Addressing Poverty Through a Collaborative Approach

How Public Health and Social Services are Partnering to Improve Outcomes for California's Youth

Presenters

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Four Objectives of the Session

ONE
Clearly identify the collaborative structure of the Essentials for Childhood Initiative at both the state and local levels.

TWO
Recognize the link between the stressors created as a result of experiencing poverty and the elevated risk of child maltreatment.

THREE
List at least 3 strategies for addressing poverty-related challenges faced by service providers working with children in CA.

FOUR
Identify future areas for collaboration at the state and local levels to better meet the needs of children in CA, to improve child wellbeing.

Essentials for Childhood Initiative (E4C)

V

Vision

All California children, youth and their families thrive in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

M

Mission

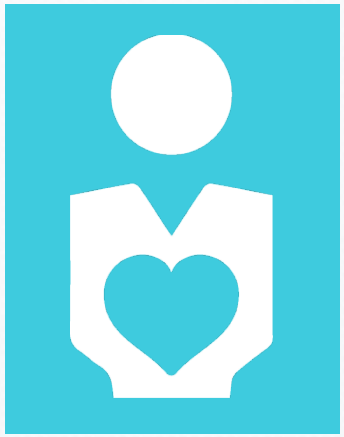
To develop a common agenda across multiple agencies and stakeholders to align activities, programs, policies and findings so that all California children, youth and their families have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Guiding Principles of E4C

Ensuring all children and families have safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments will strengthen families, prevent and reduce child maltreatment, promote healthy child growth and well-being, and allow children to reach their full potential as happy, self-sufficient, socially engaged and productive citizens.

Accomplishing safe, stable, nurturing, relationships and environments requires changes in multiple systems with a focus on broad social and economic determinants, social norms, and governmental and institutional policies, as well as individual and family level change

Solving large scale, complex social problems requires a highly effective level of sustained collaboration across multiple sectors aligned to a broad common agenda and conducting strategic and mutually reinforcing activities. (e.g. collective impact approach)



Service systems and programs should be based on the best available evidence (i.e. research, experiential and contextual), and should strive for continuous quality improvement.

Guiding Principles of E4C

(continued)

Service systems and programs should be culturally and linguistically appropriate for their audiences.

Efforts to make improvements in overall child health and well-being should include specific actions to address and reduce inequalities/disparities which are avoidable, unjust and preventable.

One Objective of E4C

Focus on Poverty in California

Poverty is a leading risk for children.

