Equity Tracker

Central Puget Sound Economic Development District Board

2023 September 6

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Overview

The Equity Tracker Project

- Background & purpose
- Key product elements
- Co-creation with Equity Advisory Committee

Project Status & Plans

- Draft webpages
- Next steps

Background & purpose

Requests for technical support on equity

- PSRC, partners, & stakeholders working to advance equity, address disparities
- Feedback includes need for data to help answer key questions:

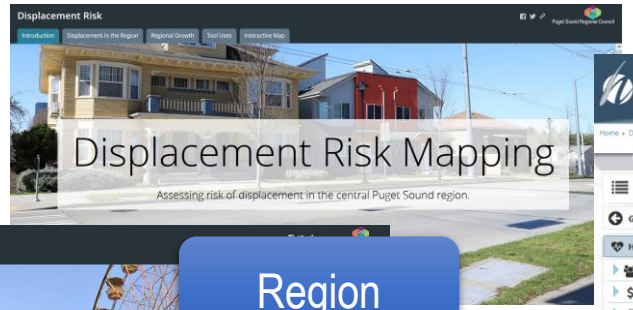
What are the disparities in life outcomes for different people?

What progress is the region making in closing equity gaps?

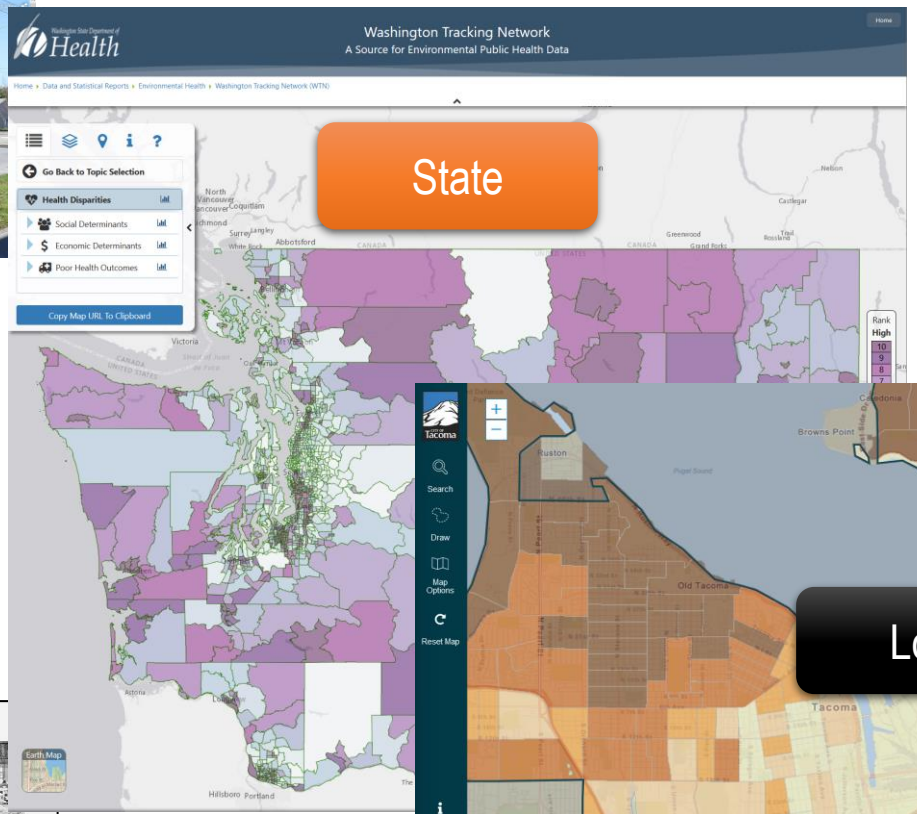
How can people hold PSRC and others accountable for their work?

Are plans and policies in the region collectively working in the right direction?

Existing equity-related resources

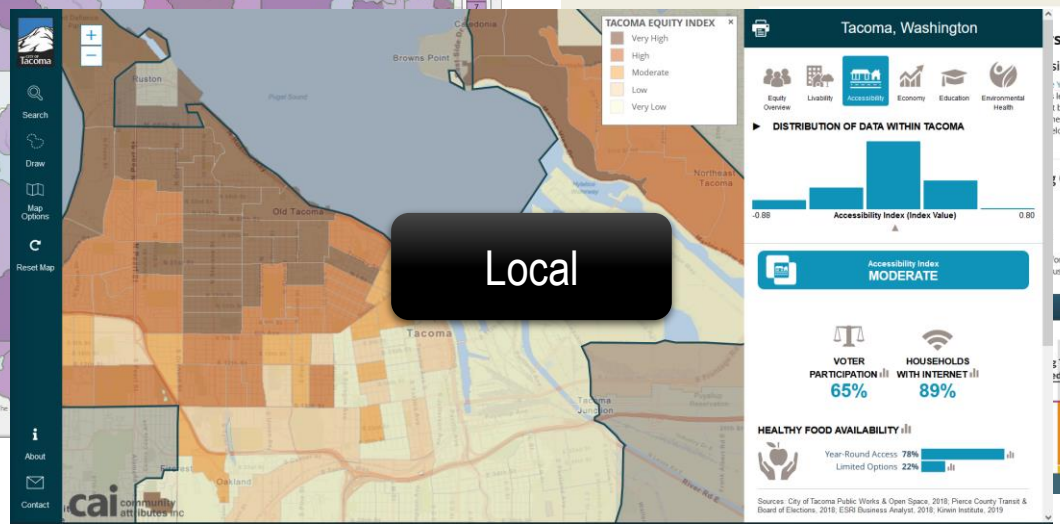


Region

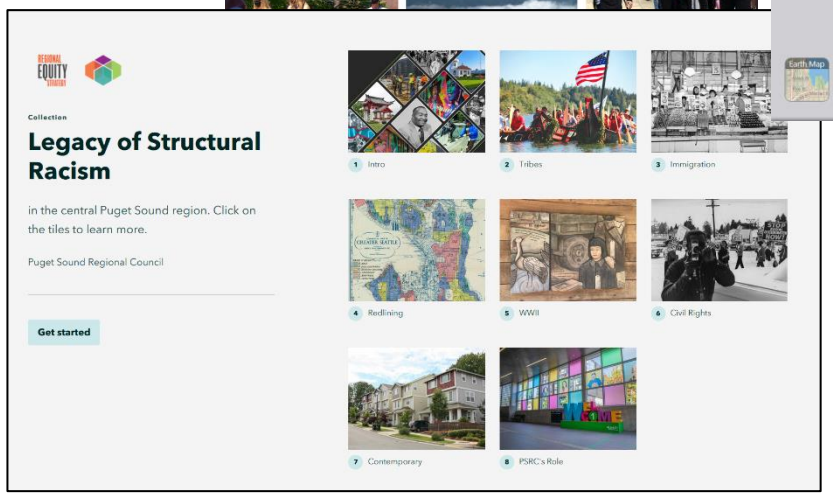


State

County



Local



Data gap: Comprehensive tool to measure disparities & track equity performance across the central Puget Sound region

