

GOAL EJ-8. PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS PRIORITIZATION

Public improvements and programs that proactively meet both current and future community needs and priorities, with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities.

An essential component of the Environmental Justice Element is prioritizing projects, programs, and investments that directly serve and benefit residents within Environmental Justice Communities. Effective prioritization requires coordination and alignment across departments, agencies and shared jurisdictional partners along with consistent and sustained engagement with stakeholders within Environmental Justice Communities. Additionally, identifying and considering improvements and programs for Environmental Justice Communities may help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that is targeted for these areas.

Key Takeaways From Existing Conditions Report

The opportunity map created by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee (CTCAC) can be used to inform the City how to further target policies and investments since they provide additional insight into an area's critical life outcomes. Examples of critical life outcomes include educational attainment, earnings from employment, and economic mobility. The opportunity map identifies areas that score better across nine economic, educational, and environmental indicators relative to other areas in the same region. The scores classify areas into four resource categories: highest, high, moderate, and low. Low resource areas are those most in need of investment because they have low access to amenities, such as good quality schools and employment and have high levels of pollution burden.

The HCD/CTCAC opportunity map for Glendale shows that all census tracts in the northern portion of the City are considered highest resource areas. Many census tracts within Environmental Justice Communities are considered high resource areas, though there are eight moderate resource tracts, mostly concentrated in the southern portion of the City that lack access to better educational, economic, and environmental outcomes. There are no low resource areas in the City as of 2025.

Key Takeaways From Community Input

Residents expressed a desire for more trees, shade canopies, and vegetation barriers, especially in the southern portion of the City. They also advocated for community solar, more EV charging stations, and more park bathrooms. Residents identified the top three most desired programs as: 1) improving the condition and safety of sidewalks and crosswalks, 2) installing new bicycle facilities, including bike lanes and safety features, and 3) expanding and promoting public transit options.

EJ-8 Policies

- EJ-8.1 **Investment Prioritization.** Continue to work with the community to prioritize the expansion of a variety of public facilities and services, starting with the preferences identified by the community in the Outreach Summary (Appendix B).
- EJ-8.2 **Equitable Improvements and Programs.** Promote the equitable provision of public improvements and community programs throughout Glendale with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities and moderate resource areas (and low resource areas if identified in the future) shown in the HCD/CTCAC opportunity map (Figure 3.8.1) in the Existing Conditions Report (Appendix A).

- EJ-8.3 **Collaboration.** Collaborate with adjacent agencies and jurisdictions to identify regional approaches to provide adequate and appropriate levels of service in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.
- EJ-8.4 **Programs for Urban Greening and Shade Infrastructure.** Expand tree canopy coverage, shade structures, and vegetation barriers throughout the City to improve public health, reduce heat island effects, and enhance the quality of life for residents, particularly in Environmental Justice Communities and other areas with limited greenery.
- EJ-8.5 **Equitable Economic Development.** Continue to implement economic development programs that support business attraction, retention and expansion efforts particularly in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas to ensure a diverse, equitable, inclusive and resilient economy.

EJ-8 Actions

- EJ-8a **Improvement Assessments and Prioritizations.** Focus on ensuring equitable access to high-quality public facilities and amenities—such as parks, trails, sidewalks, public transit, libraries, and other infrastructure—by prioritizing their location, distribution, and condition based on community needs.
- EJ-8b **Targeted Programs.** Engage with the community to identify desired community programs that would benefit targeted segments of the population such as youth, women, and small business owners in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.
- EJ-8c **Funding for Programs.** Apply for grants and external funding opportunities to support projects and programs addressing key issues in Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.
- EJ-8d **Neighborhood Greening.** Identify priority areas for greening and tree planting, particularly in Environmental Justice Communities and neighborhoods with limited green spaces, especially along walking routes, such as by removing impervious surfaces, planting trees, and increasing shade structures. Partner with local environmental organizations, schools, and residents to implement greening projects and host tree-planting events.
- EJ-8e **Economic Development Programs.** Consider the business needs of Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas when establishing new economic development programs.
- EJ-8f **Workforce Training.** Offer tools, resources, and networks that provide workforce training, apprenticeships, mentorship, career development, management opportunities, and facilitate business ownership, with a focus on Environmental Justice Communities and low-to-moderate resource areas.