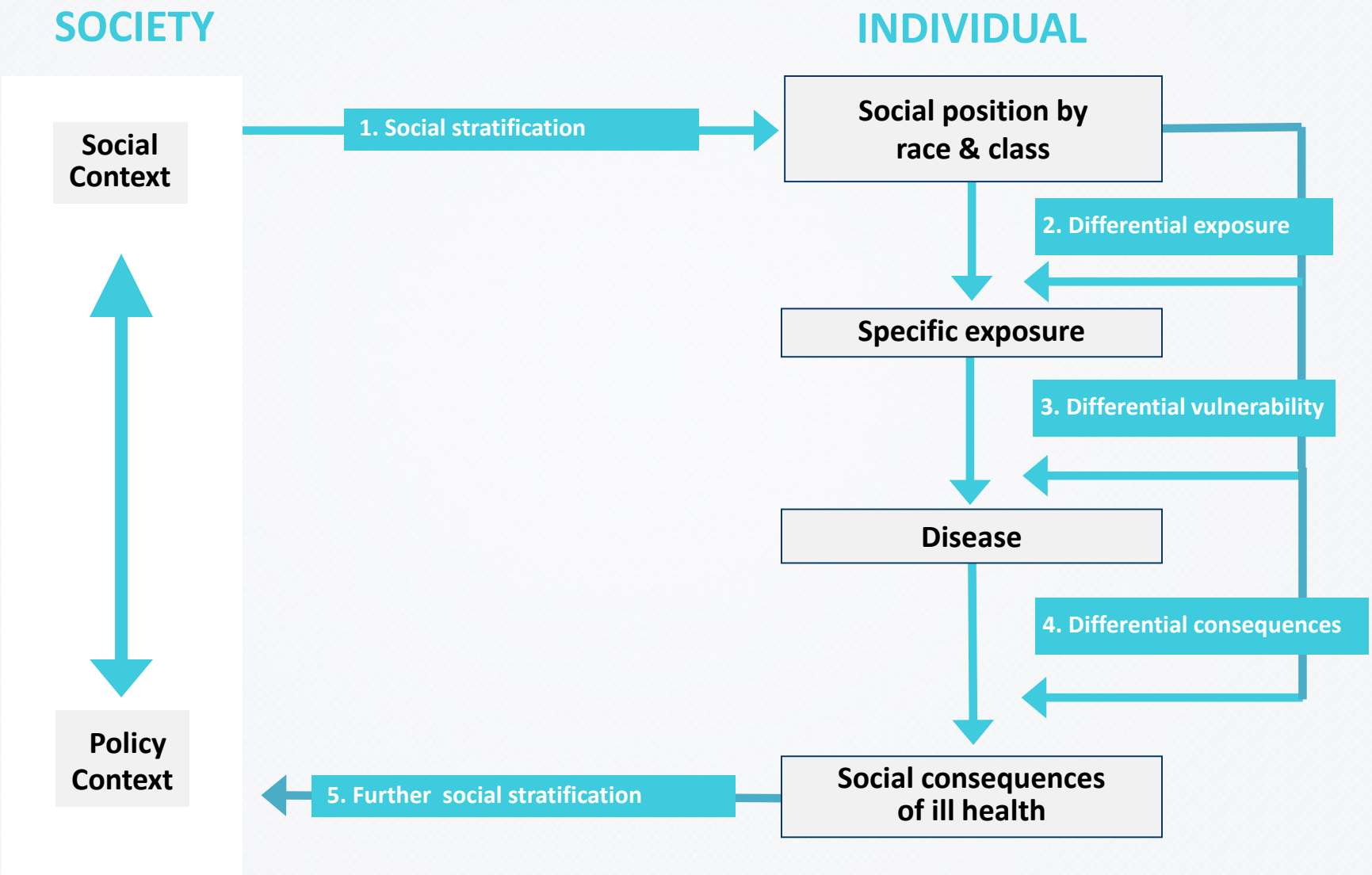
49.9%

49.9% of California's children are in or near poverty

72%

72% of child welfare cases are substantiated for neglect

Understanding social disadvantage and impact on health across the life course and across generations



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CHILD BORN INTO POVERTY

Family Stress/Dysfunction

- Single Parent Household
- Limited Family Support
- Depression/Mental Disorders/SUDs
- Lack of Parenting Skills
- Family Violence

Environmental Inequalities

- Limited Access to Resources
- Poor Health Care
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Limited/Poor Education
- Unsafe /Violent Neighborhood

Risky Behaviors

- Poor Nutrition
- Limited Physical Activity
- Substance Use/Abuse
- Early Sexual Activities
- Criminal Activity/Violence

Child Welfare System/Criminal Justice

- Over Representation of People of Color
- Disparities in Substantiations/Out of Home Placements
- Inequalities in Arrests, Prosecution & Sentencing
- Incarceration
- Recidivism

Social Exclusion/Isolation

- Marginalization
- Reduced/Denied Civil Rights
- Stigma/Stereotyping
- Limited Community Support

Cummulative/Lifetime Consequences

- Accumulation of Toxic Stress
- Institutional Racism
- Chronic Health Problems
- Unemployment
- Unsafe/Violent Neighborhood
- Homelessness

COMMUNITIES WITH HIGHLY CONCENTRATED POVERTY

- Chronic Family/Generational Poverty
- Low Educational Achievement
- Fewer Opportunities and Resources for Healthy Behavior Leads to Significantly Worse Health Outcomes
- Reduced/Limited Income Opportunities Lead to Illegal Activity

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Communities with Highly Concentrated Poverty

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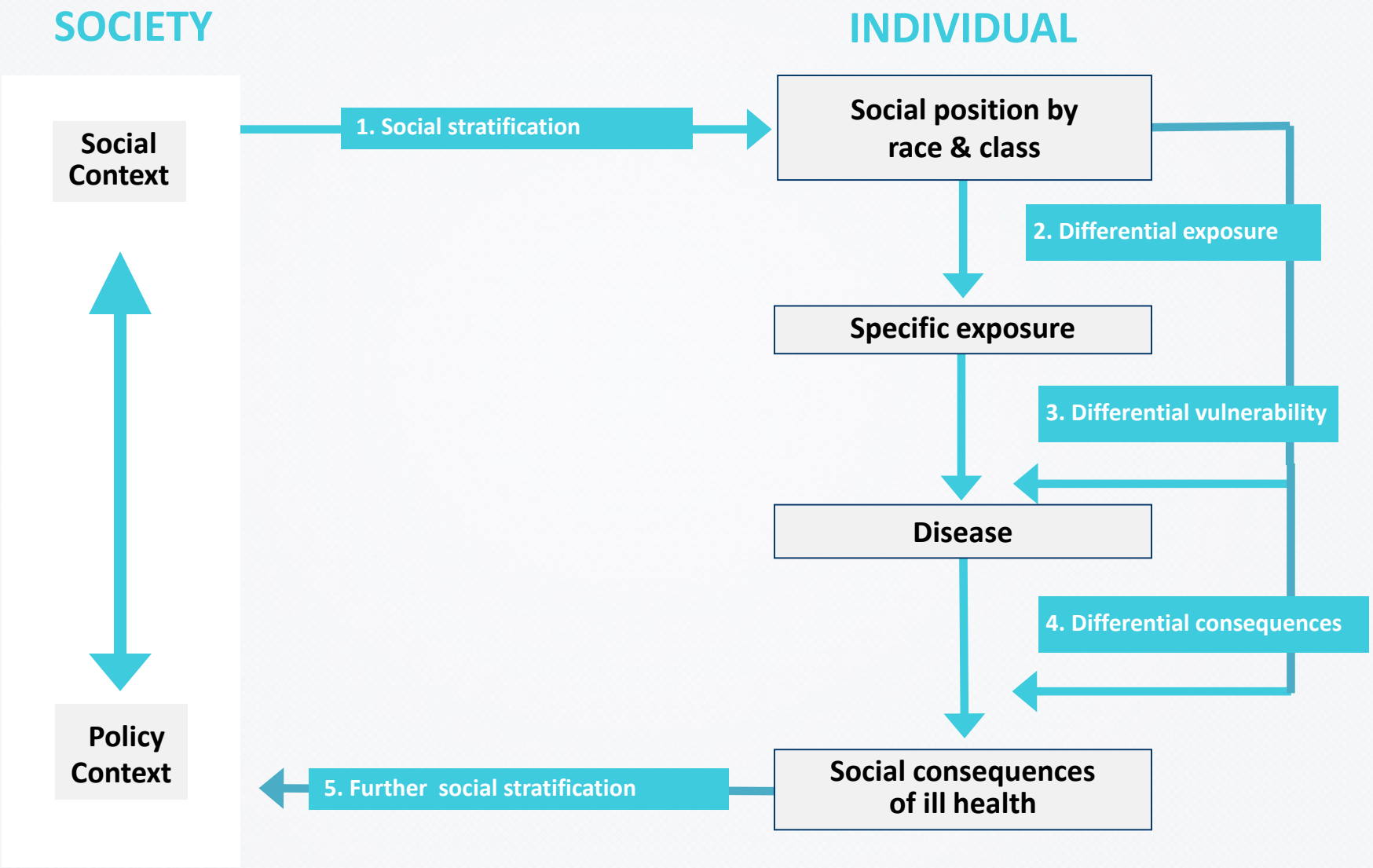

