



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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Meeting Minutes

Federal Funds Equity & Accountability Review Panel

Thursday, June 2, 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/82084163761?tk=2yihIUVYZRV_COxSccmkH5FVLoUPdwLOaVsr310BKMCDQMAAAATHJjwsRZEZVI5ZnFfSVQteXRSb2t5bDhQWVJBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=RWMxYnF3eW5JQ1B1Z2dja1oyQ2dYdz09)

[anf.zoom.us/j/82084163761?tk=2yihIUVYZRV_COxSccmkH5FVLoUPdwLOaVsr310BKMCDQMAAAATHJjwsRZEZVI5ZnFfSVQteXRSb2t5bDhQWVJBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=RWMxYnF3eW5JQ1B1Z2dja1oyQ2dYdz09](https://mass-gov-anf.zoom.us/j/82084163761?tk=2yihIUVYZRV_COxSccmkH5FVLoUPdwLOaVsr310BKMCDQMAAAATHJjwsRZEZVI5ZnFfSVQteXRSb2t5bDhQWVJBAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA&pwd=RWMxYnF3eW5JQ1B1Z2dja1oyQ2dYdz09)

Password: 106868

Teleconference Line: 713-353-7024, **conference code:** 319738

A meeting of the Federal Funds Equity & Accountability Review Panel was held via teleconference on Thursday, June 2, 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
Suzanne Bump, Auditor of the Commonwealth
Amy Nable, Office of the Comptroller
Erica Seery, Chief Digital Officer, Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
Gabrielle King Morse, Center for Women and Enterprise, Inc.
Marie-Frances Rivera, Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, Inc.
Elizabeth Weyant, Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies
Cindy Luppi, Green Justice Coalition
Bill McAvoy, Supplier Diversity Office
Kristina Johnson, Chief Data Officer, Executive Office of Technology Services and Security
Geoff Foster, Common Cause Massachusetts
Raquel Halsey, North American Indian Center of Boston, Inc.
Bishop Tony Branch, NAACP New England Area Conference
Kerima Lewis, The Commission on the Status of African Americans

Members Absent:

Michael Frieber, Inspector General's Office
Leemarie Mosca, Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, Inc.
Denella Clark, Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women
Joe Kriesberg, Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations
Yasmin Padamsee, Commission on the Status of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
Joe Curtatone, Northeast Clean Energy Council, Inc.
Beverley Johnson, Massachusetts Minority Contractors Association, Inc.
Shaheer Mustafa, Massachusetts Nonprofit Network, 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

1. Administrative Matters

- I. Ms. Govoni conducted the roll call for the meeting. Co-chair Delgado called the meeting to order and went over some housekeeping items for the meeting.
- II. On a motion from Auditor Suzanne Bump and duly seconded, the Panel members voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the April 28, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Johnson and Ms. Lewis sustained from voting because they were not present at the April 28th meeting.

2. Update from Data & Technology Subcommittee

- I. Ms. Rivera provided a recap on the subcommittees work and conceptual ideas they have presented so far. During the month of May, the Equity Metrics Subcommittee members developed need-based tiers, modeled after L.A. County's ARPA Equity Dashboard, based on the state's definition of "environmental justice communities, "Vaccine Equity communities, Gateway Cities, and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's social vulnerability index. Ms. Rivera noted that Ms. Johnson worked with the MassGIS team to develop an interactive map to assist with data surfacing that may be included in the public dashboard. The next step for the Panel is to develop a simple equity-based allocation formula

to determine the percentage of funding that a community in a particular tier should receive (per capita).

Ms. Johnson then went into the need based tiering system. She noted that the four indices that are used to determine the level of need are:

- Gateway Cities (municipal)
- Vaccine Equity communities (municipal)
- Environmental Justice communities (census block group)
 - If the block group is designated EJ for income
- CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (census tract)
 - Tracts with index values >0.5

Ms. Johnson explained that based on the indices, they created the tiers and worked to get them all to a municipal level, so that they can tier municipalities. The rules that they created are:

- A municipality is a Gateway City if so designated
- A municipality is a Vaccine Equity community if so designated
- A municipality is EJ if at least 50% (rounded) of the population lives in an EJ block group
- A municipality is SVI if census tracts with SVI>0.5 (rounded) cover at least 50% of the area of the municipality
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The tiers are determined by the number of categories in which a municipality falls:

- Tier 1: All 4 categories
- Tier 2: Any 3 categories
- Tier 3: Any 2 categories
- Tier 4: Any category

Auditor Bump noted its easier for her to apply this visually to the densely populated areas and is curious whether SVI in particular is one of the indices that might look at more impoverished rural parts of the Commonwealth? Ms. Johnson noted it does cover some rural areas and when all of the indices are overlaid, it shows it on the map that she will be presenting. Ms. Johnson then presented the map and explained the various layers. Auditor Bump asked if when this goes public if there will be links to the definitions of what constitutes a gateway city, and like? Chairman Delgado noted that once the public comment period starts, they will post background information and FAQs on the website.

3. Discussion of Data and Metrics

- I. Chairman Delgado asked Ms. Rivera and Ms. Johnson what the next steps are. Ms. Rivera explained that now the Equity Metrics Subcommittee will take the tiering scheme, after the Panel votes on it, and will continue to analyze how communities are falling and then a formula will need to be figured out to determine how much money should be spent across the different tiers of communities. The Panel then voted unanimously by roll call vote to approve the model presented during the meeting, with the understanding that additional changes may be made to the actual tiering system over the next few weeks.

4. Next Steps

- I. Co-chair Delgado moved on to discuss the public comment period. He explained that the first piece will be to put the draft allocation goals on the Panel’s website, with a formstack where folks can fill out and provide their public comments. In addition, there will be a public meeting, where the Panel can provide information to folks and receive public comment as well. The Panel would also get the materials out to the Legislature, stakeholders, media, and other avenues. Chairman Delgado asked Panel members for their thoughts on that process. Mr. Bishop Branch asked how the Panel can drive traffic to the website to make sure they capture the communities as a whole? Chairman Delgado noted that he wants to make sure that this information is pushed out to as many people as possible, including all of the stakeholders and groups represented on the Panel. Mr. Foster noted that he agrees and wants to make sure there is proactive outreach done. Mr. Foster noted that he encourages deliberate outreach and perhaps using some of the funds allocated to the Panel so that they can do targeted outreach and wants to ensure that the Panel hears from the communities’ impacted. Mr. Foster also noted that he would like to have hybrid, virtual or in-person public hearings, and be really strategic about where they are holding them. Ms. Seery noted that she agrees that public outreach is very important but equally important is explaining this very well and doing the work to put these complicated metrics in plain language so that folks understand what they are commenting on.

5. Adjournment

- I. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02PM.

Kelly Govoni, Secretary