



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**August 17, 2022**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 268**

## **REESTABLISHING THE ANDREA HARRIS EQUITY TASK FORCE**

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned issued Exec. Order No. 143, 35 N.C. Reg. 10-19 (July 1, 2020), establishing the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force (“Task Force”) on June 4, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned charged the Task Force with the mission of creating economic stability, eliminating health disparities, and achieving environmental justice in North Carolina by convening testimony, identifying best practices, and reporting this information to the Office of the Governor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force established twenty-one (21) equity recommendations to advance its mission, nine (9) of which have been fully implemented and twelve (12) of which are in progress through the work of Task Force subcommittees and state agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force addressed inequities in access to health care for underserved communities by successfully advocating for additional funding and increased investments in rural community health settings, providing digital literacy training, and assisting in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations and testing to vulnerable communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force addressed inequities in economic and business development in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Administration by implementing a two-tier corporate subcontracting plan directed toward supporting historically underutilized businesses (“HUBs”) and the Historically Underutilized Business Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force addressed inequities in educational opportunities by encouraging and partnering with state agencies and community partners to adopt a digital literacy curriculum that is accessible to all students and parents in their native languages; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force addressed inequities in environmental justice and inclusion by supporting the creation or identification of environmental justice, equity, and inclusion positions at the North Carolina Departments of Commerce, Natural and Cultural Resources, Public Safety, and Transportation while encouraging other agencies with state decision-making authority to create similar positions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force addressed inequities in patient engagement by successfully advocating for increased funding to strengthen the capacity of federally-qualified health care centers and increasing the number of undocumented, low-income, and other vulnerable patient populations receiving services; and

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**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina Department of Information Technology established a first in the nation Office of Digital Equity and Literacy, which is expanding digital literacy offerings and partnerships across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the undersigned issued Exec. Order No. 246, 36 N.C. Reg. 1287-1291 (February 1, 2022), which emphasized the importance of environmental justice and equity in the state's transition to a clean energy economy and meaningful public engagement in state agency decision-making; and

**WHEREAS**, the overall well-being and management of underlying health conditions is crucial for high-risk communities and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") acknowledges that social and economic differences often create health differences in communities of color and that public health emergencies can isolate communities of color from necessary resources; and

**WHEREAS**, social determinants of health influence all aspects of human life, and to improve health or eliminate health disparities there must be a greater focus on all social determinants of health by the medical community in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, HUBs account for fifty-eight (58) percent of North Carolina's small business community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Task Force continues to advocate for the recommendations that require legislative action and action by entities outside of the Governor's jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, a restructured Task Force will advance the work to implement current recommendations, address long-standing inequities, and continue implementing Andrea Harris' legacy through business and community development, advancing equity, and improving societal outcomes for historically marginalized populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 1 of Executive Order No. 143, which established the Task Force, expired on June 4, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article III of the North Carolina Constitution and N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 143A-4 and 143B-4, the Governor is the chief executive officer of the state and is responsible for formulating and administering the policies of the executive branch of state government; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-12, the Governor has the authority and the duty to supervise the official conduct of all executive and ministerial officers.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the authority vested in the undersigned as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, **IT IS ORDERED**:

**Section 1. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force**

**A. Establishment and Mission**

The Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force is hereby reestablished as the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force. The mission of the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force is to identify best practices and advise state government on actions that will further the economic development of disadvantaged communities, improve health and wellness outcomes in underserved communities, and advance equitable practices within state agencies that are inclusive of the lived experience of all North Carolinians.

**B. Duties**

1. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall:
  - a. Review recommendations identified in the Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force December 2020 Biannual Report and identify next steps to advance progress in the following focus areas:

