
MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Serve on the Rhode Island Sustainable Communities Social Equity Advisory Committee

- Do you often talk to people in your neighborhood, town, school, or house of worship?
- Do you want to add your voice to a plan for Rhode Island's future?
- Do you care about equal opportunity for all and social justice?
- Do you want to learn more about housing, economic development, land use, transportation, social equity or sustainable development?

No experience required! We will provide you with training to help you participate.

Rhode Island's Sustainable Communities project is focused on the future of our state, and we want your input on including ALL of our residents in that future. We are looking for people who live or work in Rhode Island, *particularly South County or the East Bay*, who want to serve on the **Social Equity Advisory Committee** over the next two years.

WHO

We are looking for people with interest in representing voices from many diverse communities and addressing their needs. For example, communities of color, low-income communities, immigrants, non-English speakers, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities, and other important voices that are often excluded from decision-making.

WHAT

We need people who can come to at least one meeting per month (approximately 2 hours), and do some work outside of those meetings (5-10 hours per month, occasionally more or less) to talk to your friends, neighbors, family, and other community members about this project so you can bring their perspectives back to the meetings. We intend to provide childcare at meetings, accommodations for people with disabilities and interpretation/translation if necessary.

STIPEND

The Advisory Committee is open to Rhode Island residents and professionals who are interested in or work on equity and social justice issues. Up to 15 Rhode Island residents will receive a stipend for their participation on the Advisory Committee. Professional representatives of organizations that work on equity and social justice issues are not eligible for the stipend but are welcome to serve on the Advisory Committee.

NOMINATE YOURSELF OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW!

See reverse for details on how to get involved.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED...

To nominate yourself or someone else, please send a letter or email to Melanie Army (Melanie.army@doa.ri.gov) at Rhode Island Statewide Planning or call (401) 222-6183. You should answer these questions:

- Why are you interested in serving on the Social Equity Advisory Committee?
- How has your personal or professional experience prepared you to help us include diverse communities and address inequalities?
- Are you part of a community group, house of worship, parent organization, school, neighborhood association, or other group of people who you talk to regularly?
- What do you see as the most important issue of inequality that relates to sustainable development in Rhode Island? (For example: jobs, cost of housing, housing conditions, environmental justice, access to parks, etc.)
- What language(s), including English, are you comfortable speaking?

We review nominations on a rolling basis as they come in, so we encourage you to email or call as soon as possible.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

In 2012, Rhode Island was awarded a \$1.9 million grant to develop a Regional Plan for Sustainable Development. **Sustainable development** refers to “development that meets the needs of today’s generation without taking away from the needs of tomorrow’s generations.”

The goal for this plan is to decide how to use policy and investments to provide housing, jobs and training, safe water, a healthy environment, and transportation for all Rhode Island residents, regardless of background. The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program is leading the process for writing the plan, with help from state agencies, cities, towns, and non-profits.

The Sustainable Communities project seeks to include all residents in the plan and reduce inequalities in the state.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Melanie Army at Melanie.Army@doa.ri.gov or at (401) 222-6183. If you would like to be involved in Sustainable Communities but do not want to serve on the Social Equity Advisory Committee, please let Melanie know!

