

Equity Responsive Budgeting at the City of Toronto

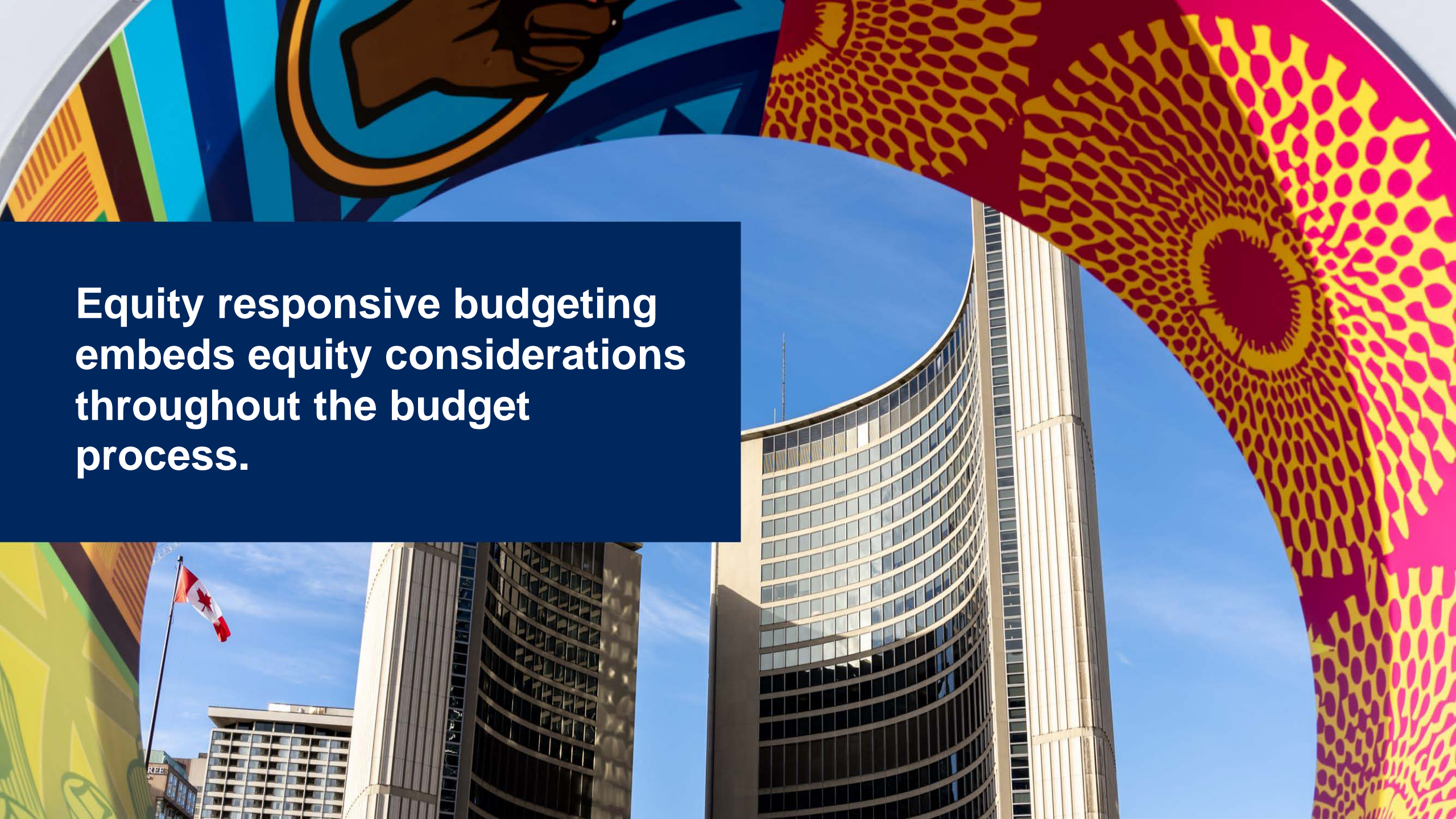


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Overview of Equity Responsive Budgeting at the City of Toronto

1. Origins of Equity Responsive Budgeting (ERB) in Toronto
2. City of Toronto Budget process
3. City of Toronto approach to ERB
4. Supporting informed decision making - ERB deliverables
5. Next steps
6. Questions



**Equity responsive budgeting
embeds equity considerations
throughout the budget
process.**

Origins of ERB: Council's Equity Priorities



Council has set several **equity priorities**, some of which are indicated in the following strategies:

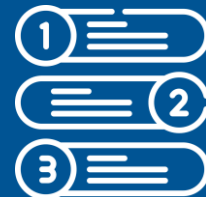
- [Toronto Action Plan to Confront Anti-Black Racism](#)
- [TO Prosperity: Toronto Poverty Reduction Strategy](#)
- [Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy](#)

Origins of ERB: Council Directions



Council has directed staff to **implement equity responsive budgeting**.

