



LOCUS Guide to Equity Action Plans: *General Services Administration*

In April 2022, the Biden Administration released the federal government’s first ever Equity Actions Plans for over 90 federal agencies. These strategies delineate department-specific long range goals and operational priorities that aim to improve the delivery of equitable outcomes for all Americans through systemic reforms and investments in historically underserved communities. The actions proposed in these plans will have broad impacts on land use, infrastructure investment, housing and regional planning, which are summarized succinctly in these LOCUS guides.

Equity Priorities:

The US General Services Administration’s Equity Action Plan focuses on three areas: federal buildings, federal procurement and the delivery and design of federal technology. The plan describes GSA’s role as a “force multiplier” advancing equity, especially given its ability to “leverage the buying power of the Federal Government.” The plan outlines goals to increase accessibility, improve efficiency, and provide more streamlined and diverse procurement to small businesses owned by individuals who have been historically disadvantaged. Notably, the plan also includes a commitment to designing a process to assess the environmental justice and economic impacts of federal properties.

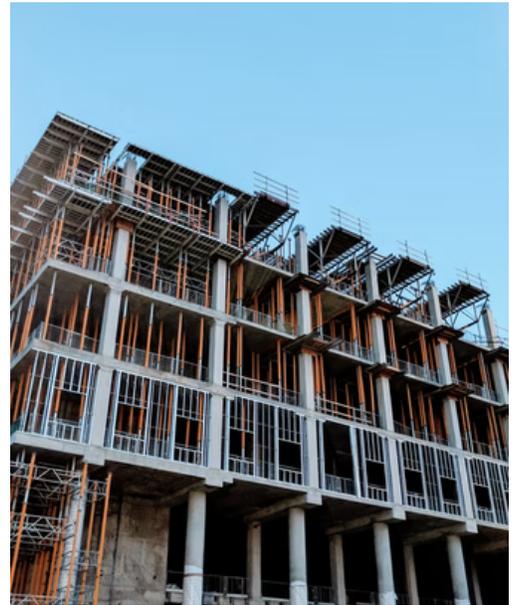


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Key Equity Actions:

- Operationalize programs for sustainable development by expanding staff capacity and developing quantitative processes for measuring a public building's impact on its community;
- Conduct civil rights audits and organizational reviews focused on determining whether federal surplus personal property recipients currently benefit the communities they serve and opportunities for better improvement and alignment;
- Improve Federal digital services and broadband internet infrastructure for local, mobile, and elderly communities;
- Maximize opportunities for small businesses to utilize funding and award procurements by streamlining award contracting and procurement processes and strengthening firms' education programs.

Land Use or Real Estate Highlights:

- Create an interdisciplinary community assessment protocol to assess the environmental and economic effects of public building footprints to guide more equitable development. This commitment includes hiring a data scientist, development of data-sharing agreements with other agencies and community outreach, engagement and technical assistance;
- Strengthen the influence and outreach of similar GSA offices, such as the Office of Federal High-Performance Green Buildings, which engage with community groups to better steer future policy in sustainable and equitable development in the built environment.

Measuring Impact:

Each of the priorities includes proposed strategies to track progress and impact, related to the specific actions proposed. Some notable metrics include:

- Quantitative and qualitative measurements of economic and environmental impact of buildings in communities, especially those which have historically been underserved;
- Percentage of communities gaining access to broadband internet and digital resources;
- Number of communities engaged with through the expanded outreach of similar GSA offices.

Read GSA's Equity Action Plan [here](#).