


# Resources on Equity in Land Use Planning

APA RI Chapter has put together this page of resources as a starting point for planners, advocates, elected officials, and residents interested in undertaking work on equity in land use and zoning. It is organized by the type of activity you are interested in pursuing and offers historical overviews, policy guides, and specific local examples. It is not exhaustive of the resources that exist. Please feel free to reach out to the EDI Committee with any questions. Members of the EDI Committee are available (as APA RI chapter volunteers) to support you and to present to your group on equity in land use and zoning.

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*Equity: Just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential. Unlocking the promise of the nation by unleashing the promise in us all.*

*-APA Planning for Equity Policy Guide, 2019*

*“The American Planning Association advocates for public policies that create just, healthy, and prosperous communities that expand opportunity for all through good planning.”*

*-APA Mission Statement*

*“The American Planning Association, its Chapters, Divisions, Interest Groups, and Student Organizations support measures and policies to both address the inequities that exist today in urban, suburban, and rural settings and to prevent the creation of new inequities.”*

*- APA Planning for Equity Policy Guide, 2019.*

***IF you want to explore the history of inequity in planning and zoning:***

<p><i>The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America</i></p> <p><a href="#">Access this book through library or purchase</a></p>	<p>2017 Richard Rothstein (Liveright)</p>	<p>This award-winning book details the policies and practices of the federal government, court decisions, police collusion, and local development decisions that working together prevented black and other marginalized groups from participating in homeownership or having choices in housing.</p>
<p><i>A Matter of Truth</i></p> <p><a href="#">A Matter of Truth</a></p>	<p>2021 City of Providence</p>	<p>A report prepared by Rhode Island Black Heritage Society &amp; 1696 Heritage Group for the Mayor’s African American Ambassador Group. It details the city’s 400-year history, with an aim to make the history inclusive of all and examine the treatment of nonwhite people noting who benefited from actions and who was left behind.</p>
<p><i>Historical Context of Racist Zoning: A History of How Planning Segregated Portland</i></p> <p><a href="#">Historical Context of Racist Planning</a></p>	<p>2019 Portland OR</p>	<p>This report is an example of the planning department of a community looking at its history with a critical lens to understand and document racist housing and land use practices that created and reinforced segregation and inequities. It ends with a summary of current policies adopted to “not just prevent further harm and discrimination, but to also actively address past harms of segregation and racist policies, intentional or not.”</p>

***IF you want to educate the public, a committee, or a board on equity in land use planning:***

<p><i>Planning for Equity Policy Guide</i></p> <p><a href="#">APA Equity Guide</a></p>	<p>2019 APA</p>	<p>This guide describes equity considerations and actions covering several planning areas, including climate change, education, energy and resource consumption, health equity, housing, mobility and transportation, public space, and heritage preservation. Given the breadth covered, each area has a succinct summary of top recommended actions. It also includes an educational timeline of planning’s involvement in social equity from 1963-to 2019.</p>
<p><i>Advancing Racial Equity Through Land-Use Planning</i></p> <p><a href="#">PAS Memo Racial Equity Land Use</a></p>	<p>2021 APA</p>	<p>PAS Memo Racial Equity and Planning A short report laying out the history of planning and racial segregation, as well as providing examples of current municipal actions to correct past inequitable treatment and support a diverse and inclusive community.</p>
<p><i>Short Video with Planners Talking on Equity</i></p> <p><a href="#">APA Planners Talk Equity</a></p>	<p>2021 APA</p>	<p>These short videos feature planners from throughout the US considering planning’s history supporting inequitable policies and projects, and the promoting current best practice of assessing who is involved in planning, who policies will impact negatively, and who policies will benefit. These brief reflections provide the main rationales and motivations for centering equity in planning.</p>

