

Session 1: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 12:00 pm

Session 2: Friday, June 19, 2026, at 07:30 am



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

June 2026

| www.myavista.com/eag



Agenda

Topic	Presenter
Welcome, introductions, agenda, and shared expectations	Amber Lenhart, Facilitator
Connections/Partner Shares	Connections/Partners
EAG Comment & Action	Ana
NCIF Prioritization	Marissa and Amber
Questions & Discussion	Amber
Wrap-up and Adjourn	

Shared Expectations

- ☐ **Stay present** mentally and physically when possible.
- ☐ **Listen** with an open mind and be open to new ideas.
- ☐ **Participate** in discussion, share concerns and ideas, and give others space to do so.
- ☐ **Ask questions** at any time. Use Zoom's "raise hand" feature or chat during presentations.
- ☐ **Work together** to consider different perspectives and support the meeting goal(s).
- ☐ **Respect** the role of the facilitator to guide the group process.



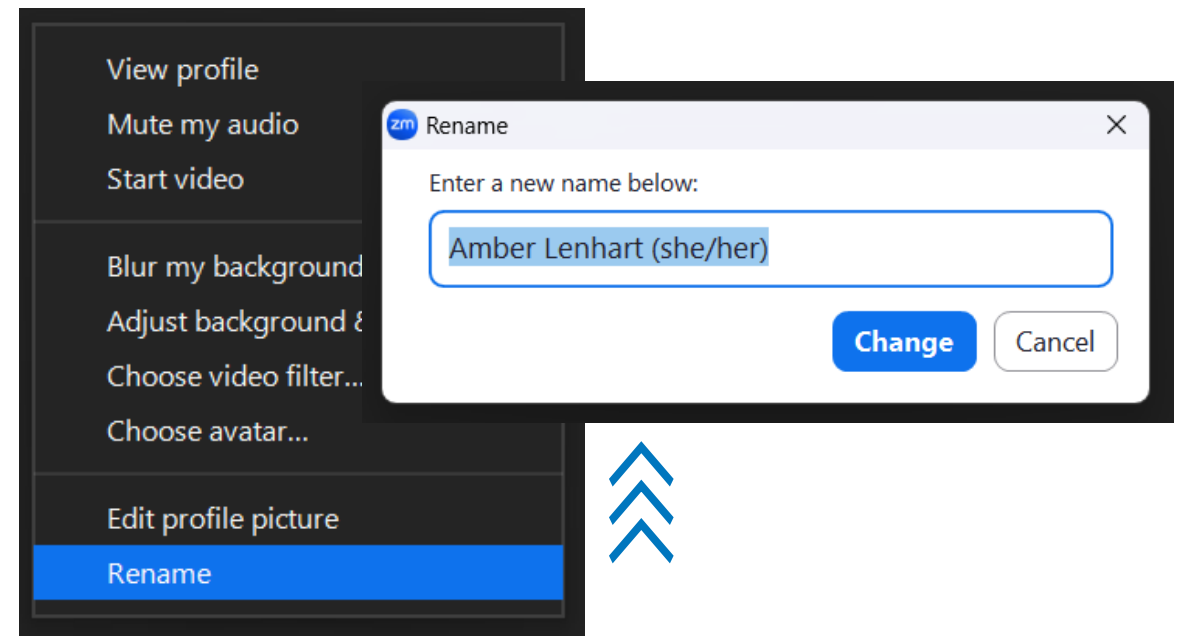
Introductions

Please share in the chat:

- ☐ Your name
- ☐ Organization or community

Optional: Consider including >>> your pronouns in your Zoom name

We're so glad
you're here!



Spectrum of Public Participation

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION					
	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

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Today's Equity Lens Session Goals

Inform, Consult, and Involve

Objective: To inform members of past discussions, consult on key focus areas, and involve members in confirming future direction.

(1) Review Key Takeaways

- Recap the main insights and address questions from previous EAG meetings

(2) Confirm NCIF Priorities

- Validate and align on the EAG NCIF priority areas.
-

Connect



What has brought you awe recently?

