



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Climate Justice Working Group Meeting

December 7, 2022

Meeting Procedures

- Meeting rooms will be muted to reduce noise
- Working Group members should raise their hand to indicate they would like to speak
- Please state your name before speaking for transcript purposes





Roll Call



Agenda for December 7, 2022

1. Vote on meeting minutes from previous meetings
2. Updates on what we are doing
3. How we are addressing comments
4. Open Discussion of Comments
 - Recommended Indicators
 - Prioritization by working group members
5. Individual criteria
 - Yes or no to criteria
 - SMI v. AMI



Approval of Minutes



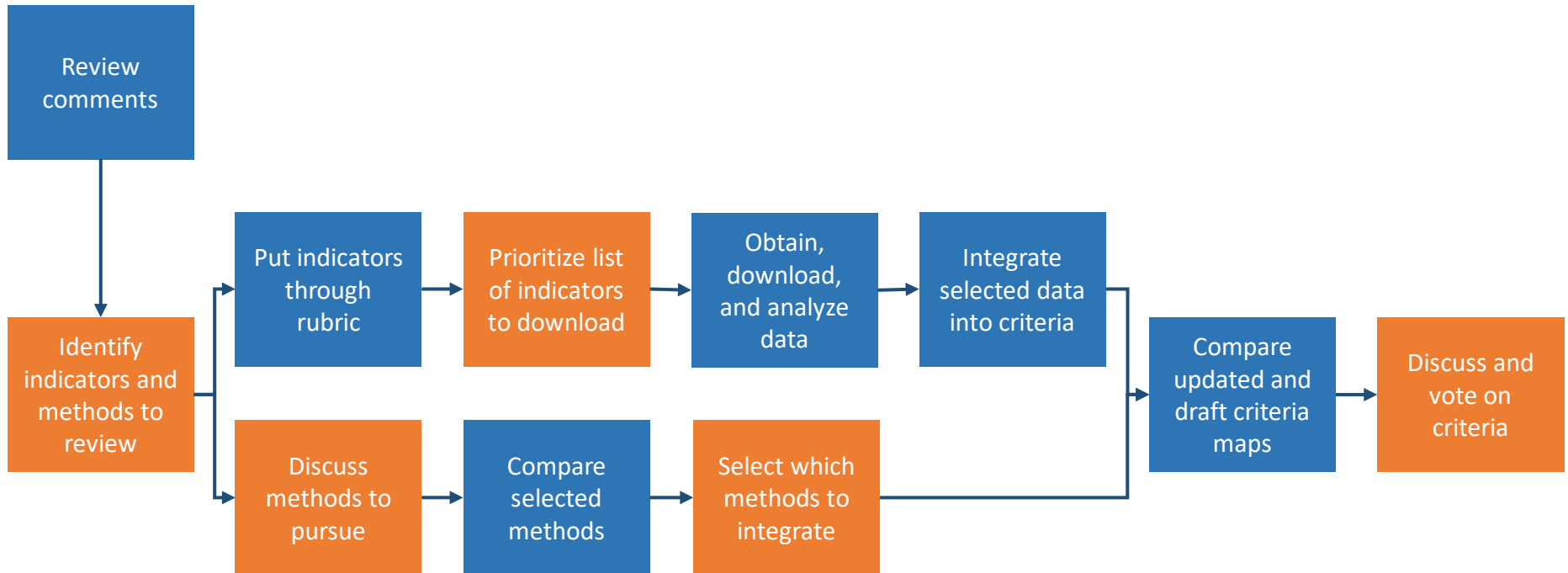
Updates



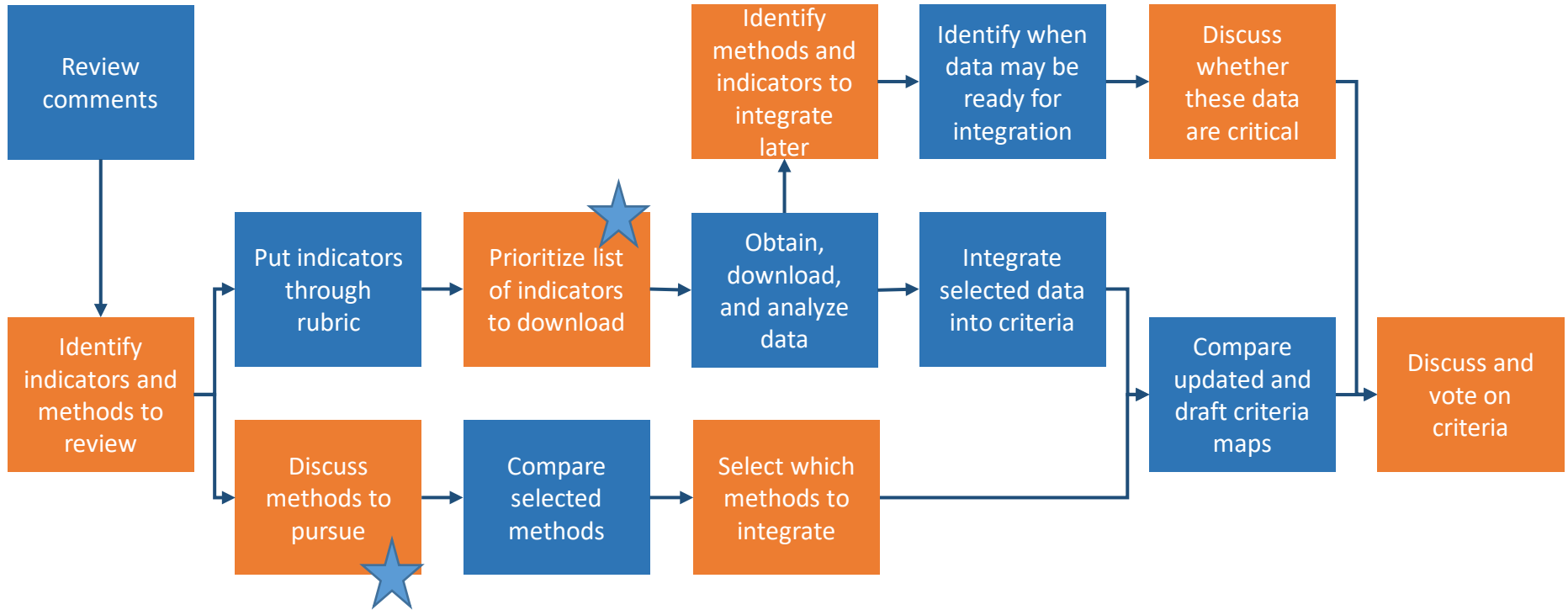
How Are We Addressing Comments



Comment process



Comment process





**Open Discussion on
Comments**

Quick Review of Current Indicators

Indicators Considered

More than 170 indicators considered for inclusion.

CJWG went with 45 of the strongest indicators that were:

1. Supported by sufficient and high-quality granular statewide data, and
2. Applicable to the goals or applications of disadvantaged communities under the Climate Act

1 Framework: Burdens, Risks & Vulnerabilities

The Geographic DAC scoring approach uses data from national and state sources to select 45 indicators in the following categories for each census tract in NY state.

Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks

Potential
Pollution
Exposures

Land use assoc.
with historical
discrimination or
disinvestment

Potential
Climate
Change Risks

20 Indicators in this component

Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities

Income,
Education,
Employment

Race,
Ethnicity,
Language

Health
Impacts &
Burdens

Housing,
Energy,
Communica-
tions

25 Indicators in this component



1

Environmental Burdens and Climate Change Risks: Draft Indicators

