**Rubric Item: Equity Considerations**

**Prompt:** Describe how the proposed project will identify, address, and monitor potential equity impacts. Discuss how the research design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination will account for the needs and perspectives of diverse and historically underserved populations.

**Scoring Considerations**

**Strong (4 points)**

* The proposal demonstrates a deep and nuanced understanding of equity issues relevant to the project's context.
* **Identifies Specific Groups:** Clearly identifies specific underserved or marginalized populations relevant to the research question and provides a strong rationale for their inclusion.
* **Integrated Approach:** Equity considerations are woven throughout the entire project plan (design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, and dissemination), not just mentioned as a separate component.
* **Authentic Engagement:** Proposes a clear and meaningful plan for engaging with community members or individuals with lived experience to inform the project.
* **Specific Metrics:** Includes specific, measurable metrics to monitor equity impacts throughout the project lifecycle.

**Adequate (3 points)**

* The proposal acknowledges the importance of equity and discusses it in relation to the project.
* **General Identification:** Identifies underserved populations but may be less specific or provide a less detailed rationale than a "Strong" proposal.
* **Partial Integration:** Equity is addressed in some, but not all, relevant sections of the proposal (e.g., mentioned in data collection but not in dissemination).
* **Limited Engagement:** Mentions community engagement but the plan is vague or lacks detail on how it will be implemented.
* **General Metrics:** Proposes monitoring for equity but the metrics are general or not well-defined.

**Needs Improvement (2 points)**

* The proposal mentions equity, but the discussion is superficial, generic, or disconnected from the core project.
* **Vague Language:** Uses vague terms like "we will consider diversity" without specifying which populations or how they will be considered.
* **Check-the-Box:** Equity feels like an afterthought or a box-checking exercise rather than a central consideration.
* **No Engagement Plan:** There is no mention of engaging with communities or individuals with lived experience.
* **No Metrics:** Fails to propose any way to monitor or measure equity impacts.

**Needs Reconsideration (1 point)**

* The proposal fails to address equity at all.
* Alternatively, the proposal's approach could plausibly perpetuate harm or reinforce existing inequities (e.g., by using deficit-based language, proposing extractive research methods, or failing to consider cultural context).