pathway to strengthen and transform our local democracies. Thriving, diverse, equitable communities are possible through deep participation, particularly by communities commonly excluded from democratic voice & power.

THE SPECTRUM OF
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
TO OWNERSHIP

Equity Goals & Next Steps

- Continue to engage with key department leaders and staff to implement short term equity goals that can impact this year's budget process.
- Develop a customizable version of a budget equity model
- Strengthen current community engagement processes that will help departments understand and prioritize community needs
- Work collaboratively with the County Administrator to ensure that we continue to advance the Board's equity initiative in the budget process
- Partner with the new Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice to explore meaningful models that drive toward a more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible budget process.

Acknowledgements

We'd like to thank the Board for putting their shared commitment to equity into action, and for providing time and space for the Budget Justice Coalition and the Bay Area Equity Atlas to present at today's budget retreat. Lastly, for empowering the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice to work with county departments and in the community to identify our shared strengths and lift up solutions that will elevate us all.

A hand holding a pen is positioned over a laptop and some documents. The scene is dimly lit, with a blue tint. The text "Thank you." is written in a large, white, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

Thank you.