Algorithmic Equity Checklist

Potential Harms	**Yes**	**No**	**N/A**
Impact			
The effect technology will have on the community members/users			
Will the technology have negative impacts on the users such as denial of benefits or services?			
Will the technology provide positive changes to our community members?			
Is the technology reinforcing or amplifying existing bias that targets minority and low-income communities?			
Appropriate use			
The extent to which the technology is appropriate for the community and purpose			
Is the data used in the algorithm compatible for the purpose and use of the technology? For instance, predictive policing technologies which forecast criminal activities are designed with data based on historical context and racial bias thus reinforcing bias against minority communities.			
Is the data used validated and representative of the community, real-world situations, for instance, if the technology is a pretrial risk assessment tool or facial recognition, was the training data representative of your community/jurisdiction?			

Transparency			
The extent to which the algorithms (codes, data) used are available to users.			
Is there any information about the data used to create the technology, such as sample population, when it was collected, how it was analyzed, any limitations, uncertainty, accuracy?			
Is there any explanation about the models and algorithms used for the technology?			
Is there information the tool will be used only for the intended purpose and not to track individuals, for instance, will the Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) be used to determine patterns and target drivers who visit gun shops, immigration clinics, health centers, protests or places of religious worship?			
Security and privacy			
The extent to which data is protected from security breaches			

Is there information about the measures taken to protect personally identifiable data such as name, address, or face so that it does not lead to tracking the user or violating their privacy?			
Will the data collected be used only for the purpose intended and not be shared with other agencies, government or companies? For instance, will the data collected by ALPR also be shared with banks, auto recovery companies, or insurance companies?			
Is there information about data security, for instance how information shared amongst law enforcement agencies from the automated license plate readers will be protected?			
Interpretability			
The extent to which the technology can be understood by users, government agencies, officials, stakeholders and community organizations			
Does the technology provide clear documentation on how to interpret the models and outputs?			
Are there policies or guidelines for proper use of the technology?			
Will the institutions be held responsible for decisions made by algorithms used, even if it is not feasible to explain in detail how the algorithms produce their results?			

Operability			
The extent to which the technology can be administered by officials or users.			
Have you been trained how to operate the technology correctly?			
Is there a straightforward and non-technical term that describes the technology, its use, inputs and outcomes?			

<u>Additional features/resources:</u>

AI Now. 2018. Algorithm accountability policy toolkit.

Bavitz, Christopher, Sam Bookman, Jonathan Eubank, Kira Hessekiel, and Vivek Krishnamurthy. 2018. Assessing the Assessments: Lessons from Early State Experiences in the
Procurement and Implementation of Risk Assessment Tools. *Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society research publication.*

Center for Government Excellence. Ethics and Algorithms Toolkit https://ethicstoolkit.ai/

Diakopoulos N. 2016. Accountability in Algorithmic Decision Making. *Communications of the ACM, Vol. 59(2).*
https://cacm.acm.org/magazines/2016/2/197421-accountability-in-algorithmic-decision-making/fulltext

https://www.eff.org/pages/automated-license-plate-readers-alpr

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2708.html