Partner Shares



- Do you have a "win" to celebrate?
- What upcoming events or opportunities do you want to share with other EAG members and their communities?
- What pressing issues or needs are you hearing about in your communities or organizations that we should consider or work together to address?



EAG Comment & Action Review

Ana Matthews

May EAG Follow Up

Action

Equity in Capital Planning: Cost Benefit Analysis

Inclusion of NC in the final equity scoring

- The process with analysis is for impacted NC
- Cost benefit analysis helps to identify when a mitigation plan is needed

Consider light pollution in CBA

- Follow-up at future meeting update

Explore ways to have meaningful engagement throughout the capital planning process

- The process includes impacted group engagement once a project has been funded

May EAG Follow Up

Question

Equity in Capital Planning: Cost Benefit Analysis

Practical example - using non-Avista terminology, of how a data center would be evaluated within the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) process, including how it connects to CBIs

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Capital investments: cost-of service methodology, costs across all customer types | • Large load customers: costs directly assigned to customer |
|--|--|

Equity Considerations

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Identifies Named Communities and impact assessment is aligned with CETA CBIs – Cost Benefit Analysis that triggers when mitigation is needed | • Need for additional energy may trigger WA Purchase of Resource rules that require identification of how project will impact Named Communities – most specifically impacts to environment and CBIs |
|--|---|

