



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Meeting Minutes

Federal Funds Equity & Accountability Review Panel

Thursday, July 14, 2022

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.

In accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted, and open to the public, via Zoom and Teleconference:

Zoom URL: [https://mass-gov-](https://mass-gov-anf.zoom.us/j/87409079171?pwd=U2JFRVcvYnRHTjhzOGhyd3U5a3Zpdz09)

[anf.zoom.us/j/87409079171?pwd=U2JFRVcvYnRHTjhzOGhyd3U5a3Zpdz09](https://mass-gov-anf.zoom.us/j/87409079171?pwd=U2JFRVcvYnRHTjhzOGhyd3U5a3Zpdz09)

Passcode: 772538

Teleconference Line: 713-353-7024, conference code:

A meeting of the Federal Funds Equity & Accountability Review Panel was held via teleconference on Thursday, July 14, 2022, in accordance with Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

Meeting was called to order at 2:05PM

Panel members comprising a quorum:

Jose Delgado, Panel Co-Chair, Access and Opportunity, Office of the Governor
Nicole Obi, Panel Co-Chair, Coalition for an Equitable Economy
Judith Bromley on behalf of Suzanne Bump, Auditor of the Commonwealth
Erica Seery, Chief Digital Officer, Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
Marie-Frances Rivera, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Inc.
Elizabeth Weyant, Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies
Bill McAvoy, Supplier Diversity Office
Kristina Johnson, Chief Data Officer, Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
Raquel Halsey, North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc.
Michael Frieber, Inspector General's Office
Joe Kriesberg, Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
Yasmin Padamsee, Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
Amy Nable, Office of the Comptroller
Luisa Santos, Green Justice Coalition
Leemarie Mosca, Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, Inc.
Joe Curtatone, Northeast Clean Energy Council, Inc.

Others in attendance:

Kelly Govoni, Executive Office for Administration and Finance, Panel Secretary
Danielle Littmann, Executive Office for Administration and Finance
Robert Braza, Executive Office for Administration and Finance
Judith Bromley, State Auditor's Office
Adam Jones, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Inc.
Greg Desrosiers

1. Administrative Matters

- I. Ms. Govoni conducted the roll call for the meeting. Co-chair Delgado called the meeting to order.

2. Discuss Draft Allocation Goals for Public Comment Period

- I. Co-chair Obi presented a Tier structure for the set of allocations that the Panel previously approved. Co-chair Obi recapped that Tiers 1–4 represent 100% of the defined equity population and that population represents 59% of the Commonwealth's entire population. Co-chair Obi noted that Tier 5 represents everyone that falls outside of the Tier 1–4 population. Using that as the basis, Co-chair Obi explained that the structure shows Tier 5 as a starting point, and everyone should get some increment or multiple over Tier 5. For example, if Tier 5 gets 1 unit, then a 25% increase over that one unit would be going to Tier 4 so they would get 1.25 units, Tier 3 would receive 1.56 units, Tier 2 would receive 1.95 units and Tier 1 would receive 2.44 units. Co-chair Obi then went over different percentages to show how many units each Tier would receive depending on the percentage used. Co-chair Delgado asked if the Panel is comfortable with this methodology to get to the weighed allocation goals, and if so, what do people think the right number is. Co-chair Obi noted that after playing around with the numbers, thinks that a 50% multiplier seemed like the best approach but is open to the Panel's thoughts. Ms. Seery noted she likes this approach, and the only thing she would add is to show how it equals out per capita because all the Tiers are still being treated as a big lump, and she would like to show how it impacts individuals, and families. Co-chair Obi agreed they can include the per capita view.

Ms. Mosca noted she thinks it makes a lot of sense to have the multiplier and agrees that a 50% multiplier is the best approach. Mr. Foster noted that when this is submitted for public comment, they should make it clear that this is a general formula but there are some program areas, for example Tourism, where it won't necessarily apply. Co-chair Obi asked if the Panel is comfortable with using this formula, with the 50% multiplier? On a motion made by Ms. Mosca, and duly seconded by Ms. Seery the Panel voted unanimously to move forward with the formula and 50% multiplier for the public comment period.

3. Discuss Public Comment Period

- I. Timeline
 - i. Co-Chair Delgado then went over the timeline for the public comment period. Co-chair Delgado noted that A&F has been working to update its website so that its ready to launch the public comment period. Now that a vote has been made to move forward, the Panel can start to think about the public comment period and when it should start. Co-chair Delgado recommended that they start the public comment period on July 25th, which would give folks on the back-end time to get things up and running on the website and launch the formstack. From there, the Panel would host two webinars. One would be scheduled the second week of August to give two weeks from the start of the public comment period, and the second on September 7th. Co-chair Delgado noted that

once the public comment period closes, all of the comments will be reviewed, and the Panel can vote on final allocation goals around September 23rd. Co-chair Delgado noted that the second piece of the process would be to send out a letter to the Legislature and issue a press release to the media about what's out there to inform the public. They would also create a media kit for Panel members to distribute to their community members and stakeholders to increase awareness and public comment feedback.

Ms. Halsey commented that two public comment periods seem limited and proposed having three. Co-chair Obi asked if there are any reasons Panel members can't gather input from their communities and then bring it back to the Panel? Ms. Nable noted that as long as they haven't been designated as a subcommittee that should be fine. Co-chair Obi noted that they will confirm that Panel members can hold their own listening sessions with community members and can bring that feedback to the Panel.

II. Principles

- i. Ms. Weyant noted that by creating principles it would be a way for the Panel to explain how they got to the weighting structure. Ms. Weyant noted there are a number of resources out there to create principles. Ms. Weyant explained that it would be helpful to pull language from the statute and explain why it is they are focusing on equity the way that they are. Ms. Weyant suggested they should look to other organizations that have done this work such as the Government Alliance on Race and Equity and Policy. The next step will be to put together principles for the Panel to vote on.

4. Adjournment

- I.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:05PM.

Kelly Govoni, Secretary