Potential Pollution Exposures

- Vehicle traffic density
- Diesel truck and bus traffic
- Particulate Matter (PM2.5)
- Benzene concentration
- Wastewater discharge

Land use and facilities associated with historical discrimination or disinvestment

- Remediation Sites (e.g., NPL Superfund or State Superfund/Class II sites)
- Regulated Management Plan (chemical) sites
- Major oil storage facilities (incl. airports)
- Power generation facilities
- Active landfills
- Municipal waste combustors
- Scrap metal processors
- Industrial/manufacturing/mining land use (zoning)
- Housing vacancy rate

Potential Climate Change Risks

- Extreme heat projections (>90° days in 2050)
- Flooding in coastal and tidally influenced areas (projected)
- Flooding in inland areas (projected)
- Low vegetative cover
- Agricultural land
- Driving time to hospitals or urgent/critical care



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Population Characteristics and Health Vulnerabilities: Draft Indicators

Income, Education & Employment

- Pct <80% Area Median Income
- Pct <100% of Federal Poverty Line
- Pct without Bachelor's Degree
- Unemployment rate
- Pct Single-parent households

Within this factor, both income metrics have 2x weight

Race, Ethnicity & Language

- Pct Latino/a or Hispanic
- Pct Black or African American
- Pct Asian
- Pct Native American or Indigenous
- Limited English Proficiency
- Historical redlining score

Within this factor, Pct Latino/a and Pct Black have 2x weight

Health Impacts & Sensitivities

- Asthma ED visits
- COPD ED visits
- Heart attack (MI) hospitalization
- Premature Deaths
- Low Birthweight
- Pct without Health Insurance
- Pct with Disabilities
- Pct Adults age 65+

Housing, Energy, Communications

- Pct Renter-Occupied Homes
- Housing cost burden (rental costs)
- Energy Poverty / Cost Burden
- Manufactured homes
- Homes built before 1960
- Pct without Internet (home or cellular)



