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Social Equity in Budgeting: Challenges and Efforts to Improve Citizen Engagement

Rui Sun¹, Janey Wang²

¹California State University, Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA, USA. ²San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA, USA

Abstract

This study examines social equity in budgeting, focusing on the process and access dimensions of equity through citizen engagement. Using data from surveys of finance directors and interviews with public managers in a sample of California cities, the qualitative analysis shows that diversity in citizen participation is generally low, with significant access barriers identified. The study also highlights municipal efforts to address these inequities and challenges, such as multi-language outreach and the use of social media. These findings contribute to the literature on social equity in public administration and provide practical insights for improving diversity and inclusion of citizen engagement in local budgeting processes.

Conference Track

Public Policy and Public Administration