<p>Equity and Urban Planning – Stakeholders Reflect on the Process and Product of Planning for Equity.</p> <p><a href="#">IISC and RhodeMap Reflections on Equity</a></p>	<p>2015 Interaction Institute for Social Change</p>	<p>Video Series developed by IISC with Horsley Witten when working with RhodeMap RI’s Social Equity Advisory Committee (SEAC). It includes the following short videos featuring those involved in the process:</p> <p>Lesson 1-- Weave equity into process and content Lesson 2 – Engage those most directly affected by inequities, Lesson 3 – Build institutional capacity for equity and public engagement, Lesson 4 – Lead boldly, collaboratively, authentically.</p>
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***IF you want to integrate equity into your Comprehensive Plan:***

<p><i>The Comprehensive Plan: Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Communities for the 21st Century</i>, by David Rouse and Rocky Piro</p> <p><a href="#">To Purchase</a></p>	<p>2021 APA</p>	<p>This is the latest how-to book on comprehensive planning published by national APA, framed by the principles of sustainability, resilience, and equity. The publisher offers this description, “Based on standards developed by the American Planning Association to provide a national benchmark for sustainable comprehensive planning, this book provides detailed guidance on the substance, process, and implementation of comprehensive plans that address the critical challenges facing communities in the 21st century.” It weaves equity in all parts of the comprehensive plan.</p>
<p>Toolkit to Integrate Health and Equity Into Comprehensive Plans</p> <p><a href="#">APA Toolkit for Integrating Equity and Health into Plans</a></p>	<p>2020 APA</p>	<p>A practical toolkit that includes reasoning and many examples of how to weave equity concerns and health parity into comprehensive plans.</p>
<p>Newport, RI North End Plan Chapter</p> <p><a href="#">Newport North End Plan</a></p>	<p>2021 Newport, RI</p>	<p>The North End Urban Plan was adopted as part of the city’s Comprehensive Plan. The plan is organized around themes of opportunity, equity, resilience, connectivity, and quality. It acknowledges the historical harm this portion of the city incurred and establishes a North End Innovation District. Through community participation, desired community benefits were identified, and redevelopment principles developed to prioritize equity and maintain quality of life for residents.</p>
<p>Livingston County Master Plan: Social Equity Chapter</p> <p><a href="#">Social Equity Chapter Livingston County</a></p>	<p>2018 Livingston County Michigan</p>	<p>This equity chapter won a state APA award. It identifies inequities based on aging, income, mobility, children, and access to core services. inclusive land uses that will better serve all residents.</p>
<p><i>Racial Equity Plan</i></p> <p><a href="#">Dallas Racial Equity Plan</a></p>	<p>2022 Dallas, TX</p>	<p>This plan was prepared in response to a city resolution. It includes a short history of inequitable policies and treatment, describes a robust engagement process, and sets out action items.</p>
<p>Equity and Community Wellbeing</p>	<p>2021 Blacksburg, VA</p>	<p>Chapter from the Comprehensive Plan for the municipality of Blacksburg VA. Covers a brief history, including the larger national context, and identifies areas for improvement.</p>

<a href="#">Chapter on Equity and Community Wellbeing</a>		
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chapter 9  <a href="#">Comprehensive Plan Chapter Ellensburg WA</a>	2021 Ellensburg, WA	This chapter follows the standard Comprehensive Plan format of looking at existing conditions, setting goals, and identifying actions.