Regional Equity Strategy

Capacity Building

- Learning Opportunities
- Prioritizing Equity
- Inclusive Procurement
- Hiring and Retention

Community Engagement

- Equity Advisory Committee
- Anti-Displacement Organizations
- Inclusive Engagement Guidance

Data and Research

- Equity Analyses
- **Equity Tracker**
- Legacy of Structural Racism
- Data & Analysis

Best Practices

- Equity Impact Tool
- Equity Planning Resources

Regional Equity Strategy: https://www.psrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/equitystrategy-workplan-full.pdf

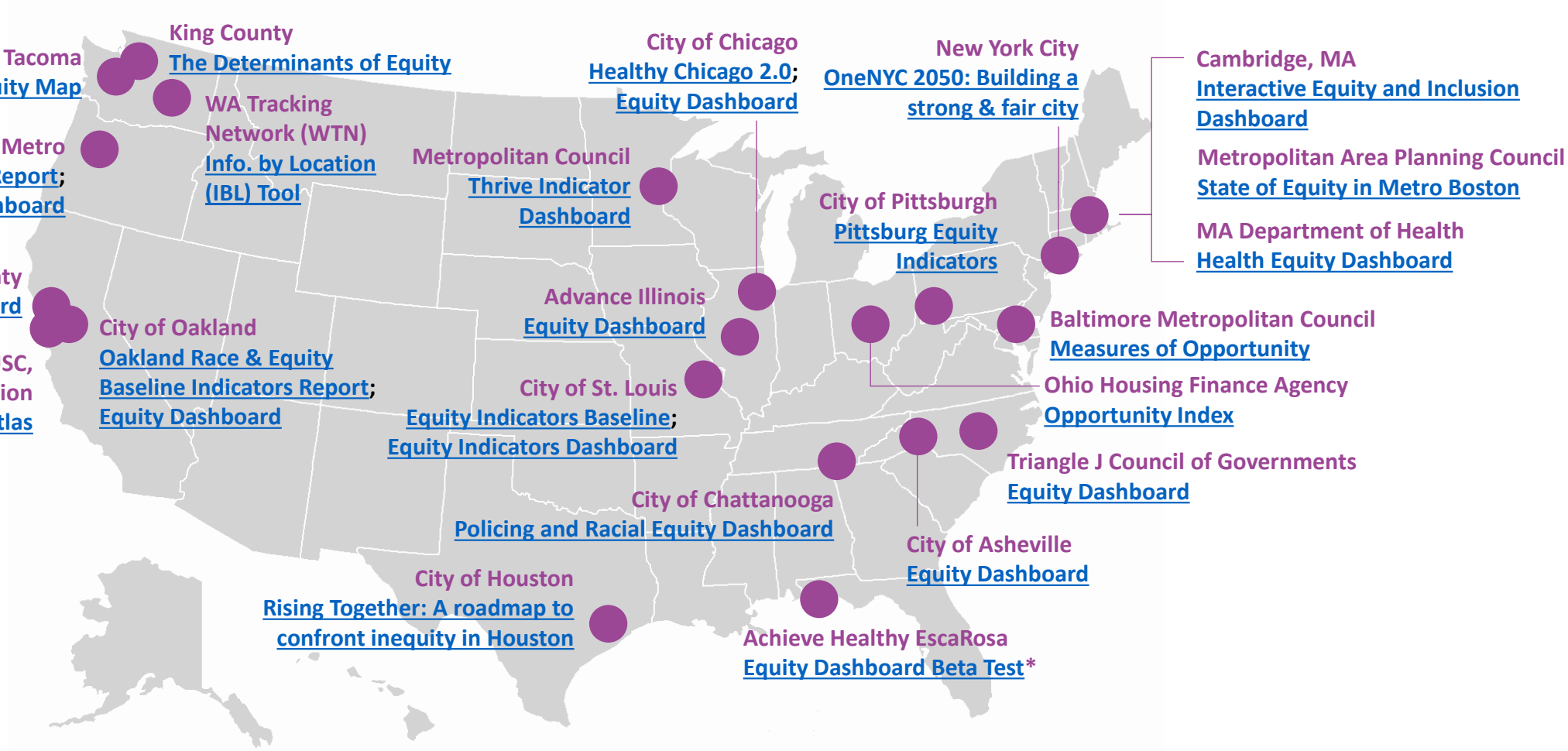
Key product elements

Equity Tracker goals

Three primary goals

- Measure life outcomes & highlight disparities between communities
- Track performance over time in closing equity gaps
- Publicly hold PSRC & its partners accountable

Review: Examples of equity data tools



*The equity dashboard is no longer available (in Jan 2022), but the outcomes to measure can be found in the data page.

4 key takeaways from reviews

1) Direct connection to specific programs & plans

- Use data to measure/track equity progress

➔ *PSRC Equity Tracker foundation based on VISION 2050*

2) Systematic & rigorous evaluation of data & sources

- Trusted source? Sound methods?
- Ease of access?
- Regularly updated?
- About people & places within our region?

➔ *Use technical rubric to score & rank data candidates*

4 key takeaways from reviews

3) Uses: provide info (primary), share data (secondary)

- Public display of equity outcomes & disparities
- Support stakeholders with equity-related data

➔ *Equity Tracker aims to do both, prioritize info provision first*

4) Complementary info to data can enhance tool

- Some dashboards contain data & little else
- Others are more comprehensive

➔ *Provide context & interpretations, point to solutions*

Co-creation with Equity Advisory Comm.

