



For Immediate Release:

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On June 3, the Equitable Communities Initiative Task Force (Task Force) formally submitted investment recommendations to Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan. Members of the Task Force, community leaders representing diverse communities, were brought together to address systemic challenges and negative investment outcomes facing communities of color. The [recommendations](#) centered on identifying resources and support systems to build an equitable society.

In October 2020, Mayor Durkan established the Task Force charged with developing strategies that begin to address the disparities caused by years of disinvestment in communities of color. From the onset, and due to the historical discriminatory context affecting these communities, the mayor and the Task Force recognized that this will not be an overnight process. The work will take time, effort, strategic planning, community building, and deep continued investment to undo years of discriminatory practices that have plagued these communities and served as barriers to reaching equity.

The representation of the Task Force reflects the kaleidoscopic of diverse interests of the city's most marginalized communities. People who make this city a vibrant milieu, a fusion of talent who are long-time residents, born and raised, and newcomers with shared lived experiences, talent, and domain expertise. Also included are representatives from various non-profit organizations and those who service these communities, in addition to labor groups and civic organizations. The Task Force's arrival came during a challenging time for Seattle communities, however, they persevered by employing honest dialogue and joining their collective voices and experiences together within one big tent.

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Rooted in community, the Task Force has made recommendations to address disparities. Along with significant data that explored historical, current disparities and inequities, as well as with life-long experiences, the Task Force's recommendations land within four key pillars and center on identifying resources and support systems to build an equitable society. The Task Force is proposing to allocate approximately one quarter of the \$30 million among each of the four pillars. An ordinance will be transmitted to City Council in late June/early July 2021 with final program amounts as implementation plans with City departments are finalized.

Those [four pillars](#) are:

- **Building Opportunity Through Small Business Support**
 - Business Development and Technical Assistance
- **Developing Diverse and Culturally Competent Educators and Education Opportunities**
 - Cultural education for BIPOC youth
 - Programs for the formerly incarcerated
 - Equity Education Innovation Fund
- **Accessing Affordable Housing, Land Acquisition and Generational Wealth**
 - Lease to purchase homebuyer program
 - Generational wealth and apprenticeship pipeline program
- **Increasing Positive Health Outcomes**
 - Food access and environmental justice
 - Culturally responsive and inclusive healthcare
 - Workforce development of healthcare providers of color

After 25 meetings and more than 50 hours of analysis, discussion, and deliberation the Task Force has reached the milestone of presenting their recommendations to Mayor Durkan. Over the coming weeks they will continue sharing their work with the people of Seattle and the City Council.

For further information, visit the [Equitable Communities Initiative](#) online, or contact Larry Williams/Anchor Group at (206) 941-0244 Email: wlarrywilliams@theanchorgrp.com.

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