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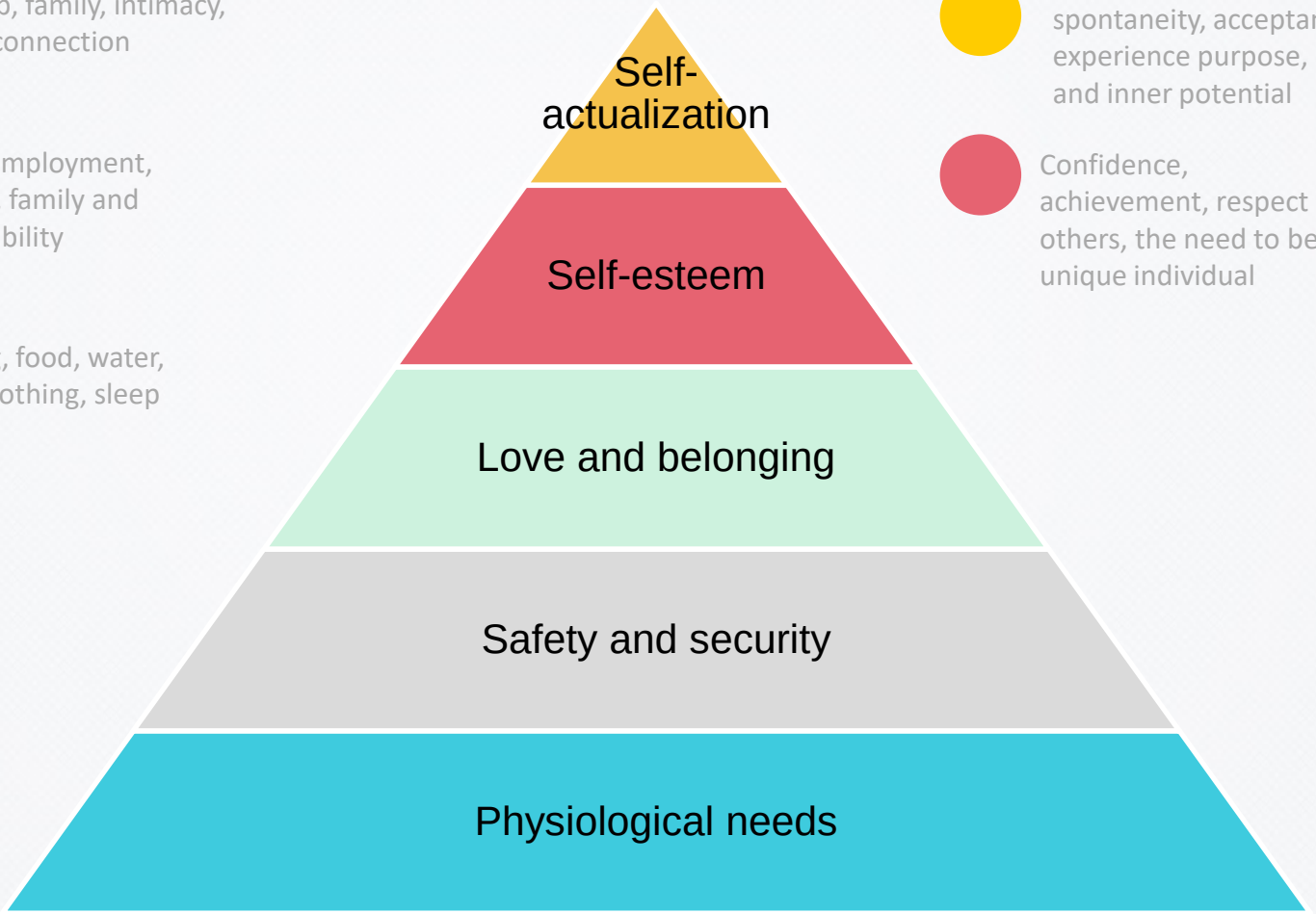
Cradles to Crayons (1:58)