Engagements with EAC members

2022

FEB *EAC meeting*: Introduced Equity Tracker
Determined support, areas of interest, ways to interact

APR *EAC meeting*: Discussed key elements

MAY Members started review of draft webpages

AUG End of feedback period (new PSRC website launched)

OCT *EAC meeting*: Discussed feedback & priorities

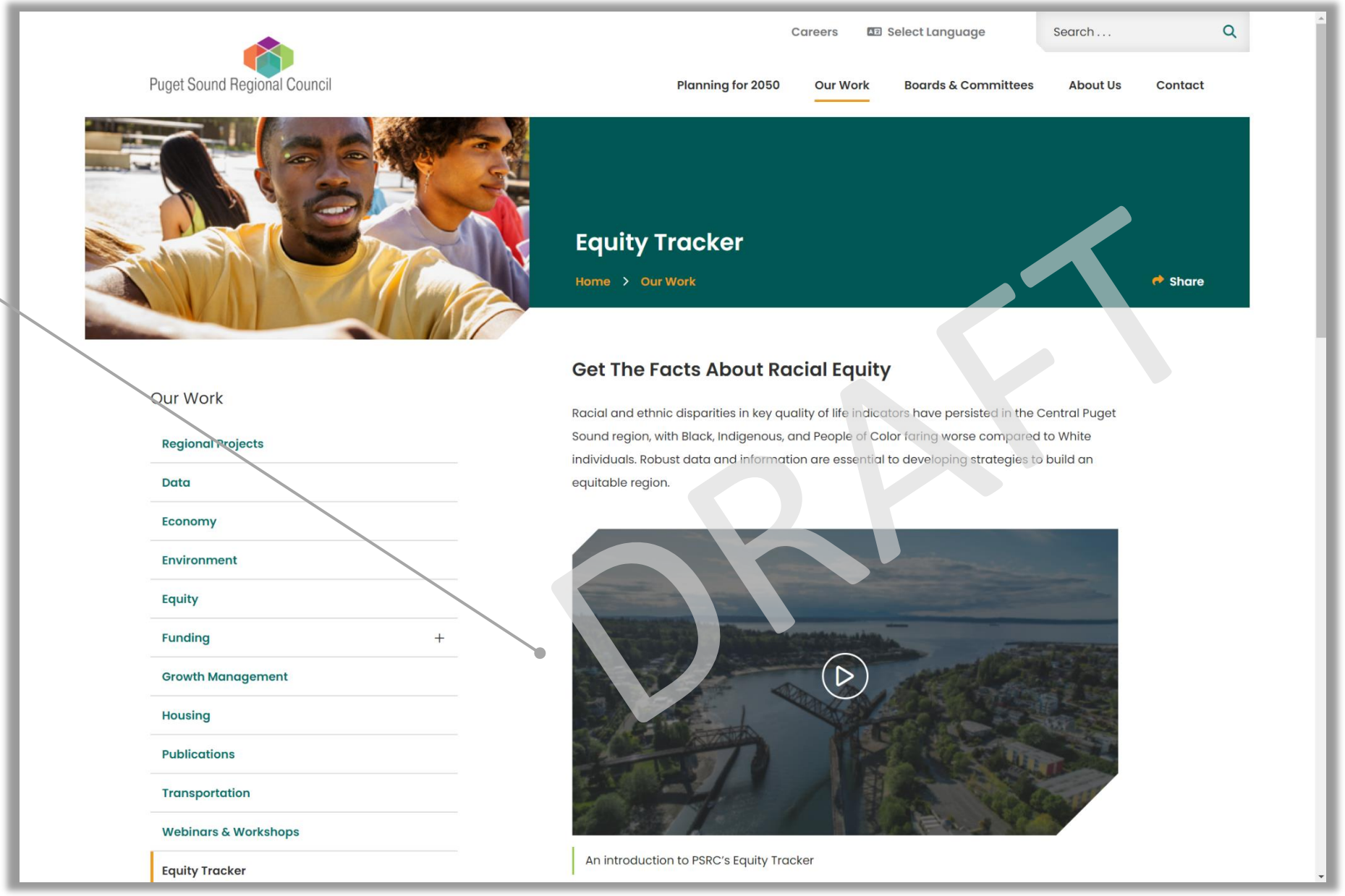
2023

JUN *EAC meeting*: Provided updates, previewed new drafts

Draft webpages & next steps

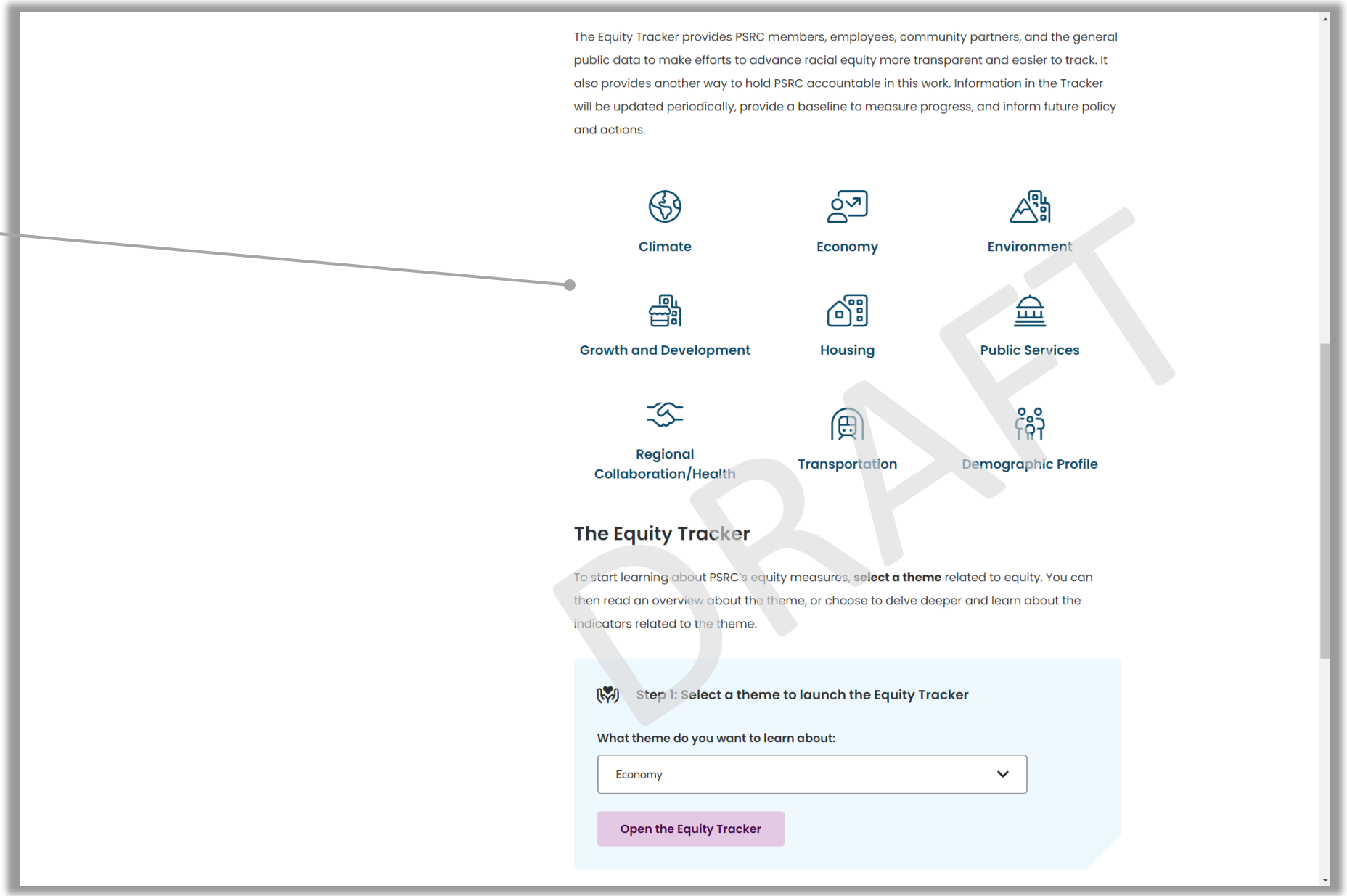
Equity Tracker landing page

- Introductory video



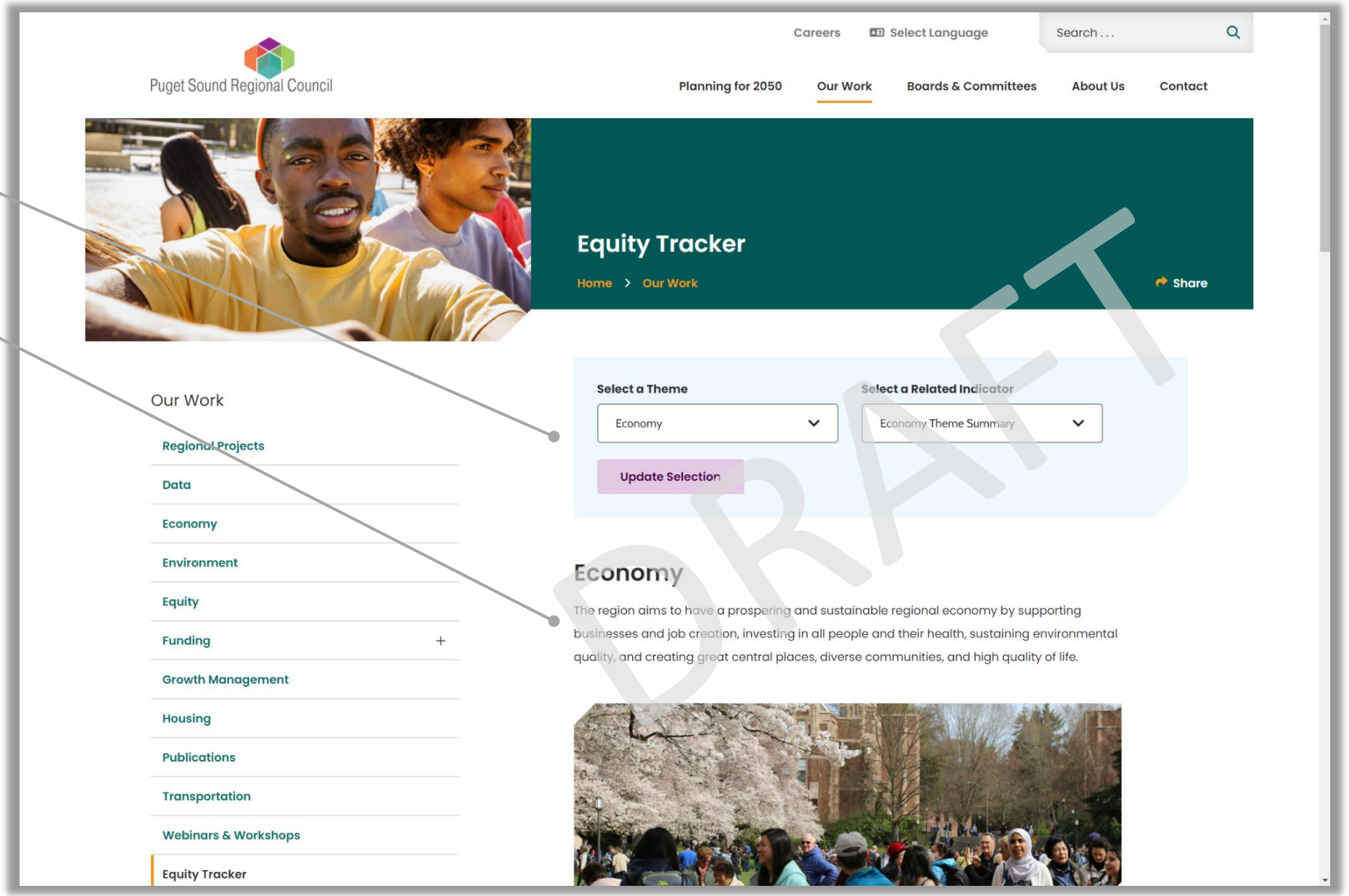
Equity Tracker landing page

- Organized by themes (based on VISION 2050)