Review Recommended List

Indicator	Use case
Diabetes	Health impact indicator
EN-zone	Groundtruthing
Houseless / unsheltered people	Very high risk for climate events, extremely economically vulnerable
High tax aid	Potential additive income information
Concentration of heat-vulnerable jobs	Long-term tracking - climate event response
Proximity to airports	High pollution areas
cost of living	Long-term tracking - climate migration
zoning practices	Reviewing data quality
Access to potable water	High risk for health implications, climate events exacerbate
Illegal dumping	High health implications
Lead in water in schools	High health implications
Lead water service lines	High health implications
Abandoned buildings	Pollution and economic vulnerability
gentrification	Long-term tracking - unintended consequences of legislation
low life expectancy	Health impact indicator

Discussion Notes

Income & Individual Criteria

First – a review of income variables in criteria

Why Two Income Measures in Geographic Criteria?

Both included income metrics, <100% of Federal Poverty Line and <80% of Area Median Income, are indexed to household size.

The Federal Poverty Line is lower, but the same nationally.

Area Median Income is higher, and indexed to metropolitan areas or fair market rent areas

Example Income Thresholds

Both included income metrics, <100% of Federal Poverty Line and <80% of Area Median Income, are indexed to household size. The Federal Poverty Line is lower, but the same nationally. Area Median Income is higher, and indexed to metropolitan areas or fair market rent areas.

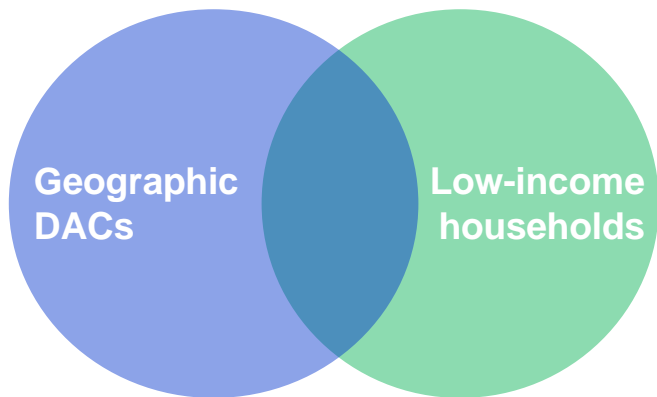
Location (Examples)	2-person household	
	100% of Federal Poverty Line*	80% of Area Median Income**
Albany-Schenectady-Troy, NY MSA	\$17,420	\$61,200
New York, NY HUD Metro FMR Area	\$17,420	\$76,400
Buffalo-Cheektowaga-Niagara Falls, NY MSA	\$17,420	\$50,500
Nassau-Suffolk, NY HUD Metro FMR Area	\$17,420	\$75,950
Lewis County, NY	\$17,420	\$44,400
Clinton County, NY	\$17,420	\$46,000
Poughkeepsie-Newburgh-Middletown, Metro	\$17,420	\$63,950

*2021 Federal Poverty Level. Source: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/federal-poverty-level-fpl/>

** 2021 AMI. Source: <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/il/il21/Section8-IncomeLimits-FY21.pdf>



Additional Criteria: Low-income Households



CJWG voted to include low-income households located anywhere in the State **for the purpose of investing** or directing clean energy programs, projects or investments (i.e., only for purposes of ECL 75-0117).

Additional Criteria: Low-income Households

Poverty: Annual household income at or below 100% of Federal Poverty Level

Low income: Annual household income at or below 60% State Median Income (SMI), or categorical eligibility with other low-income programs

Selected to (a) align with publicly-administered programs, (b) minimize additional income documentation and screening (SNAP, SSI, Temporary Assistance), (c) and start at low-income threshold, which can be reassessed after 1 year

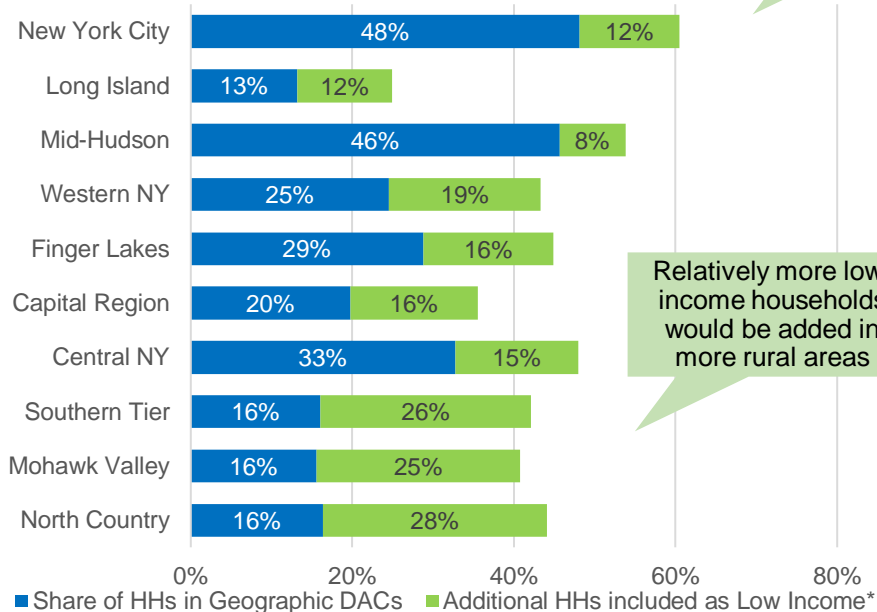
Moderate income: Annual household income above 60% of SMI, but lower than 80% of Area Median Income (and sometimes 80% state median income)