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Friendship, family, intimacy, sense of connection

Health, employment, property, family and social stability

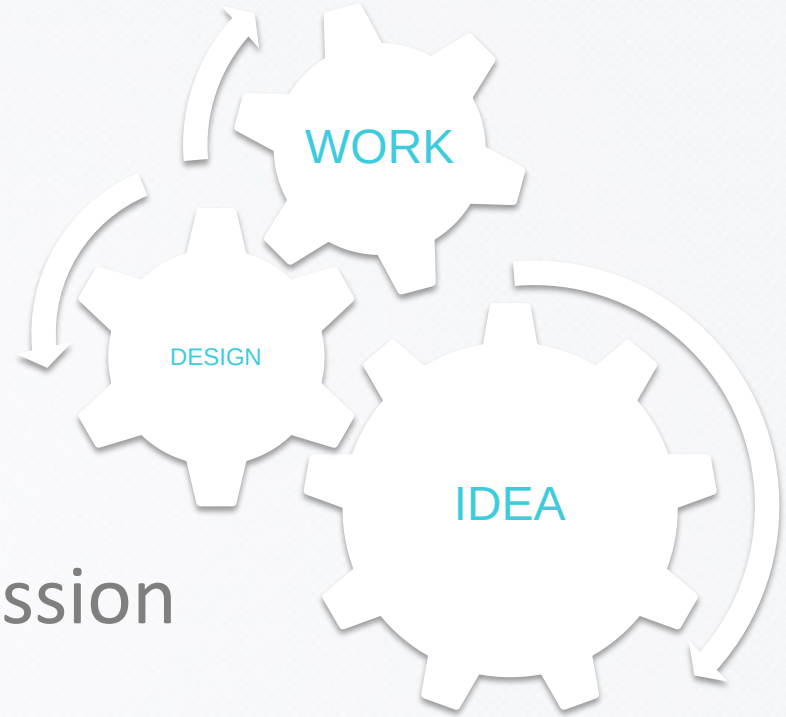
Breathing, food, water, shelter, clothing, sleep



Morality, creativity, spontaneity, acceptance, experience purpose, meaning and inner potential

Confidence, achievement, respect of others, the need to be a unique individual

Group Exercise



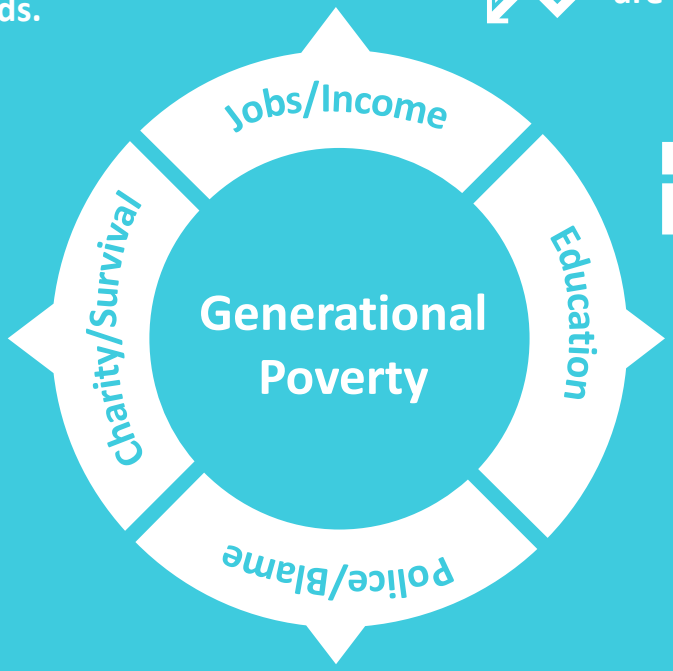
Paying the Bills

Followed By Open Discussion

Understanding Clients in Poverty

Income is insufficient to meet basic human needs.

They work jobs that are highly unstable.



No one in their immediate circle has benefitted from education or has been promoted or respected in a job.

The primary focus is on survival, making it through the day.

DONATE

They often rely on Federal/State aid and charity.

These families often have to migrate to where jobs are found and are often evicted.

They often fear police and may be angry at authority figures.

They internalize the blame.