- i. Furthering the economic development of disadvantaged communities.
    1. Discuss strategies to provide economic incentives to encourage participation with HUBs, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Small Business Enterprises (SBEs), and Historically Underutilized Providers (HUPs);
    2. Promote mentorship opportunities to diverse businesses and leverage partnerships with North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions to develop executive education programs available to minority-owned businesses doing business in the state; and
    3. Identify and promote education pipeline programs for students of color and students from disadvantaged communities.
  - ii. Improving health and wellness outcomes in underserved communities.
    1. Assess existing opportunities for patients to utilize telehealth services and identify gaps in access to medical services; and
    2. Advocate for adequate, sustainable financial resources for digital and health education, partnering with state agencies and other groups that share similar goals to increase broadband access and address digital, financial, and health literacy.
  - iii. Advancing equitable practices within state agencies that are inclusive of the lived experience of all North Carolinians.
    1. Serve as a forum for equity matters by engaging state agencies' diversity, equity, and inclusion and public engagement leadership to seek input from community stakeholders and foster stronger relationships between state government and the people of North Carolina.
  - b. Identify additional recommendations related to the economic development of disadvantaged communities, improved health and wellness outcomes in underserved communities, and advancement of equitable practices within state agencies that are inclusive of the lived experience of all North Carolinians.
  - c. Expand awareness of and access to state agency initiatives that align with the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force's mission and recommendations.
    - i. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall collaborate with agency stakeholders to promote agency initiatives and utilize community organization member expertise to inform agency initiatives that align with the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force.
    - ii. Andrea Harris Equity Task Force community organization members shall provide community insight to the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force and promote state initiatives within their local community organizations by distributing information throughout their networks with a focus on historically underserved groups.
  - d. Provide advice on any other matters the Governor refers to the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force.
2. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall advance these goals through community engagement and promotion of corporate citizenship values that align the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force mission with North Carolina businesses and organizations.

3. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall provide status reports on the progress and recommendations made in the focus areas determined by Section 1 of this Executive Order to the Office of the Governor on June 1, 2023, and December 15, 2023.

**C. Membership**

1. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall be comprised of a minimum of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Governor.
2. The Governor shall designate the Chair of the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force.
3. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall represent, to the extent possible, all demographics of North Carolina, and shall include the following members:
  - a. Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration;
  - b. Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer of the North Carolina Department of Commerce or designee;
  - c. Director of the North Carolina Department of Information Technology, Office of Digital Equity and Literacy or designee;
  - d. Chief Health Equity Officer of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services or designee;
  - e. Executive Director of the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office or designee;
  - f. Director of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights or designee;
  - g. Director of the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Office of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Outreach or designee;
  - h. Member of Hometown Strong;
  - i. Member of the Commission on Indian Affairs;
  - j. Member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Hispanic-Latino Affairs;
  - k. Member of North Carolina Council for Women Advisory Board;
  - l. Member of the Historically Underutilized Business Advisory Council;
  - m. Member of the Commission on Inclusion;
  - n. Representative from the North Carolina Community College System or UNC System Office;
  - o. Representative from a North Carolina Historically Black College or University or a Minority Serving Institution;
  - p. Representatives from four (4) community organizations aligned with the mission of the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force; and
  - q. Other appropriate experts from the focus areas listed above.
4. The Governor may appoint additional members to the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force.
5. All members shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

**D. Meetings and Quorum**

This Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall meet at least quarterly. A simple majority of Andrea Harris Equity Task Force members shall constitute a quorum to transact business.

**E. Administration**

1. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force may create working groups.
2. The North Carolina Department of Administration shall provide necessary administrative and staff support services to the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force.
3. The following agencies shall provide a staff liaison to support the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force and provide updates on agency initiatives that align with the

recommendations of the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force. These liaisons will work with the North Carolina Department of Administration to advance the goals and duties of the Andrea Harris Equity Task Force.

- a. North Carolina Department of Administration;
  - b. North Carolina Department of Commerce;
  - c. North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality;
  - d. North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services;
  - e. North Carolina Department of Information Technology;
  - f. North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources;
  - g. North Carolina Department of Transportation;
  - h. North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management; and
  - i. North Carolina Office of the Governor.
4. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force shall serve without compensation but may receive per diem allowance and reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with state law and Office of State Budget and Management policies and regulations. The Andrea Harris Equity Task Force may continue holding meetings utilizing video conferencing tools approved by the North Carolina Department of Information Technology.


### **Section 2. No Private Right of Action**

This Executive Order is not intended to create, and does not create, an individual right, privilege or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable in law or in equity by any party against the State of North Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any other officers, employees, or agents thereof.

### **Section 3. Effective Date**

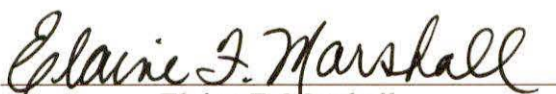
This Executive Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until December 31, 2023 pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 147-16.2, unless rescinded or superseded by another applicable Executive Order.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capital in the City of Raleigh, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-two.



Roy Cooper  
Governor

**ATTEST:**



Elaine F. Marshall  
Secretary of State

