1. What is the project focus/overall goal?

    The goal of the project as a whole is to evaluate whether the city's funding is equitably distributed. Our team is interested in discovering any funding discrepancies and unfair practices, especially towards low-income communities and communities of color. We will also be looking into how the funding (or lack of funding) has impacted the communities by analyzing data on relief funds, licenses, capital investments, and other programs. We wish to ensure that there is an optimal distribution of funds/ redistributing funds such that they can be used to maximal utility.

2. What type of data will you collect or be analyzing?

    We will be working mostly with census data. In addition, data about business assistance funds, licenses(food establishment, liquor, cannabis), and capital investments. We will look at how many people applied for licenses, were approved, and where they were located.

3. What are potential limitations of the project?

    Some potential limitations of this project are that there might be data that is inaccessible, which results in an inaccurate portrayal of the problem. Also it might be difficult to quantify the true level of impact the funds have on the community. Using the existing data, it becomes our responsibility to come up with a criteria and threshold to effectively categorize the funding as impactful.

4. Why is this project important or Why did you choose this project?

    A project of this scope advocates for positive change in the Boston community. What makes this project intriguing is that "equity" is the driving force behind the distribution. It ensures that the money is not being allocated to the "overarching community" but to those truly in need of the funds. We chose this project because it allows us to analyze the deciding factors that play a role in these distributions. It is important to analyze where the funds that we provide for the less fortunate in our neighborhoods actually end up. Through analysis of that data we can determine whether a redistribution of funds is necessary; e.g. we may need to add additional funds to a certain area or see if funds are being directed into the wrong hands. As members of the Boston community, it is necessary for us to be proactive and conscious of the factors that impact our environment

5. What is your team's next steps?

    -   Understand the geographic, ethinic, racial and economic datasets provided.
    -   Come up with other datasets that could be of use

- Form a well-defined problem statement and project definition report before meeting with the client
- Align with client on success/ acceptance criteria for defining target groups
- Find methods to organize this data into census blocks in clean and user-friendly data tables
- Create data visualizations and reports on analytic findings, that answer the base project questions, from data plots in the created census groups
- Work on extended project (If there is enough time)