- <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.EX16.37>
- <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2017.EX25.18>
- <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EX31.2>
- <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2018.EX34.9>



City of Toronto Budget Process

- 1** The Financial Planning Division provides guidelines and instructions to City divisions and programs
- 2** City staff prepare Budget submissions
- 3** Budget Launch of public political process
- 4** Budget Committee meets; Community meetings; Deputations
- 5** Budget Committee recommends Budget to Executive Committee, then City Council
- 6** City Council debates, amends and passes final Budget

City of Toronto's approach to Equity Responsive Budgeting



- Currently, ERB provides an **equity impact analysis of changes (reductions and investments) in the Operating Budget** to inform decision-making throughout the budget process.
- Currently, ERB does not include providing policy direction to protect and/or enhance equity, but rather relies on the policy setting agenda outside of the Budget process.

City of Toronto's approach to Equity Responsive Budgeting



An initiative to support **informed decision-making** that includes:

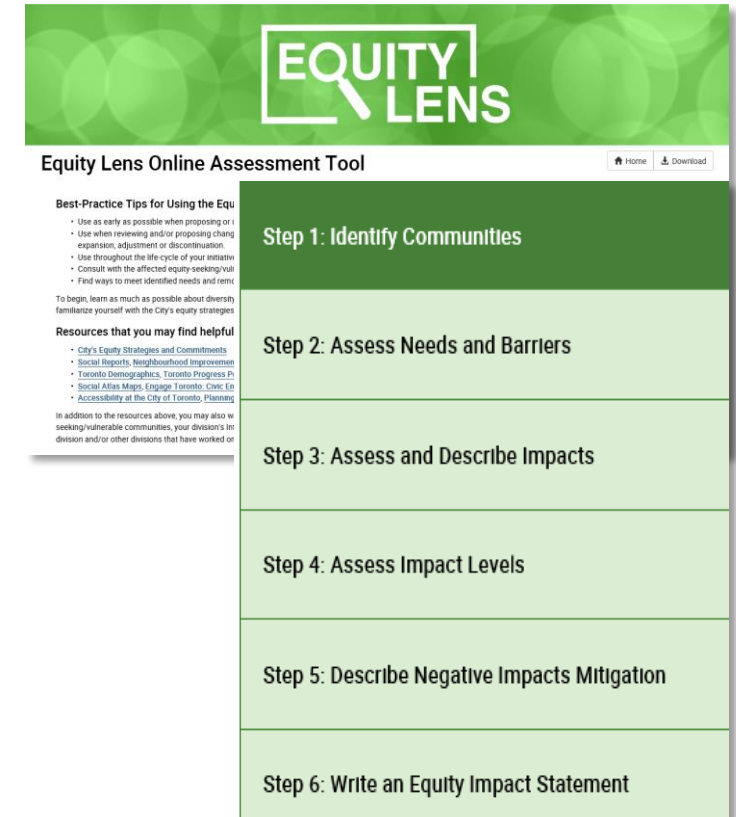
- I. **analyzing** how proposed changes to the Operating Budget decrease, maintain and/or increase inequities,
- II. **reporting** the outcomes of the analysis throughout the budget process, including the development, public deliberations and decision-making stages

City of Toronto's Equity Lens Tool



All budget proposals must include an Equity Impact Statement that is generated relying on the City's Equity Lens Tool.

- 1) Does the proposal impact Indigenous, Black and/or any equity-seeking group?
- 2) How does the proposal impact the barriers faced by these groups?
- 3) What is the level of impact on equity, if any?



Indigenous, Black and Equity-seeking groups



The City currently focuses on the following **Indigenous, Black and equity-seeking populations:**

- Indigenous Peoples
- Racialized - Black
- Racialized groups
- Persons with Disabilities
- Women
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer,
- Two-Spirit Communities (LGBTQ2S)
- Undocumented Individuals
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Persons with Low Income
- Vulnerable Youth
- Vulnerable Seniors

Barriers to Equity



- Anything that **limit or exclude** people from fully participating in the life of the city
- Can take **various forms**, including: sociological, financial/economic, technological, geographic, linguistic, cultural, attitudinal, behavioural, physical, institutional, and systemic