Summary: Equity in Capital Planning



Framework with supporting process has been created

Identified impact to Named Communities triggers process with analysis



2026 first implementation (test) of process

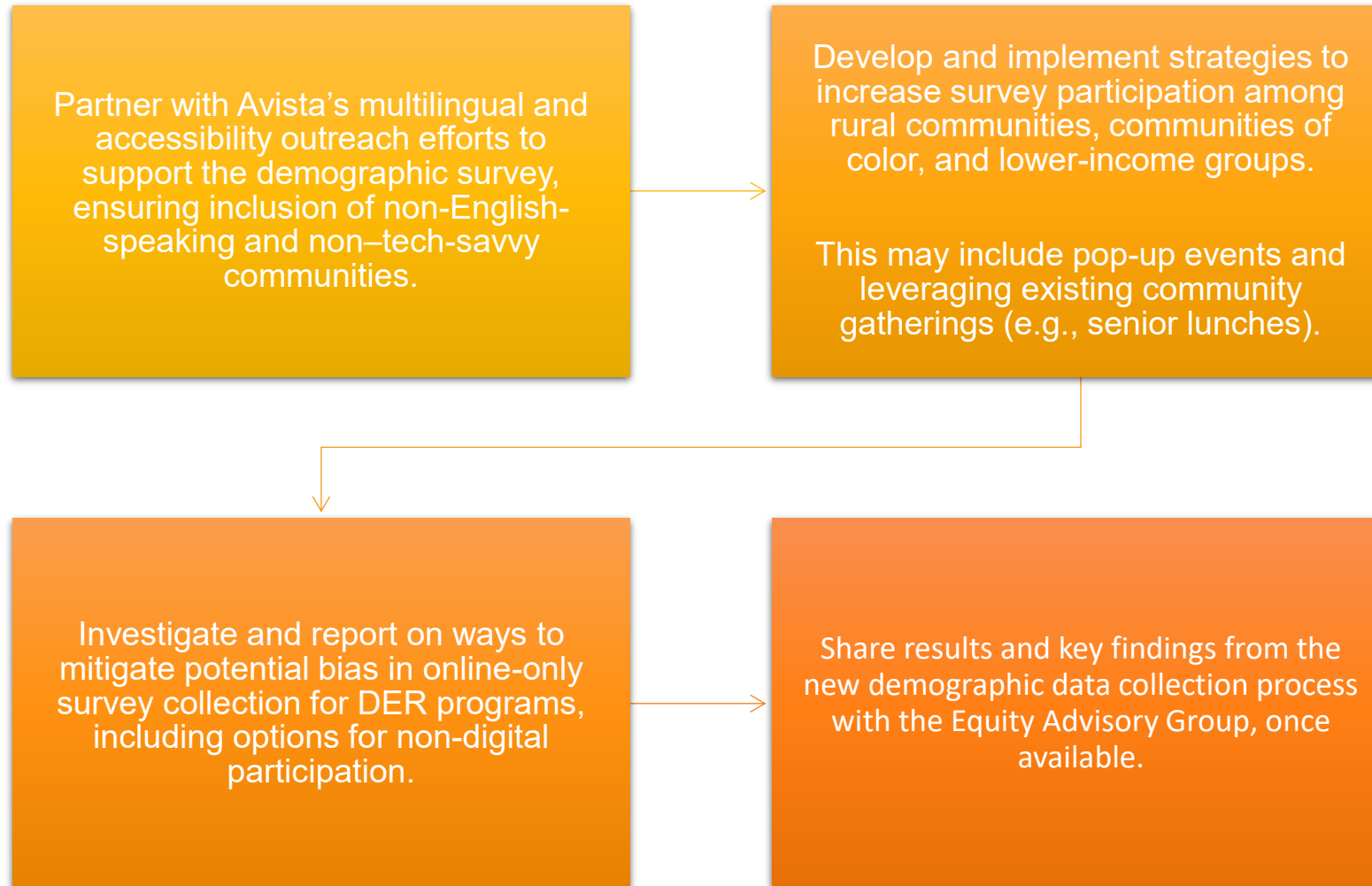


It could be several years before identified NC impacted project will be initiated



Continued updates forthcoming as activities commence

Summary of Customer Demographics in Distributed Energy Resource Programs



Question: North/South Freeway

Coordination

- Ongoing coordination with WSDOT regarding the NS Freeway and Avista impacts
- Includes pole movement and relocation in the project vicinity

Community & Customer Impact

- Active participation in local planning efforts (WSDOT roundtables, 5th Ave Forward Committee)
- Focus on community-level impacts and neighborhood planning in the affected areas

Questions: Rates

Is part of the very large rate increase in power pole price change from wood poles to non-flammable poles?

- The costs for each type of pole have increased, the cost to modernize and increase safety across the grid is increasing across all aspects of our business.
- The cost of a single distribution pole has risen from \$811 in 2021 to \$1,109 in 2025.
- Avista maintains about 240,000 distribution poles across its service territory.

If I dig into this information, will I be able to determine how much of the cost is driven by requirements to buy from less efficient renewable power sources like wind?

- The only place we can point to is for the incremental cost of CETA, which is a forecasted estimate in our 2021 and 2025 CEIP.
- Actual incremental costs for CETA only will be provided in our upcoming 2021-2025 compliance report that is due July 1, 2026.



Prioritization Named Communities Investment Fund

Amber Lenhart

Marissa York

What is the Named Communities Investment Fund (NCIF)?

- The NCIF was created to support Washington's **Clean Energy Transformation Act**, ensuring that all Avista customers can be part of the state's clean energy transition. It focuses on:
 - **Clean energy projects** such as solar panel installations, energy-efficient building upgrades, and appliance replacements
 - **Deferred maintenance and capital improvements** for buildings in Named Communities and qualifying nonprofits
 - **Cost savings** that allow recipients (nonprofits + community-based organizations) to reinvest in community needs instead of building upgrades

NCIF: How It Works?



Eligible projects include energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy installations, and infrastructure improvements in designated communities.



Funding comes from Avista's utility resources and is often paired with **specialty rebate packages**



Recipients include nonprofits, community organizations, and businesses that serve or operate in Named Communities.



Impact is measured through reduced utility costs, improved energy efficiency, and reinvestment in local social and economic programs.

