**U.S. EPA Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)**
*February 2024*

**Client Office**

EPA’s Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

**Context**

Executive Orders 13985 and 14091[[1]](#footnote-2) call for comprehensive approaches to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and the inequitable distribution of pollution. Executive Order 14096[[2]](#footnote-3) calls for a whole-of-government approach to ensure that all people are “fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers.”[[3]](#footnote-4)

EPA’s FY23 Equity Action Plan puts forth a strategy to reduce cumulative environmental and health impacts in communities with EJ concerns by, among other things, addressing fragmentation in government programs and building a toolkit of methods including assessment of disproportionate impacts, health disparities and social determinants of health. The EPA Office of Inspector General has recommended better coordination and collaboration to address cumulative impacts and their disproportionate health effects. As a result, EPA is seeking opportunities and approaches for stronger partnerships with communities and governmental partners to advance cumulative impacts practice in a manner that engenders collective engagement and co-learning.

EPA Region 5 has developed and is implementing a Community Action Roadmap to serve as a comprehensive cross-program community-based approach to address multiple, disproportionate, and cumulative impacts in overburdened communities. Region 5 has also adopted a set of Standard Operating Procedures to implement this approach. The Community Action Roadmap builds on EPA’s EJ collaborative problem-solving model and draws heavily from Health Impacts Assessment phases and practice standards. OEJECR wishes to explore the potential for a national version of Region 5’s Standard Operating Procedures.

**Charge**

Provide recommendations on how to improve and implement the Community Action Roadmap.

1. How can the Community Action Roadmap be a vehicle to advance EPA’s overall strategy to assess and address the multiple and cumulative impacts which disproportionately affect historically marginalized communities?
2. How can EPA utilize the Community Action Roadmap to promote local government partnerships with their communities, other federal agencies, and state governments?
3. What input does LGAC have to refine Region 5’s Community Action Roadmap Standard Operating Procedures?
4. How can local governments partner with EPA to advance implementation of the Community Action Roadmap in site-specific situations?
5. How can EPA promote national use of the Community Action Roadmap across its programs and regions?

**Details of LGAC EJ Workgroup Action**The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in February.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress at a public meeting in May; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC’s Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

**Outline/Scope of Workgroup Meetings:**

* February: EPA Region 5 to present the SOP and provide detailed information on the Community Action Roadmap
* March: Invite examples that have used the Community Action Roadmap, and/or can inform further development and implementation of the approach.
* April: Hear from NEJAC Rep and their thoughts on the Community Action Roadmap and review draft recommendations.
* May: consolidate final comments and final draft recommendations. present final during in person meeting.

**Deliverables**The Workgroup will summarize its discussions on the above topics, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document. Additional deliverables may be developed as the workgroup progresses.

1. EO 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support For Underserved Communities; EO 14091: Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. EO 14096: Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)