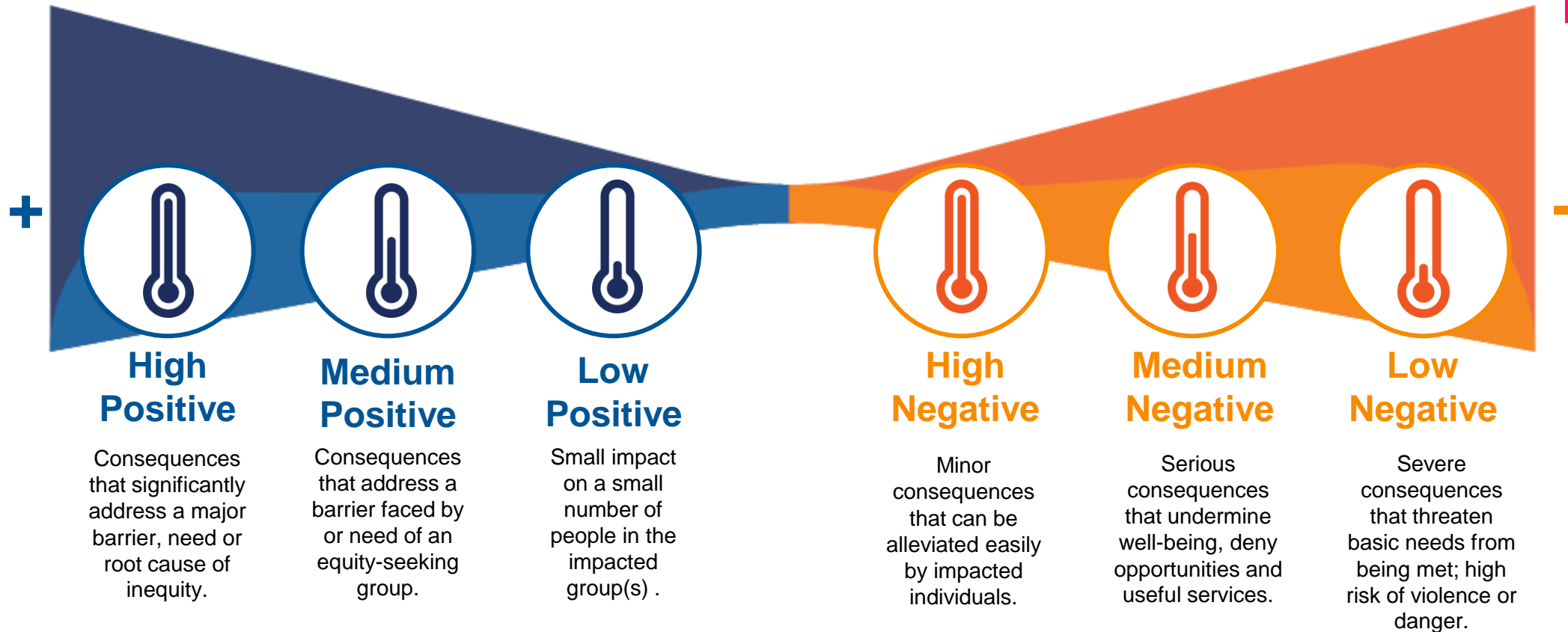
Needs, Barriers and Root Causes i

Select all that apply

- Access to Affordable Childcare
- Access to Affordable Eldercare
- Access to Affordable Housing
- Access to City Information
- Access to City Services
- Access to City Spaces
- Access to Economic Development Opportunities



Equity Impact Levels



External Review Panel



- A diverse group of subject matter experts, including people with lived experience of inequity and discrimination
- The Panel reviews confidential budget proposals, providing insight and analysis of potential equity impacts
- Findings of the Panel are summarized in a publicly available Budget Briefing Note

Supporting informed decision making from development to...



- The Equity Impact Statements are included as part of the individual budget proposals to support decision-makers throughout the various stages of the Budget development
- Reports summarizing the equity impacts of individual budget proposals are provided to Division Heads and Senior Leadership as the Staff Recommended Budget is developed and finalized

Supporting informed decision-making ...to Council decision



- An External Review Panel is convened to review the budget proposals and provide an analysis of the equity impacts of the Staff Recommended Budget. The findings of the External Review Panel are summarized in a Budget Briefing Note that is made publicly available.
- The Equity Impacts Statements for all Budget proposals are included in the Staff Recommended Operating Budgets. The overall equity impacts are also included in the Summary of the Division's Operating Budget.



**Equity Responsive
Budgeting is a key
piece of the City's
equity infrastructure**

Next steps



Budget Modernization

- Greater accountability and transparency
- Greater integration of ERB throughout budget process
- **Strengthening the City's equity and reconciliation infrastructure**
- Equity Lens Tool
- Data for Equity
- Equity Responsive Budgeting

Questions?