2025 CEIP Customer Benefit Indicators



Affordability



Accessibility



Energy Resilience



Energy Security



Environmental Affects



Public Health

Participation in
Company Programs

Energy Burden

Outreach &
Communication

Transportation Elec

NC Investments

Energy Availability

Generation
Location

Residential
Disconnects

Outdoor Air
Quality

Greenhouse Gas
Emissions

Employee Diversity

Supplier Diversity

Indoor Air Quality

What NCIF Isn't

A fund without restrictions –
NCIF awards must be
connected to energy
efficiency or our Community
Benefit Indicators

While there are many
worthy projects that need
funding and support Named
Communities, we can only
fund them if **they align
with our clean energy
objectives**

Revisiting NCIF Priorities

- **Goals:**
 - Review previous discussion and new priority ideas
 - Uncover any remaining priority suggestions
 - Rank all new and existing priorities for NCIF funding

Project Ideas vs. Strategic Priorities

- **Project idea examples:**

- Install energy efficient lighting in a school
- Host a booth at Unity in the Community with energy efficiency educational materials
- Install solar panels and an energy storage battery at my neighborhood senior center

- **Strategic Priority example:**

- Improve energy efficiency and implement energy efficiency education in schools, community centers, senior centers, libraries, and other places where Named Communities spend time.

We are looking for **strategic priorities**, but project ideas should be reflected in the priorities

EAG NCIF Prioritization (review)

Rank	Initiatives
1	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time
1	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners
2	Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities
3	Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities (consider tradeoffs with solar)
3	Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities
4	Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-house needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services
5	Set aside funds to match for energy efficiency grant applications for community organizations and tribal partners (could have higher feasibility)
6	Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing (consider including with other initiatives)

NCIF Results At a Glance (review)

- Energy efficiency projects in schools, churches, and community centers
- Projects in partnership with the Spokane Tribe
- Window replacement, duct sealing, and other improvements in multi-family and manufactured homes
- Energy efficient products food food banks and farmers markets
- Matching grant funds for community-driven projects
- Energy efficiency projects in shelters and other facilities for unhoused community members
- Partnerships to plan for increased tree canopy
- Solar, batteries, and enhanced rebates for home insulation, small business lighting, and multi-family energy efficiency
- Projects focused on workforce development and multi-language access

Revisiting EAG Priorities for NCIF Proposals (review)

- What clarifying questions do you have about the process or our goals for today's discussion?
- How are we doing? Are we on the right track?
- How else could an NCIF project benefit your community or named communities?
- What is missing?
 - Were there ideas brainstormed in 2022 that should be included as priorities, but currently are not?
 - What new ideas do you have for project priorities?

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Maintain all priorities, there is still good work to be done.

What we suggest:

- Keep existing ideas but re-prioritize.

Recommended changes:

- Redo prioritization activity.

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Add libraries and senior centers as places where Named Communities spend time.
- More energy efficiency education for communities

What we suggest:

- Context: Avista has ongoing education projects. Energy efficiency education in communities could also fit into an existing priority.
- Modify existing priority.

Recommended changes:

- Revise: *"Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency (and EE awareness/education) for schools, community centers, and other places where Named Communities spend time"*
→ *"Improve energy efficiency and implement energy efficiency education in schools, community centers, senior centers, libraries, and other places where Named Communities spend time."*

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- More sustainable, resilient communities prepared for natural disasters, power outages, inclement weather, and other emergencies.
- Clean air and cooling shelters

What we suggest:

- Context: Avista has been doing this in the City of Spokane (e.g., MLK Center), GU Climate Resilience Project, and Wellpinit (microgrid).
- Add new priority but consider focusing outside of the City of Spokane.

Recommended changes:

- Add new priority: *"Grow community resilience and sustainability in preparation for natural disasters, inclement weather, power outages, and other emergencies in Named Communities especially outside of the City of Spokane."*

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Are novel, innovative projects eligible?

What we suggest:

- This is a foundational guiding principle for the Named Communities Investment Fund. Innovative project ideas are always welcome as long as they tie into the Customer Benefit Indicators and Clean Energy Implementation Plan. No changes to priorities needed.

Recommended changes:

- Avista could consider emphasizing this in information about the Named Communities Investment Fund.

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Are new builds and renovations relevant to the Fund?

