

Fair Housing Equity Assessment

What is it?

- The Fair Housing Equity Assessment (FHEA) is a regional assessment of five components across the urban, suburban, rural, and coastal transects of the region:
 - Assessment of Primary Demographic Concerns, including Racially and Ethnically Concentrated Areas of Poverty (R/ECAP)
 - Disparities in Access to Opportunity
 - Fair Housing Activities
 - Fair Housing Infrastructure/Systems
 - Physical Infrastructure/Economic Investments
- The assessment provides a high-level analysis of fair housing and equity issues within the region, as taken from local plans and local leaders.

How will it be used?

- The FHEA identifies baseline conditions for fair housing, social equity and areas of opportunity across the region; informs deliberations of the Coordinating Committee; and informs *Our Great Region 2040*.
- The document provides HUD indices that examine education, neighborhood quality, health and environment, economy and employment, and transportation. The HUD indices allow the H-GAC region to be compared to other regions across the country who are undertaking a similar process.
- The document also provides H-GAC-specific indices that examine employment and education, housing affordability, community assets and challenges, and poverty and income integration. The H-GAC indices allow comparisons between the FHEA communities within the region, and help tailor recommendations.
- The assessment provides a review of existing fair housing plans to identify common impediments to affirmatively furthering fair housing and common implementation measures used to address those impediments.
- The FHEA identifies best practices and strategies to address fair housing and equity challenges in the region by presenting findings in context with geographic settings (i.e., urban, suburban, and rural) and community size (i.e., town, small city, large city).

How does it relate to *Our Great Region 2040*?

- As a requirement of the development of *Our Great Region 2040*, H-GAC has an obligation to assess equity and opportunity within the region. This obligation is satisfied through completion of the FHEA.
- The FHEA is both a part of *Our Great Region 2040* and a stand-alone document that provides fair housing and equity specific baseline information in regards to the major topics addressed throughout the plan.

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- Examines the strategies through a fair housing and equity lens, and incorporates those strategies into the FHEA recommendations.

How was the FHEA developed?

- H-GAC staff led the FHEA effort, managed third party expertise, drafted the final FHEA document, and acted as the local government liaison.
- H-GAC drew upon the expertise of three groups throughout the FHEA process:
 - BBC Research and Consulting: Data analysis, best practices, H-GAC and HUD indices, capacity building;
 - Kirwan Institute: Opportunity mapping; and
 - Fair Housing and Equity Workgroup (FHEW): Local input, local context.
- The FHEW covers the regional transect and includes several local governments with housing programs, non-profits and fair housing and equity advocacy groups.
- While the work was regional in nature, specific analyses was conducted at the county-level and for the 13 counties and 29 cities that are distributed across the urban, suburban, and rural typologies