Understanding Clients in Poverty

Live paycheck to paycheck and often fear being laid off or having hours cut.

High school graduation is often unattainable.

After housing expenses are met, there is little money for other needs or extras.

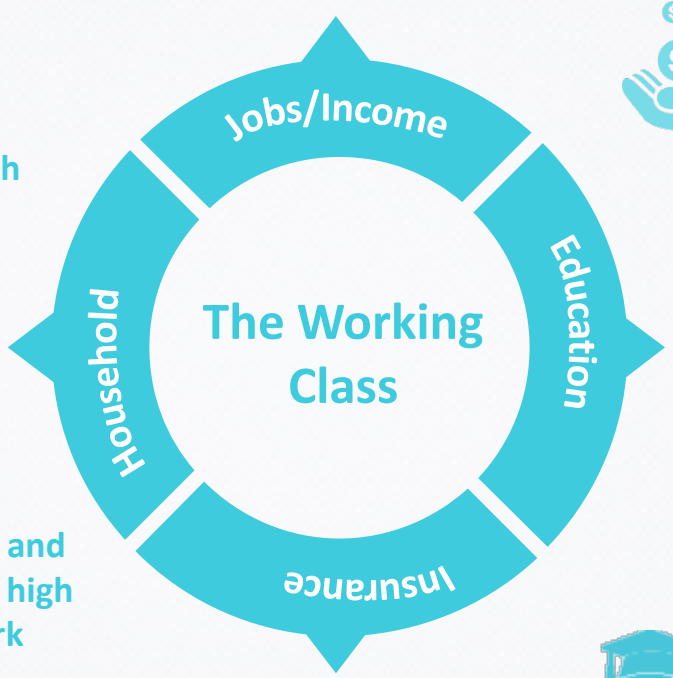
They see their poverty as a personal deficiency.

Most do not own property.

Children are often confused that parents are working but they cannot have what their peers have or do what their peers do, resulting in anger.

Very few have health insurance or get regular healthcare and often do not qualify for assistance.

Understanding Clients in Poverty



Their incomes depend on hourly wages for their labor.

They generally work with their hands.

Adults have stable employment. Status and pay vary from low to high within their own work community.

Most hope that at least one child will attend college.

Some own property.

Understanding Our Clients in Poverty

Temporary/Situational Poverty

They grow up with health and nutritional needs met.

They are often surrounded by people who are educated and able to earn a living wage.

They have attended school regularly.

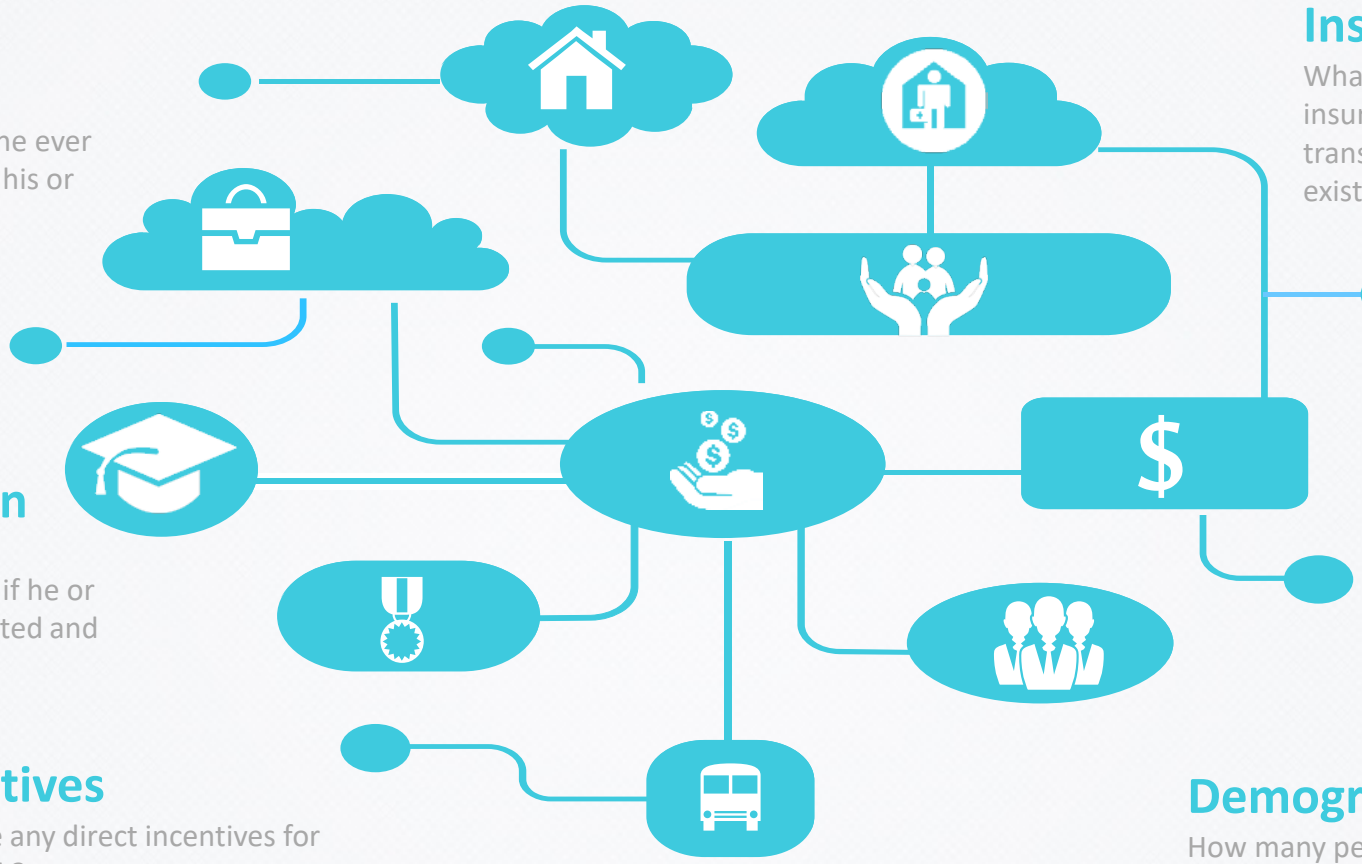
It is usually a crisis (health, divorce, etc.) that precipitates an income drop.

