Building A Community Narrative

Overview of Exercise

All Justice40 covered programs are required to engage in stakeholder consultation and ensure that community stakeholders are meaningfully involved in determining program benefits. Covered programs are also required to report data on the benefits directed to disadvantaged communities.

Considering the Federal Administration Priorities, building a robust, credible narrative about the people and places that stand to benefit from your project, or whose elevated needs enhance the need for investment, can greatly strengthen your application.

Further, building a strong community narrative will help you quickly satisfy specific grant criteria where descriptions of populations impacted are requested.

This exercise will guide you through a process to find and collect relevant information about your community to help fill out your grant application. Utilizing the Tableau Data Explorer and other identified tools, the tables below will help you build the "blocks" of a data story that will help describe your envisioned project's impact on specific populations, serving their specific needs.

Addressing Equity: Targeting Universalism

The following is a framework to consider while thinking about the role data, benchmarking, and evaluation can play in determining whether – and how - an intervention such as an infrastructure improvement project will benefit targeted communities.

Targeting within universalism means being proactive and goal-oriented about achievable outcomes and requires intentional steps:

1   **Define a <u>universal</u> goal**
i.e., 100% proficiency in eighth grade math

2   **Measure how the overall population fares relative to the universal goal**
i.e., 80% of eight graders are proficient

3   **Measure the performance of population segments relative to the universal goal**
i.e., 70% of Latinxs are proficient

4   **Understand how structures and other factors support or impede group progress toward the universal goal**
i.e., classroom instruction materials and lessons designed for English speakers may impede learning including math proficiency in Latinx students

5   **Implement targeted strategies so that each group can achieve the universal goal based upon their need and circumstances**
i.e., ESL- specific math tutoring for Latinx students (another group may require a completely different strategy to achieve the same universal goal.)

Targeted universalism is a frame for designing policy that acknowledges our common goals while also addressing the sharp contrasts in access to opportunity between differently-situated sub-groups, such as barriers to quality education, well-paying work, fair mortgages and more. To transform structural inequity into structural opportunity, policies need to address these contrasts and measure success based on outcomes.

Source: https://www.mml.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Racial-Equity-Toolkit.pdf

Instructions

This exercise will guide you through a process to find and collect relevant information about your community to help fill out your EECBG grant application. Utilizing the Tableau Data Explorer and other identified tools, the tables below will help you build the "blocks" of a data story that will help describe your envisioned project's impact on specific populations, serving their specific needs. This exercise consists of three sections:

Section 1:
Using the Tableau Data Explorer to Collect Key Data

Section 2:
Documenting System Challenges

Section 3:
Stitching It All Together

Section 1: Using the Data Platform to Collect Key Data

1 Utilizing the Tableau Data Explorer, find and explore your city and any census tract(s) where your project is envisioned to make an impact.

2 Using the table below, begin to capture and reference any key data if requested by the scoring criteria of the grant you are applying for, as well as other supporting, descriptive statistics of the communities impacted.

Important Note: The following tables can help you build a strong, data-driven narrative to support your application. Tables highlighted in yellow indicate information specifically requested for some grant applications. The variables in the following tables are illustrative of the types of information that can help strengthen your application's connection to Justice 40 elements and Federal Administration priorities.

Local Infrastructure Hub
Grant Application Bootcamps

Charging and Fueling – Grant Specific Data

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	All Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Performing Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
Existing EV Infrastructure					
Stations within 50 Miles (corridor)					
Rural or Urban Classification					
Ratio of multi-unit housing					

See: **https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/#/find/nearest** (station locator);
https://afdc.energy.gov/stations/#/corridors (corridor mapping)

Transportation and Safety

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
Alternative transportation usage					
Population who work from home					
Walkability score					
Motor vehicle related accidents resulting in injury or fatality					
Other:					

Demographics

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	All Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Performing Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
Tract Population					
Demographics by race					
Demographics by age					
Other:					

Socioeconomics and Poverty

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	All Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Performing Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
Social Vulnerability Index score					
Median Household Income					
% of Population below 200% of the Federal Poverty Rate					
Tract Poverty Rate					
Rent Burdened Housing					
Owner Burdened Housing					
Linguistic isolation					
Residential segregation					
Other:					

Identifying Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
Environmental DACs					
Health DACs					
Transportation DACs					
Energy DACs					
Area of Persistent Poverty					
Other:					

Health

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
% of households considered a food desert					
% of population who do not have healthcare coverage					
Obesity prevalence among adults					
Coronary heart disease among adults					
Bad mental health days					
Other:					

Economic Participation and Education

Variable	Neighborhood(s) or area of city	All Tracts in Project Zone	Highest Tracts in City	Lowest Performing Tracts in City	Additional Tracts to note
% of population with a high school diploma or equivalent					
% of population with a bachelor's degree					
% of population aged 3+ enrolled in school (preschool enrollment)					
% Unemployed					
% 16yrs and older in the Labor Force					

Section 2: Documenting Systemic Challenges

Looking through the tables, do common themes emerge? Do any census tracts routinely share low/high ratings? Consider how those relationships can help strengthen the narrative to support your grant application.

1 – Which tracts appear in more than one category?

Tract	Category

2 - Which of these tracts align with the location of your envisioned infrastructure investment, and how would the envisioned project relate to the challenges these communities face?

Tract	Alignment

3 - List any census tracts that share multiple challenges. Using the demographics "tooltip" or by filtering through the various demographic variables in the visualization tool, note down important demographic statistics that can help describe those communities, especially when thinking in contrast to much higher scoring tracts.

Tract	Descriptive characteristics

Section 3: Stitching It All Together

We can now utilize these three tables' information to tell a clear, credible story about impacted populations, and draw connections to how your envisioned project and investment would help them solve specific community challenges as evidenced by the data.

	Sample	Your Statement
1 - Which tracts appear in more than one category?	Tracts 1,2,3 and 4 are all areas of Persistent Poverty. Tracts 1, 2 and 3 also have less than 25% of populations participating in the Labor Force.	
2 - Which of these tracts align with the location of your envisioned infrastructure investment, and how would the envisioned project relate to the challenges these communities face?	Tracts 1, 2 and 4 all fall within the boundaries of the City of Example's EECBG grant-funded improvement project. Tract 3 will also benefit from more resilient neighboring communities.	
3 – List any census tracts that share multiple challenges. Using the demographics "tooltip" or by filtering through the various demographic variables in the visualization tool, note down important demographic statistics that can help describe those communities, especially when thinking in contrast to much higher scoring tracts.	All 3 of the tracts that fall within the boundaries of the City of Examples' grant-funded improvement project are home to a majority of elderly (Race) populations. Tracts 2 and 4 are also home to nearly 3,000 working age (16-24) (Race) residents, representing 1/5 of our total workforce.	