



Equity at Forefront of Guiding Principles for Economic Relief

The City of Portland is committed to centering racial, disability, national origin, and gender equity in our collective responses to COVID-19. As part of our efforts, we are focusing on supporting our city by acknowledging the needs of our most vulnerable community members. Recognizing that Black, Indigenous and People of Color, individuals with disabilities, immigrants, women and individuals experiencing poverty are often disproportionately affected, the City of Portland is dedicating resources and creating support systems to ensure this crisis does not exacerbate existing inequities. We also acknowledge that the Asian Pacific Islander community has been particularly impacted by increased racism and xenophobia since this crisis began.

During this time of crisis, we strive to better understand how communities are impacted, especially when historically oppressed communities do not experience access to needed resources. As a City, we will work to ensure that everyone is informed, and has access to appropriate resources so that our communities remain healthy and whole.

Context:

- In times of economic growth, the wealth gap and constrained access to capital creates barriers to starting or growing a business; it can come at a devastating financial cost to business owners and their employees in economic downturns.
- We are providing support to small businesses in sectors that have been directly impacted by the necessary COVID-19 public health requirements and prioritizes businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, Asian Pacific Islander and People of Color, persons with disabilities, immigrants and women and employees
- Coverage about COVID-19 names vulnerable and older populations with compromised immune systems as particularly vulnerable; data show these risk factors are disproportionately prevalent in communities of color. The health crisis we face compounds historic and existing racial inequities. Further, unemployment and income data do not take in to account the realities of individuals who experience multiple oppressions. Data must be used with the understanding that intersecting legacies of white supremacy, colonial capitalism, gendered oppression and ableism not only systematically oppress individuals, but limit the capabilities of information available.

What data tells us on/What we know about supporting Income and Unemployment Needs (Goal 2):

Unemployment Data:

- Unemployment rate for Black/African Americans (14.2%) and American Indian/Alaska Native (17.3%) and over 2X greater than the White (5.9%) labor force.
- Those living below the poverty level (25.5%) experience unemployment at almost 7x the rate of people at or above the poverty level (3.9%).
- The gap between the employment rates in Oregon of working-age people with and without disabilities was 42.8%. The employment rate of working-age people with disabilities was 37%. The employment rate of working-age people without disabilities was 79.8%.

Income Data:

- White households (\$67,715) earn over 2X the income of Black households (\$29,864) and significantly more than other races: American Indian and Alaska Native (\$42,000), Asian (\$58,586), Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (\$36,661) and Hispanic households (\$44,507).

Sources:

- American Community Survey 2017 5-year Estimates
- https://www.disabilitystatistics.org/reports/2017/English/HTML/report2017.cfm?fips=2041000&html_year=2017&subButton=Get+HTML#emp
- U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 2017.

What data tells us on/What we know about advancing Equitable Wealth Creation (Goal 3):

Data:

- The median white family has 41 times more wealth than the median African American or Native American household and 22 times more wealth than the median Latino family.
- Systemic racism, ableism and gender bias further constrict access to capital; the average size loan for women-owned business was 31 percent less than that for male-owned businesses.
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Source:

- <https://inequality.org/facts/wealth-inequality/#racial-wealth-divide>
- <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/07/the-lending-gap-narrows-for-women-business-owners-nationwide.html>

From the last recession:

- During the 2007 – 2009 recession, the sector that experienced the greatest fall in employment was natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations (-16.9%) followed by production, transportation, and material moving occupations (-11%)
- Unemployment rates reached their peak in October 2010 was 10.0%; at 16.1% for black or African American, and 13.1% for Hispanic or Latino
- Recovery began about 1.5 after the recession, with unemployment rate reaching pre-recession rates in 2017.

Source:

- <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2018/article/great-recession-great-recovery.htm>
- <https://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2012/recession/>