They usually have grown up in a stable environment.

They do not internalize poverty, but they blame it on the situation.

They generally are able to make it back to middle class.

Poverty Competency



Jobs
Can he or she ever move up in his or her job?

Insurance
What is the cost of car insurance? What transportation options exist?

Cost
How much does a modest two-bedroom apartment rent for in nearby communities?

Education
How much can someone earn if he or she is uneducated and unskilled?

Incentives
Are there any direct incentives for hard work?

Demographics
How many people in your community struggle to pay rent, utilities, and to buy food?

Temp/Seasonal
What do temporary/seasonal kinds of jobs pay?

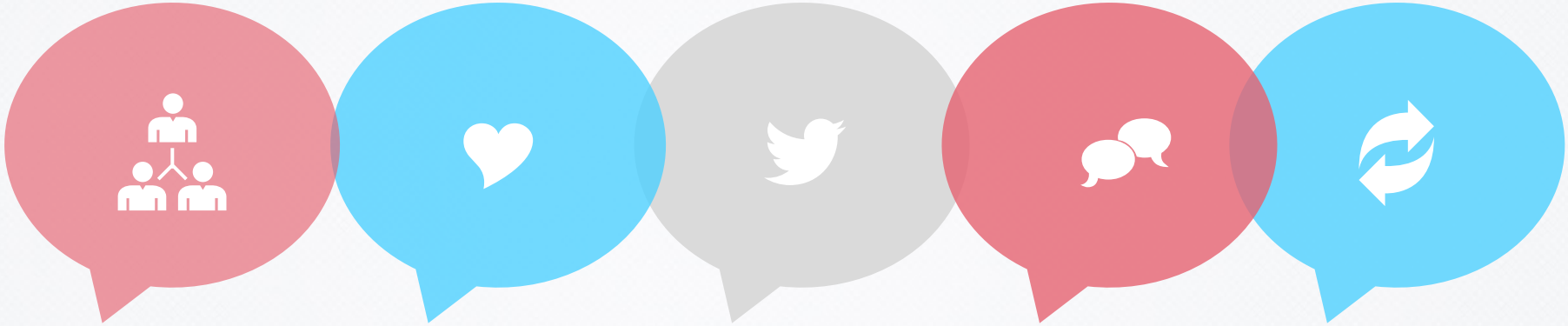
Rent
What resources are needed to rent an apartment?

Transportation
Can he or she get to her appointments?

Understand the structural causes of poverty (poverty related facts) from history and from your own community.
Gain an awareness of the history of poverty in the U.S.

Communication Strategies

Oral Culture vs. Print Culture



Telling stories – using vivid examples to allow people to feel the impact of what they are doing.

Modeling appropriate behavior in supportive ways.

Developing relationships while sharing information.

Using simple, familiar words and examples that people can relate to.

Giving information verbally and repeating it frequently while maintaining good eye contact.

(Beegle, 2003)

Working One on One

Believe in the individual.

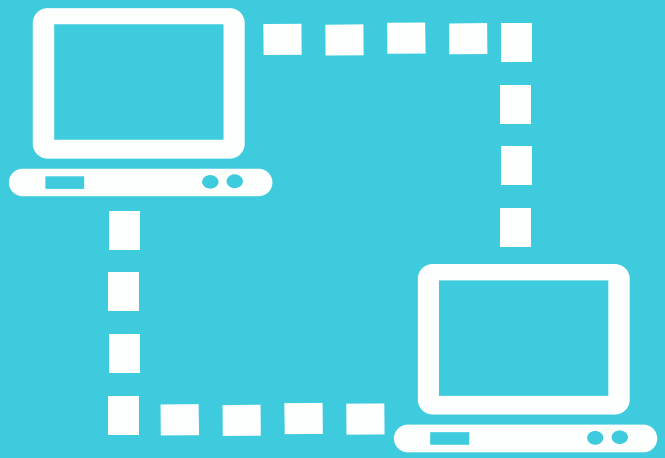
Believe in the individual. Tell them what's right with them. Focus and build on strengths.