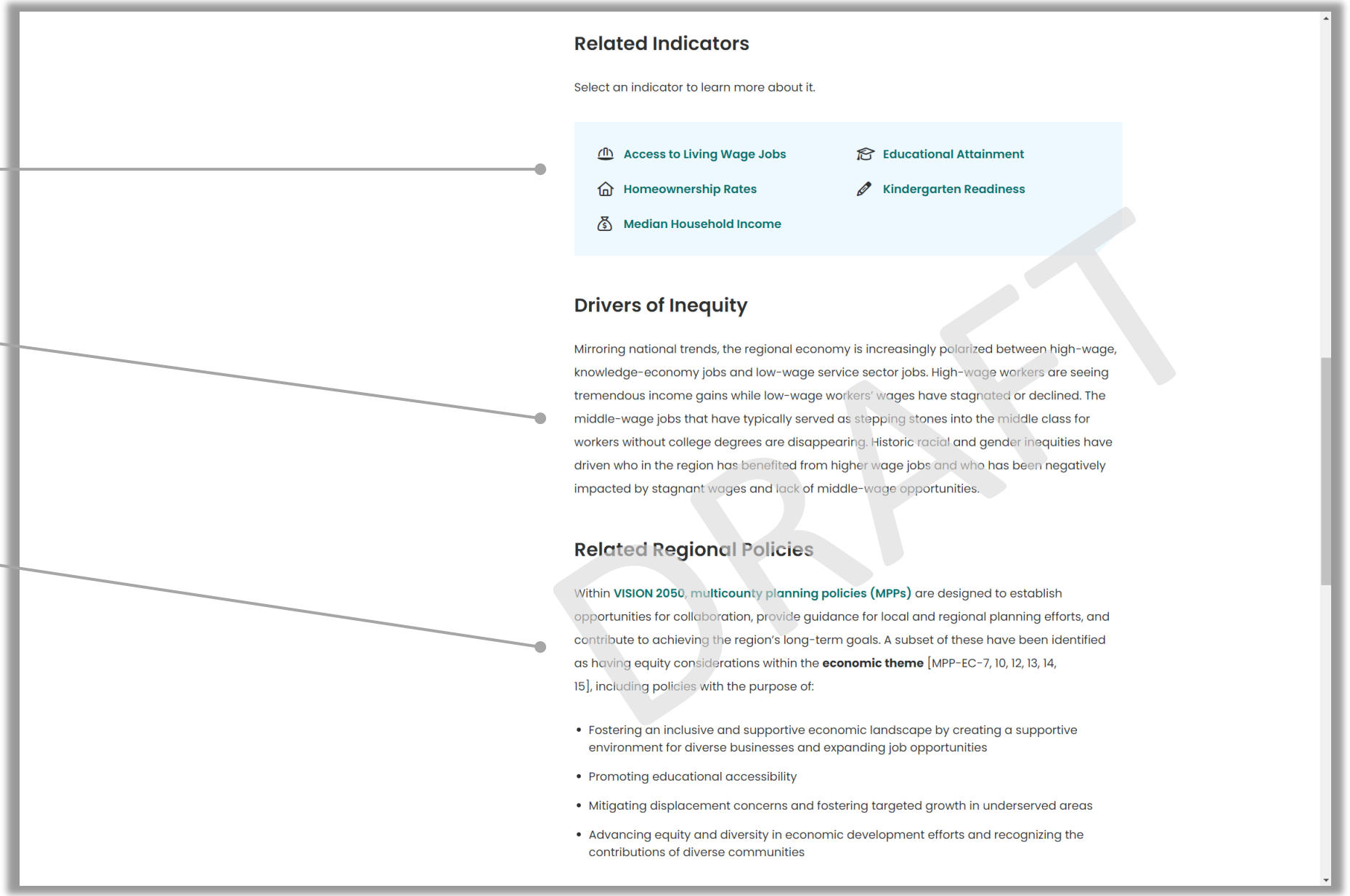
Thematic page (Economy)

- Navigation
- Introduction



Thematic page (Economy)

- Navigation
- Context
- VISION 2050 policies



Related Indicators

Select an indicator to learn more about it.

- Access to Living Wage Jobs
- Educational Attainment
- Homeownership Rates
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Median Household Income

Drivers of Inequity

Mirroring national trends, the regional economy is increasingly polarized between high-wage, knowledge-economy jobs and low-wage service sector jobs. High-wage workers are seeing tremendous income gains while low-wage workers' wages have stagnated or declined. The middle-wage jobs that have typically served as stepping stones into the middle class for workers without college degrees are disappearing. Historic racial and gender inequities have driven who in the region has benefited from higher wage jobs and who has been negatively impacted by stagnant wages and lack of middle-wage opportunities.

Related Regional Policies

Within **VISION 2050, multicounty planning policies (MPPs)** are designed to establish opportunities for collaboration, provide guidance for local and regional planning efforts, and contribute to achieving the region's long-term goals. A subset of these have been identified as having equity considerations within the **economic theme** [MPP-EC-7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15], including policies with the purpose of:

- Fostering an inclusive and supportive economic landscape by creating a supportive environment for diverse businesses and expanding job opportunities
- Promoting educational accessibility
- Mitigating displacement concerns and fostering targeted growth in underserved areas
- Advancing equity and diversity in economic development efforts and recognizing the contributions of diverse communities

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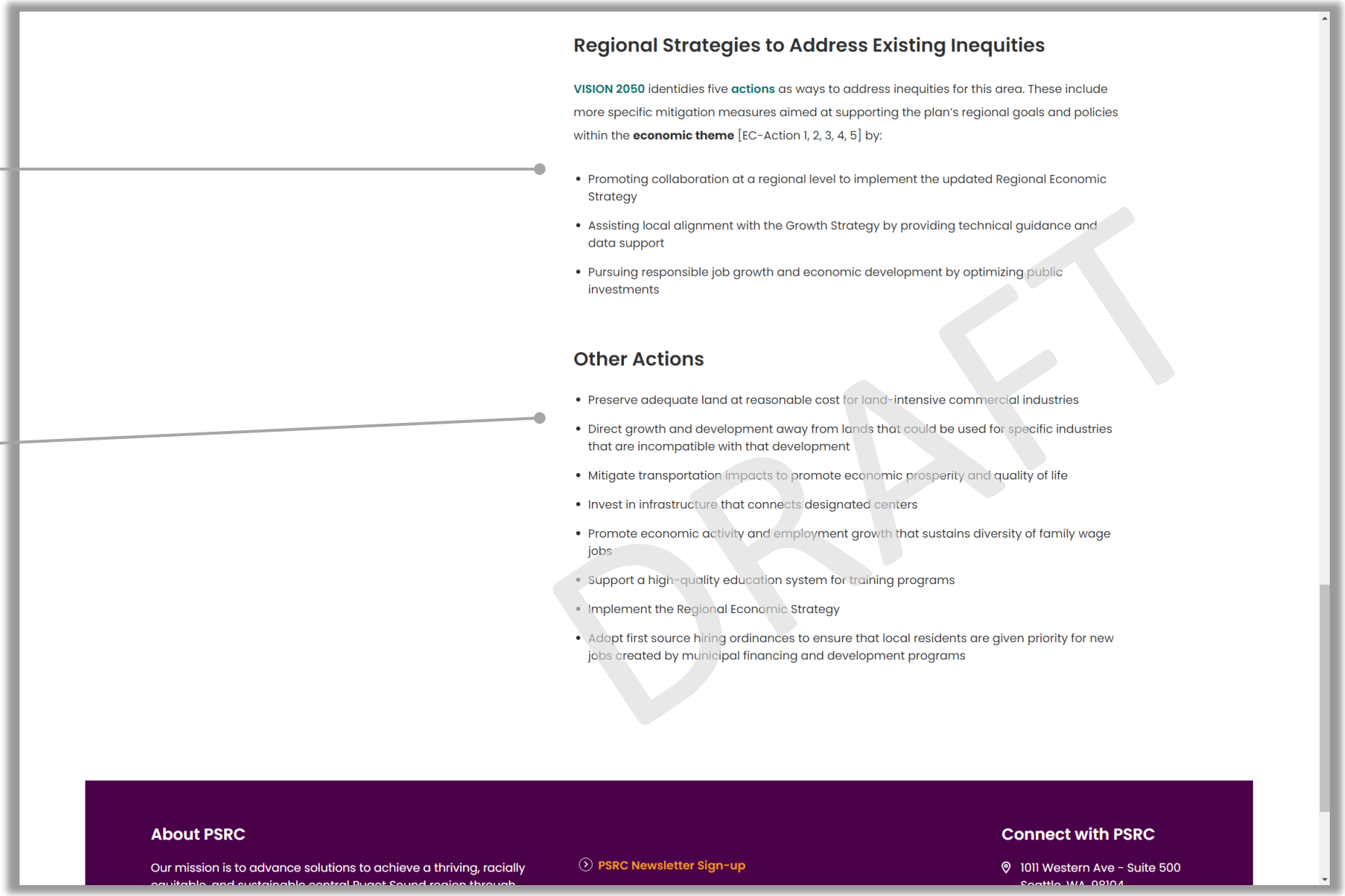
Thematic page (Economy)