***IF you want to conduct an equity review of your land use regulations and projects:***

Project Equity Check-In Process  <a href="#">Checklist on Equity</a>	n.d. Honolulu Office of Resilience	A set of simple questions to assess if the proposed project has considered and responded to social inequities.
Equity Resource Guide  <a href="#">SCAG Equity Resource Guide</a>	2022 Southern CA Association of Governments (SCAG)	Very useful listing of equity actions and tools from throughout the US. It includes examples for resolutions, definitions, assessments, and action plans.
CCM Racial Equity Toolkit  <a href="#">CCM Racial Toolkit</a>	2020 CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM)	This toolkit provides examples of checklists for municipalities to assess the state of racial equity, resolutions, and plans from throughout the US.
Advancing Racial Equity Through Land-Use Planning  <a href="#">PAS Memo Racial Equity Land Use</a>	2021 APA	PAS Memo Racial Equity and Planning A short report laying out the history of planning and racial segregation, as well as providing examples of current municipal actions to correct past inequitable treatment and support a diverse and inclusive community.
<i>World Bank Handbook for Gender-Inclusive Urban Planning and Design</i>  <a href="#">Gender Inclusive Urban Planning</a>	2020 World Bank	This provides an explanation of why gender inclusive planning is needed, what policies and actions further gender equity, and includes case studies. While international in its framing, many of the examples show up in US communities.
<i>Advancing health equity: Key questions for assessing policy, processes, and assumptions</i>  <a href="#">Checklist Health Equity</a>	2018 MN Department of Health	This is a checklist of questions developed for a health policy context, but useful in other realms. The questions help decision makers consider the likely outcomes
<i>Moving Toward Mobility Justice</i>	2021 Safe Routes Partnership	This is a short video from the Safe Routes to School Partnership that notes the history of treating purposefully segregated areas, differently. It also describes how to make the changes in the built environment to move towards access to equal mobility for all.

<a href="#">Equity in Mobility and Access</a>		
<i>Mobility Equity Framework: How to Make Transportation Work for People</i>  <a href="#">Mobility Equity Framework</a>	2018 Greenlining Institute	A guide to transportation planning that considers the full mobility needs of communities and puts affected communities at the center of decision-making. Includes an outline of design principles and examples of how to be inclusive.

***IF you want to review equity policy guides:***

<i>Planning for Equity Policy Guide</i>  <a href="#">APA Equity Guide</a>	2019 APA	This guide describes equity considerations and actions covering several planning areas, including climate change, education, energy and resource consumption, health equity, housing, mobility and transportation, public space, and heritage preservation. Given the breadth covered, each area has a succinct summary of top recommended actions. It also includes an educational timeline of planning’s involvement in social equity from 1963-to 2019.
<i>Equity in Zoning Policy Guide</i>  <a href="#">APA Equity in Zoning Guide</a>	2023 APA	This guide considers equity in zoning along three dimensions: the rules (dimensional and use requirements); the people (decision makers, and those consulted and/or notified); and the map. It discusses varies levels of government authority in achieving zoning reform and explains zoning as only one element of change needed for movement toward an equitable society.
<i>Housing Policy Guide</i>  <a href="#">APA Housing Policy Guide</a>	2019 APA	This sets out five major policy statements on the provision of affordable and accessible housing for all. Under each major statement are multiple specific policies, both state and local, that support the major principles. It addresses such actions as inclusionary zoning, streamlined permitting, and modernized enabling legislation.
<i>ICMA Equity &amp; Inclusion Toolkit</i>  <a href="#">ICMA Equity Guide</a>	2019 ICMA	Practical guide with examples of local governments actions that would further equity and inclusion in the public sector and service delivery. It considers three types of equity: distributional, process, and cross-generational. This guide considers race, ethnicity, and gender and diversity in terms of age, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, educational attainment, immigration levels, and community size.
Ethical Principles in Planning  <a href="#">AICP Code of Ethics</a>	2021 (Rev) APA	This code of ethics includes aspirational objectives and a professional code of conduct. Perhaps the most relevant (and most often quoted) aspirational principle is, “seek social justice by identifying and working to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, emphasizing our special responsibility to plan with those who have been marginalized or disadvantaged and to promote racial and economic equity. Urge the alteration of policies, institutions, and decisions that do not help meet their needs.”
Toolkit to Integrate Health and Equity Into Comprehensive Plans	2020 APA	A practical toolkit that includes reasoning and many examples of how to weave equity concerns and health parity into comprehensive plans.

**IF you are looking for other organizations in Rhode Island doing equity, diversity, and inclusion work:**

The Providence Public Library maintains a list of organizations with websites at this link [RI EDI Organizations](#)

The State of RI, Department of Administration maintains a list of organizations and websites [RI EDI Organizations](#)

The components and crosscutting issues of the Equity Lens Approach by the American Planning Association, as diagrammed by Cindy Ma, AICP

<https://norcalapa.org/2021/06/approaching-planning-and-design-through-an-equity-lens/>