Spend time helping those you serve see that you are just a person.

Spend time helping those you serve see that you are just a person. You are not better; you have pain, fear and challenges – the differences are in your experiences and opportunities.

DON'T IGNORE BASIC NEEDS…

Working One on One



Growth

Identify areas for growth and build doable success plans.

Believe

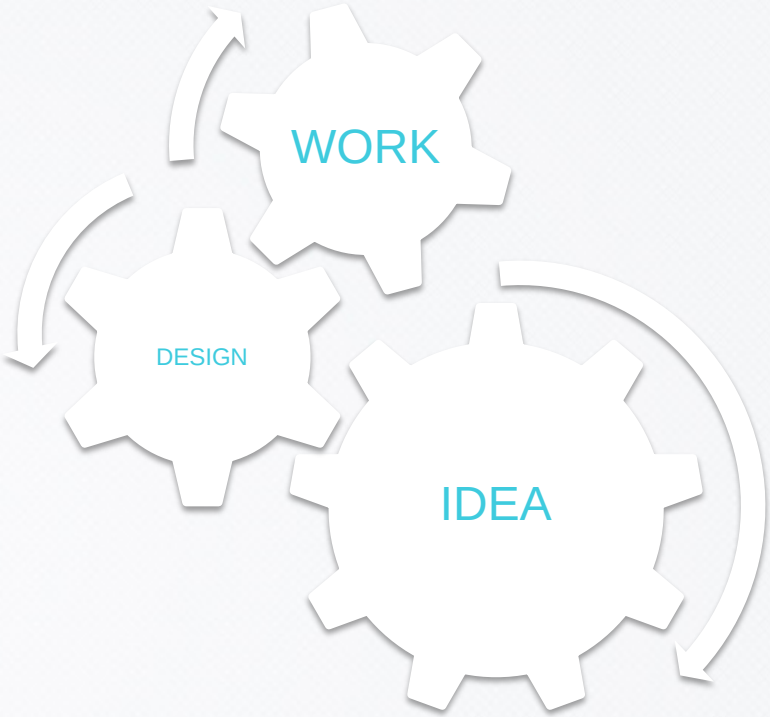
Believe there is a way out of poverty.

NETWORKS

Help build networks of support. Connect to people who can see their potential and can lead them to other resources or knowledge.

Teach them how to stay in touch with those they meet who may help. Get them an address book. Role-play interviews and interactions with all kinds of professionals.

Need Resources?



CalWorks

Office of Child Abuse Prevention

CDPH California Department of Public Health

essentials for childhood

CDSS California Department of Social Services

California Work Opportunity And Responsibility To Kids (CalWORKs)

CalWORKs provides:

- Temporary cash assistance to meet basic family needs
- Education, employment and training programs to assist the family move toward self sufficiency

Components include:

- Time limits on eligibility
- Work requirements
- Supportive services to encourage program participation
- Parental Responsibility

Current Caseload

Total Caseload:	512,352
Two-Parent:	44,306
All Other:	193,793
Zero parent:	156,050
Safety Net/Fleeing Felon/Long Term Sanctioned:	87,346
TANF Timed Out:	33,200

Total Number of Individuals:	1,239,205
Total Number of Children:	980,926

CalWORKs Budget

Funding (FY 2015-2016)

Total Funding in CalWORKs Program:	$5.6 Billion
TANF Block Grant:	$2.6 Billion
Maintenance of Effort(MOE):	$2.2 Billion
(Includes county funds)	
Other Funds:	$ .8 Billion
(Non-MOE General Fund, Title XX)	

48 Month Time Limit

Adult parents are eligible for a total of 48 months of cash aid.

48 months

"Clock Stoppers" – months that are exempt from the 48 month time limit.

"Time Extenders" – exceptions that can result in a recipient remaining on aid beyond the 48 month time-limit.

Maximum Aid Payment

- Once eligibility is met, an Assistance Unit (AU) receives a Maximum Aid Payment (MAP)
- The MAP is based on the family's size, composition, income and the region where the family lives

AU of 3		Effective 4/1/15 Exempt		Effective 4/1/15 Non-Exempt
Region One		$788		$704
Region Two		$751		$670
		Effective 10/1/16 Exempt		Effective 10/1/16 Non-Exempt
Region One		$799		$714
Region Two		$762		$680

Safety Net

48 Months

Eligible children continue to get cash aid after their parents have exhausted their 48 month time-limit.

18 Years of Age

Timed-out adults are not eligible for General Assistance until the youngest child on aid reaches 18.