- VISION 2050 actions
- Other solution approaches



Regional Strategies to Address Existing Inequities

VISION 2050 identifies five actions as ways to address inequities for this area. These include more specific mitigation measures aimed at supporting the plan's regional goals and policies within the **economic theme** [EC-Action 1, 2, 3, 4, 5] by:

- Promoting collaboration at a regional level to implement the updated Regional Economic Strategy
- Assisting local alignment with the Growth Strategy by providing technical guidance and data support
- Pursuing responsible job growth and economic development by optimizing public investments

Other Actions

- Preserve adequate land at reasonable cost for land-intensive commercial industries
- Direct growth and development away from lands that could be used for specific industries that are incompatible with that development
- Mitigate transportation impacts to promote economic prosperity and quality of life
- Invest in infrastructure that connects designated centers
- Promote economic activity and employment growth that sustains diversity of family wage jobs
- Support a high-quality education system for training programs
- Implement the Regional Economic Strategy
- Adopt first source hiring ordinances to ensure that local residents are given priority for new jobs created by municipal financing and development programs

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About PSRC

Our mission is to advance solutions to achieve a thriving, racially

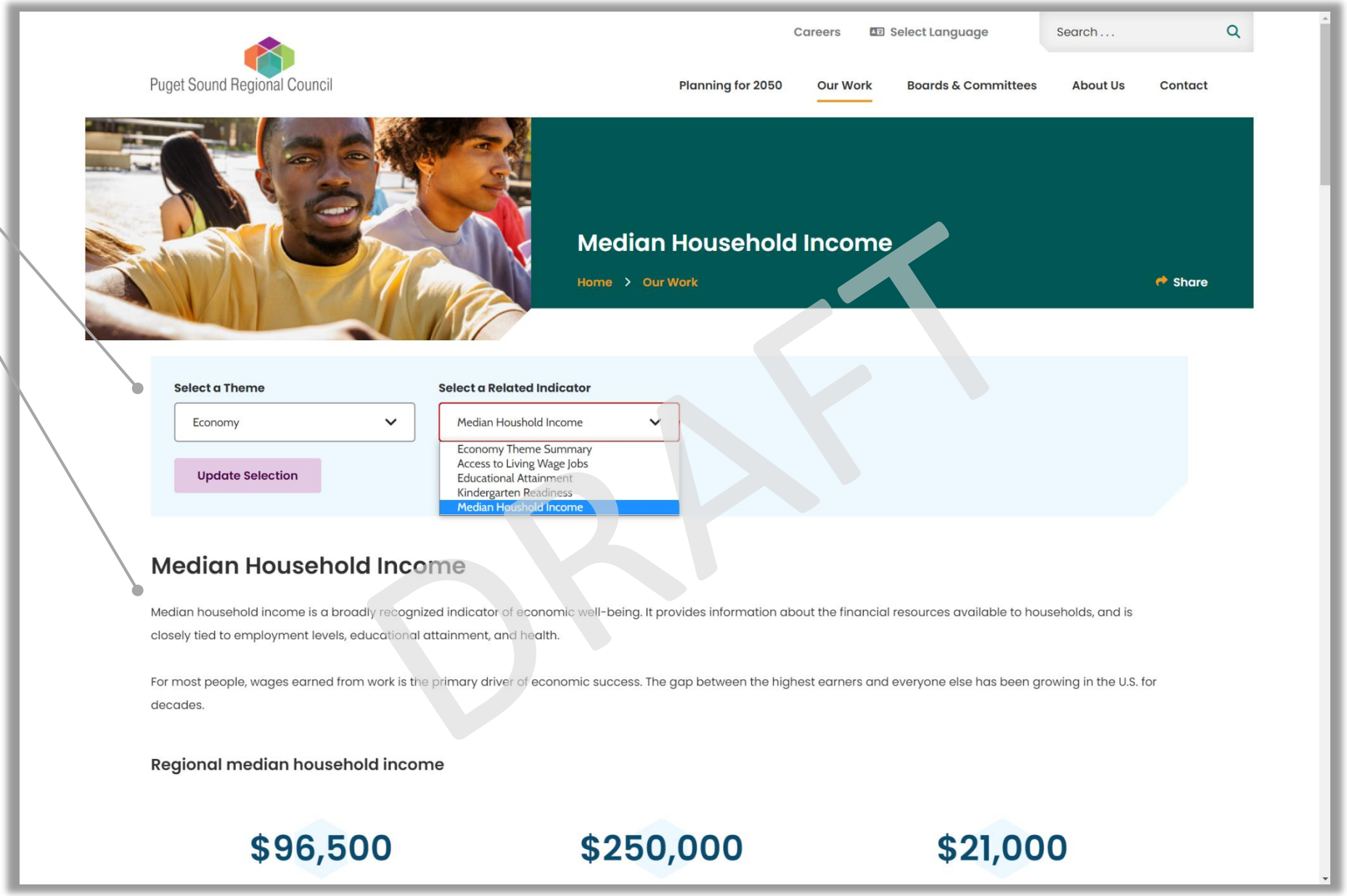
PSRC Newsletter Sign-up

Connect with PSRC

1011 Western Ave - Suite 500

Indicator page (Median household inc.)

