

Metro | Strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion
Executive summary



Metro is committed to working together with people, businesses, nonprofit organizations and public partners to create a Portland region where:

- All individuals and communities benefit from a strong economy with quality, living-wage jobs, stable and affordable housing, safe and reliable transportation, and a healthy environment with clean air and water.
- Racial equity is recognized as the backbone of good governance. To ensure the success of everyone, we must work together to end inequities that affect historically marginalized communities. We must remove barriers so that everyone can realize their full potential and contribute to and participate in our collective community and economy.
- Our public structures, institutions and processes address social and economic disparities for people of color. Those disparities are rooted in a history of discriminatory laws, policies and practices.
- Diversity is celebrated and all communities meaningfully participate in public decision-making.

The strategy

Metro will build upon and strengthen its ongoing equity work by implementing interrelated strategies to create long-term institutional, structural and cultural change:

Lead with racial equity Focusing on eliminating the disparities that people of color experience in all aspects of social well-being, especially in those related to Metro's policies, programs, services and public spaces.

Broaden the impact Addressing the disparities that affect the most marginalized to generate solutions that address the needs of all other historically marginalized groups.

Generate support to create real and lasting cultural change Building a structure for Metro leaders, staff and region partners including community to engage in conversations about race, make concrete and measurable institutional changes and create a foundation for on-going reflection and needed change within the organization and Portland region.

Partner with communities of color Ensuring that members of these communities are involved in Metro's equity efforts to create greater trust and accountability.

Measure progress Measuring and recognizing milestones and improvements to increase and maintain momentum along the route to greater racial equity and change.



Why racial equity?

The Portland metropolitan area's population is growing and changing. Like most of the nation, our cities and counties are becoming more diverse. It is projected that by the year 2045, people of color will be the majority in the United States.

Our current and future diversity will help develop and maintain sustainable economic growth if we proactively address the issue of racial equity. Research shows that places that attain more economic growth are those with greater racial inclusion and smaller racial income gaps.

Unfortunately, most communities of color in the Portland area currently experience the worst economic and social outcomes of any demographic group, due to a long history of exclusionary and discriminatory policies.

To prepare for a healthy and prosperous future, Metro, other cities and counties, schools, community and philanthropic organizations, and businesses are taking a long, hard look at equity. It's not only the right thing to do; it's the smart way to improve our present and plan for our future.

There is no need to choose between equity and economic growth. Equity and community diversity positively impact the larger economy and have become the superior economic growth model across the country.

By addressing the barriers experienced by people of color in the Portland metropolitan area, we will effectively also identify solutions and remove barriers for other groups, like women, low-income residents, people with disabilities, LGBTQ community, older adults and young people. The result will be that all people in the Portland area will experience better outcomes.

Organizational goals, objectives and actions

This strategic plan is built around five long-term goals. The goals are deliberate guideposts that direct Metro in creating specific objectives, actions and measures of evaluation and accountability as the agency works to help the Portland area reach its equitable and prosperous destination.

The proposed actions are centered on those that the entire agency can do to advance racial equity, diversity and inclusion. A major deliverable of this strategic plan is for each Metro department and venue to develop its own equity action plan specific to their programs, policies and services within 24 months of the adoption of this strategic plan.

The strategic plan will also work together with the Diversity Action Plan to increase the effectiveness of Metro's diversity, equity and inclusion work. Building on the foundation created by the Diversity Action Plan, the Strategic Plan will provide Metro leadership and staff additional tools and authority to make change.

Equity and Equality

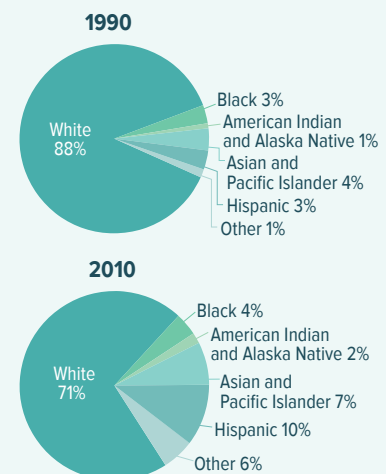
Not everyone needs glasses to see. But those that do require a specific prescription to enable them to see. Some people are severely visually impaired or are blind.

Equality: Believing that everyone should get the same glasses regardless of their specific need.

Equity: Understanding that some have greater visual difficulties than others, therefore only those that need glasses get them and each prescription fits that person's specific needs. Some people are blind, so they need entirely different solutions to perceive things that seeing people experience through sight.

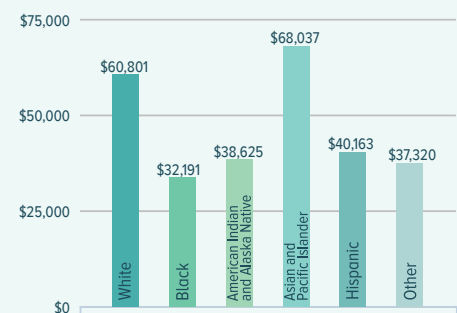
The region is diversifying ...

PERCENT OF POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY
Tri-county region. Source: US Census, 1990, 2010 SF1-QTP6



... but regional inequities persist.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, BY RACE/ETHNICITY
Portland MSA, 2011-2013. Source: US Census, American Community Survey three-year estimates





ABOUT METRO

Clean air and clean water do not stop at city limits or county lines. Neither does the need for jobs, a thriving economy and good transportation choices for people and businesses in our region. Voters have asked Metro to help with the challenges that cross those lines and affect the 24 cities and three counties in the Portland metropolitan area.

A regional approach simply makes sense when it comes to protecting open space, caring for parks, planning for the best use of land, managing garbage disposal and increasing recycling. Metro oversees world-class facilities such as the Oregon Zoo, which contributes to conservation and education, and the Oregon Convention Center, which benefits the region's economy.

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To learn more visit
oregonmetro.gov/equity

Five Strategic Goals

The five long-term strategic goals identified in this plan are:

A. Metro convenes and supports regional partners to advance racial equity.

Metro brings together diverse partners from across the Portland metropolitan region to reduce racial disparities and improve outcomes in communities of color through coordinated and innovative approaches. Metro leads by convening decision-makers and providing research and technical support to assist local jurisdictions in equity initiatives. Metro also proactively convenes regional partners to support a racially diverse construction workforce.

B. Metro meaningfully engages communities of color.

Community relationships based on trust, policies that strengthen community involvement and community oversight of implementation ensure that communities of color are meaningfully engaged and influence the Metro decisions and programs that impact their lives. Metro commits to co-creating with the community, learning from the collective wisdom and building the capacity of community leaders.

C. Metro hires, trains and promotes a racially diverse workforce.

Metro has an organizational culture that is welcoming and inclusive of all people of color. Through training and hiring practices that break down barriers for applicants of color, Metro achieves a racially diverse workforce with opportunities for advancement and strong retention and promotion rates for staff of color. All Metro staff receives the training and support necessary to become culturally proficient and equitably serve all residents of the Portland metropolitan region.

D. Metro creates safe and welcoming services, programs and destinations.

Communities of color are aware of and feel welcome to access Metro's diverse services, programs and destinations. Through better understanding of the needs of culturally specific communities and the impacts of its programs and services, Metro provides safe and welcoming environments and experiences that enrich the lives of community members.

E. Metro's resource allocation advances racial equity.

Metro advances economic opportunities for communities of color through various avenues including equitable contracting practices, distribution of investments, and grant programs.