Welfare to Work (WTW)

Services to remove barriers to employment

CalWORKs WTW participation requirements

Supportive Services

Child Care

Three-phase system

Child care reimbursement rates are standardized with the California Department of Education

Transportation

Counties provide reimbursement for the least costly form of public transportation

If public transportation is not available, mileage reimbursement for individual to use vehicle

Ancillary

Books, tools, clothing specifically required for the job, fees and other necessary costs

Tuition is not considered an ancillary expense

Opportunities

Partner

Foster partnerships and collaboration among helping professionals to secure additional income and resources to overcome inadequate income, housing and knowledge barriers.

Develop

Develop an organizational climate that is non-judgmental and sensitive to social-class and poverty issues.

Mentor

Add the role of mentor to the job description of helping professionals.

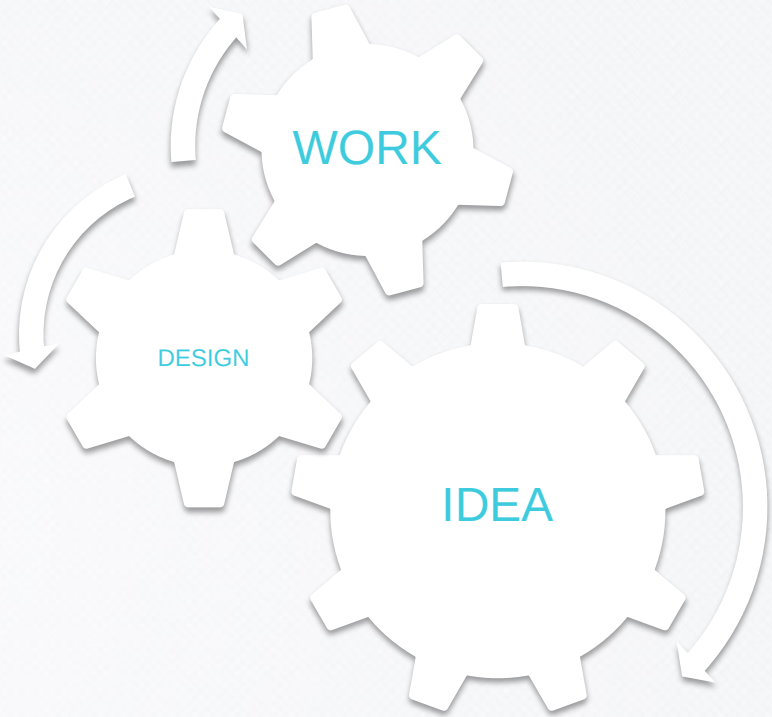
Facilitate

Facilitate connections to formal and informal mentoring.

Raise Awareness

Work with your government officials to raise awareness around the issue and advocate for a climate that helps to move people out of poverty.

Group Exercise

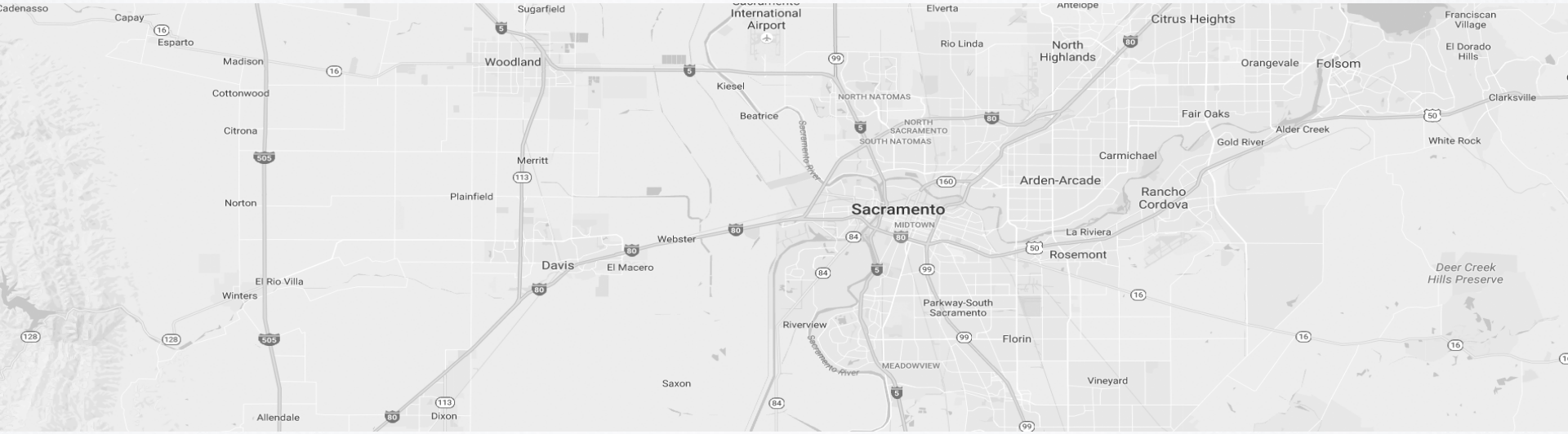


Identify **3 objectives** for yourself and/or your organization to become a better support and encourage those in your community to move out of poverty.

Teamwork & Collaboration (4:22)

Thank you!

For information visit our website or contact us at…



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