Low-Income Household Criteria: Implications by Regions

Using 200% of Federal Poverty Line as a proxy for a 60% SMI definition, the individual income criteria would add relatively (proportionally) more households in rural regions. New York City would still have (proportionally) the most households included.

Percentage of Households per Region in Expanded DAC Definition

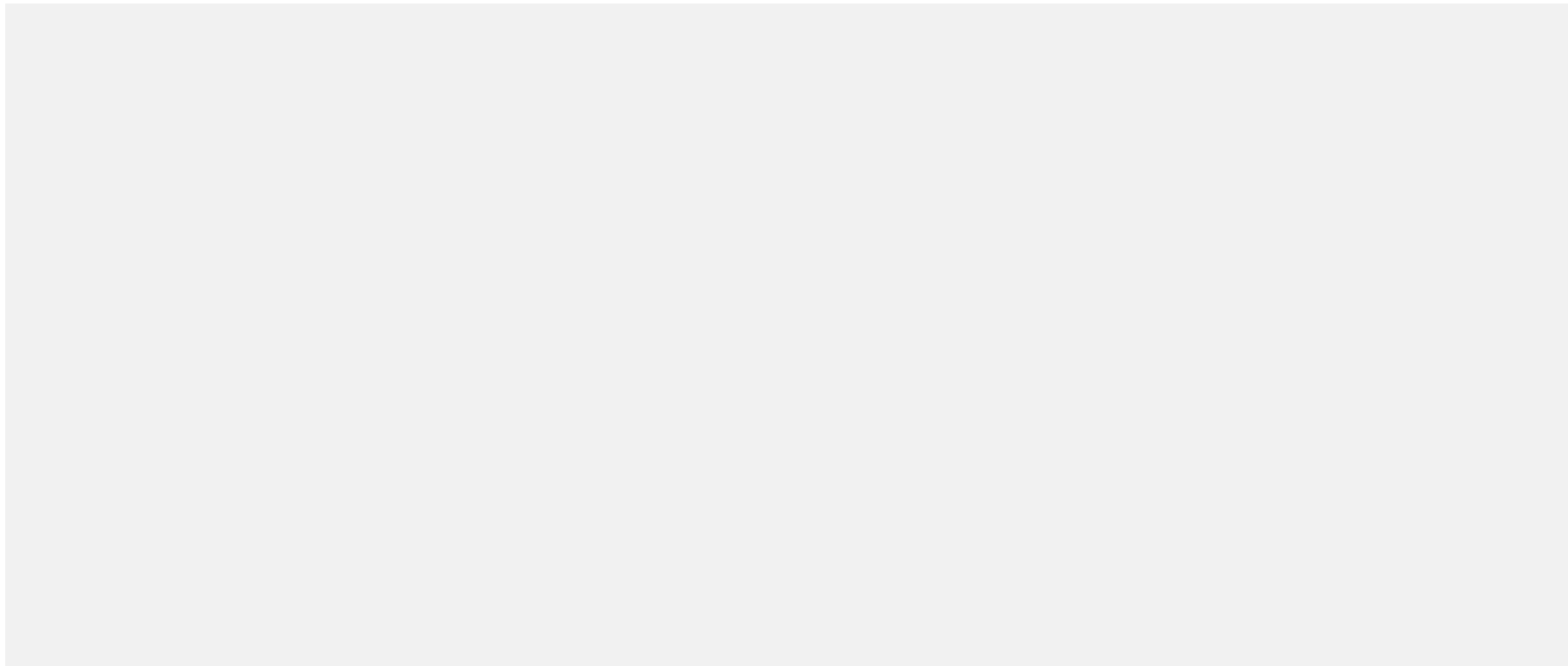


An additional 12% would be added through low-income criteria in NYC

Relatively more low-income households would be added in more rural areas

*Estimated using 200% FPL as a proxy for 60% SMI; actual counts may be slightly higher

Discussion – What do we keep/change/take out?





Next Steps

Questions?