- Navigation
- Introduction



Indicator page (Median household inc.)

Current conditions

- Regional highlights
- Interactive map
- Key takeaways

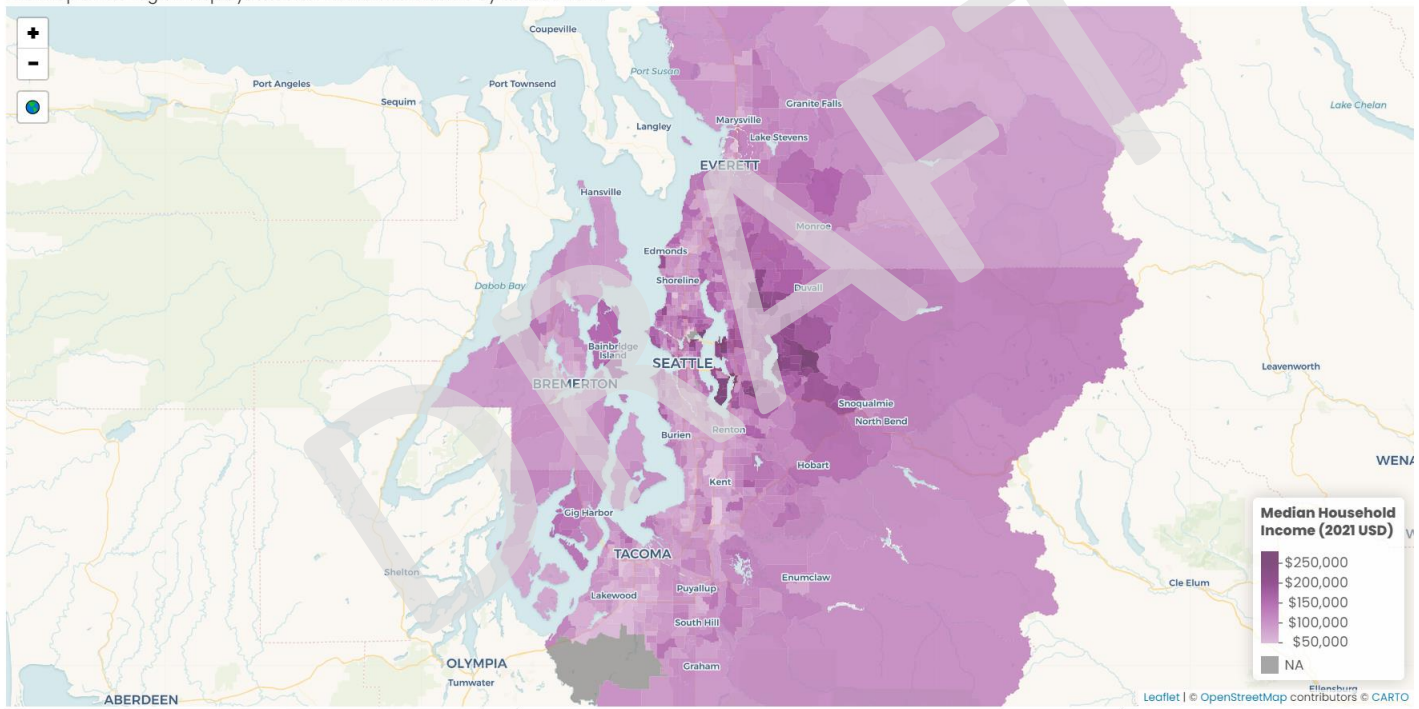
Regional median household income

$96,500
Regional median household income

$250,000
Highest median household income for census tracts (in King County)

$21,000
Lowest median household income for census tract (in King County)

The map of the region displays median household income by census tract.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2021 5-Year Estimates; U.S. Census Bureau, Geography Division 2020 TIGER/Line Shapefiles

Insights & Analysis

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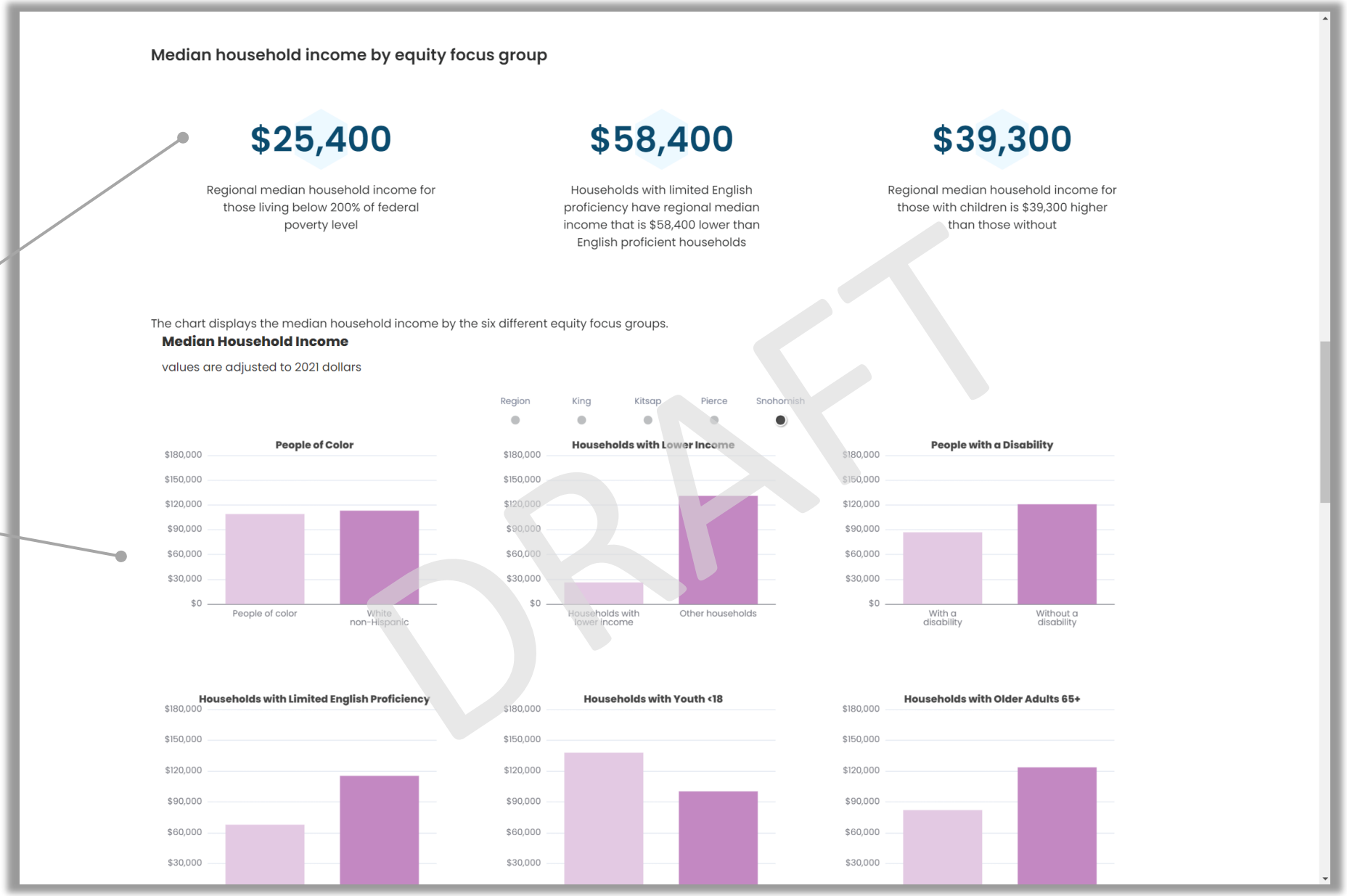
Indicator page (Median household inc.)