What we suggest:

- Renovations to places where Named Communities spend time could fit under the existing priority. Because of the code requirements, new builds aren't as relevant. No changes to priorities needed.

Recommended changes:

- No changes needed.

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Support small businesses or increase access to basic needs such as healthy foods, or something about checking other boxes/having co-benefits for well-being

What we suggest:

- The application review already considers how projects benefit Named Communities in other ways (i.e., "co-benefits") and prioritizes these projects.

Recommended changes:

- Avista could consider emphasizing this in information about the Named Communities Investment Fund.

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Reducing energy burden, supporting access to energy (maybe help learning about paying bills, help unhoused people get on their feet)
- Homelessness to housing with stabilization, working with community action partners like SNAP and Rural Resources

What we suggest:

- We can expand the existing priority to be broader than energy efficiency and encompass skill building and other supports to improve access to housing.

Recommended changes:

- Update: *"Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing (consider including with other initiatives)"*
→ *"Improve conditions for community members without stable housing to reduce energy burden and increase energy efficiency and access to stable housing."*

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Complement/leverage other partner-funded opportunities (like the County or City)

What we suggest:

- Context: This is already considered in application review but seems important to emphasize.
- Consider expanding existing priority or adding to weighting in application review.

Recommended changes:

- Update: *"Set aside funds to match for energy efficiency grant applications for community organizations and tribal partners (could have higher feasibility)"*
→ *"Leverage outside funding opportunities, for example by complementing partner-funded opportunities or matching funds for grant applications."*
- Avista could consider adding this to weighting for proposal assessment.

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

What we heard:

- Add "and preserve" to the tree canopy priority

What we suggest:

- Modify existing priority.

Recommended changes:

- Update: *"Increase tree canopy and shade in Named Communities (consider tradeoffs with solar)"*
→ *"Increase and preserve tree canopy and shade in Named Communities."*

EAG Input on NCIF Priorities (February 2026)

- What did we miss?
- Clarifying questions?
- Concerns or suggested revisions to recommended changes?
- Any **new** ideas for strategic priorities to add?

Ranking NCIF Funding Priorities

- **Criteria:**
 - **Leverage**
 - Where can small efforts have large positive impacts for Named Communities? Where are there opportunities to address unmet needs?
 - **Feasibility**
 - Are projects under this priority within reach? Do the resources exist? Are they appropriate for Avista?
 - **Specificity**
 - Are the priorities clear and specific or vague and ambiguous?
 - **Values**
 - To what extent do the priorities align with equity goals, energy savings, and Customer Benefit Indicators?

Ranking Priorities

Strategic Priorities

	Leverage	Feasibility	Specificity	Values
Improve energy efficiency and implement energy efficiency education in schools, community centers, senior centers, libraries, and other places where Named Communities spend time.*				
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners.				
Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities.				
Increase and preserve tree canopy and shade in Named Communities.*				
Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for Named Communities.				
Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-house needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services.				
Leverage outside funding opportunities, for example by complementing partner-funded opportunities or matching funds for grant applications.*				
Improve conditions for community members without stable housing to reduce energy burden and increase energy efficiency and access to stable housing.*				
Grow community resilience and sustainability in preparation for natural disasters, inclement weather, power outages, and other emergencies in Named Communities especially outside of the City of Spokane.**				

*Revised

**New



Questions and Discussion

Amber Lenhart

Questions and Discussion

- ☐ What clarifying questions or curiosities do you have about the presentations?
- ☐ What disparities, root factors, or inequities (historic and current) are related to these topics?
- ☐ How could Avista improve engagement strategies related to these topics, if at all?
- ☐ What new ways could help measure and track benefits and reduced burdens related to these topics?
- ☐ What steps, practices, or policies could help reduce future inequities related to these topics?
- ☐ How does this affect your community? What steps will you take after learning about these topics?

Thank you



Next EAG Equity Lens Session Meetings

Afternoon: 12 pm to
1:30 pm

**Wednesday, July
22nd**

Friday, July 24th

Morning: 7:30 am to
9:00 am

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