Current gaps

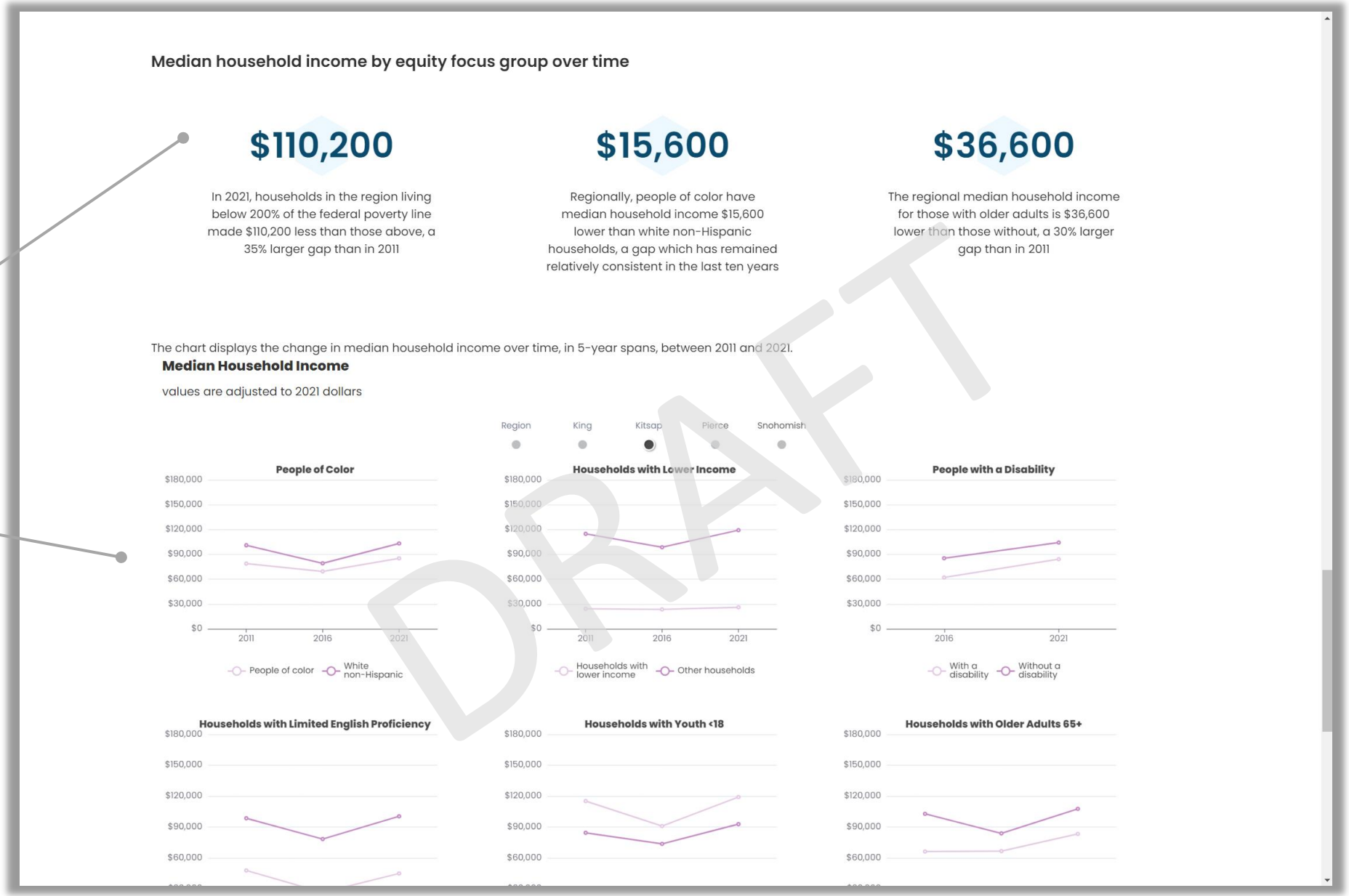
- Regional & county highlights
- Interactive chart
- Key takeaways



Indicator page (Median household inc.)

Recent trends

- Regional & county highlights
- Interactive chart
- Key takeaways



Next steps

Immediate timeline

- Review content with subject matter experts (next two months)
- Version 1 public release (late 2023/early 2024)

On-going work

- Data preparation & research (recent efforts on climate, criminal justice system, economy, environment, health, housing)
- Coordination with other data tracking projects (e.g., Regional Transportation Plan dashboard, Housing Monitoring)

Thank you!

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