ChangeLab Solutions
Law & policy innovation for the common good.

The webinar will begin at 11am PT.
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Building Healthy, Equitable Communities

Through Equitable Laws & Policies

changelabsolutions.org/the-series

April 24, 2018

Welcome to the

Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Series

Episode 1: Health Equity (April)

Building healthy, equitable communities through equitable laws and policies

Episode 2: Healthy Children & Families (May)

Building healthy, equitable communities through supports for working families

Episode 3: Food Systems (June)

Building healthy, equitable communities through a just food system

Episode 4: Built Environment (August)

Building healthy, equitable communities through comprehensive city planning

Episode 5: Schools (September)

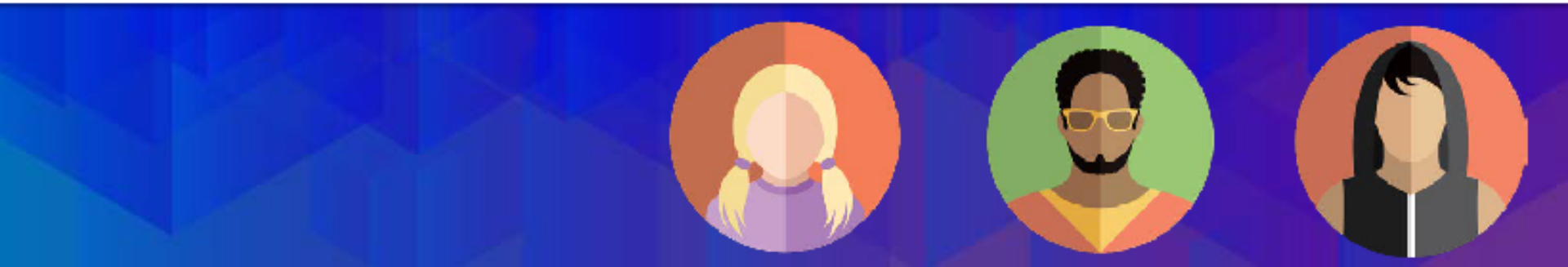
Building healthy, equitable communities through transforming the school climate

Bonus Training: Preemption (October)

Preemption, public health, and equity – the search for local solutions

Episode 6: Community Power (October)

Building healthy, equitable communities through community-driven solutions



What you can expect from our episodes:

Blog Post

10 Local Laws That May Be Doing More Harm Than Good

Webinar

Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Through Equitable Laws & Policies

Expert Panel

Continued Conversation About Health Equity

(April 26)

Welcome!

Aysha Pamukcu

Senior Staff Attorney

ChangeLab Solutions

JayVon Muhammad

Chief Executive Officer

Marin City Health & Wellness Center

RACISM & GENTRIFICATION

A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

JayVon Muhammad

Social determinants of health for the ***healthy*** community

Connection, Community & Culture: Elders & rules

Access to Education: High performing schools

Quality Housing: Options to own or rent

Access to Good Health Parks / Outdoor Space: Accessible recreation & exercise

Marriage: Functional relationships

Economics: Small business opportunities

Access to Good Health Care: Longer lives & less disease

Environment: An environment free of environmental toxins

Social determinants of health for the ***poor black*** communities

Gentrification:
Families are forced to move out of their community

Underperforming Schools:
Teachers afraid of students, medicated children, Special Ed, school-to-prison pipeline

Public Housing / Little-to-no Opportunities to Own Homes:
Unsafe housing, Red-Lining, discrimination

Lack of Clean, Safe Places to Play:
Fewer tax dollars mean less resources/amenities

Lack of Healthy Marriages / Single Mom-led Households:
Healthy relationships not being modeled and/or revered

No Black-Owned Business Community:
Cannot qualify for loans, young people don't learn entrepreneurism

Few Doctors Take Medi-Cal:
Lack of Black practitioners, distrust, family-only health coverage

Environment:
Environmental Justice issues, toxic waste zones, limited access to clean land/water

THE HISTORY

Since being brought to the United States through Slavery,

"Black people have always had to play DEFENSE…

But, OFFENSE wins games."

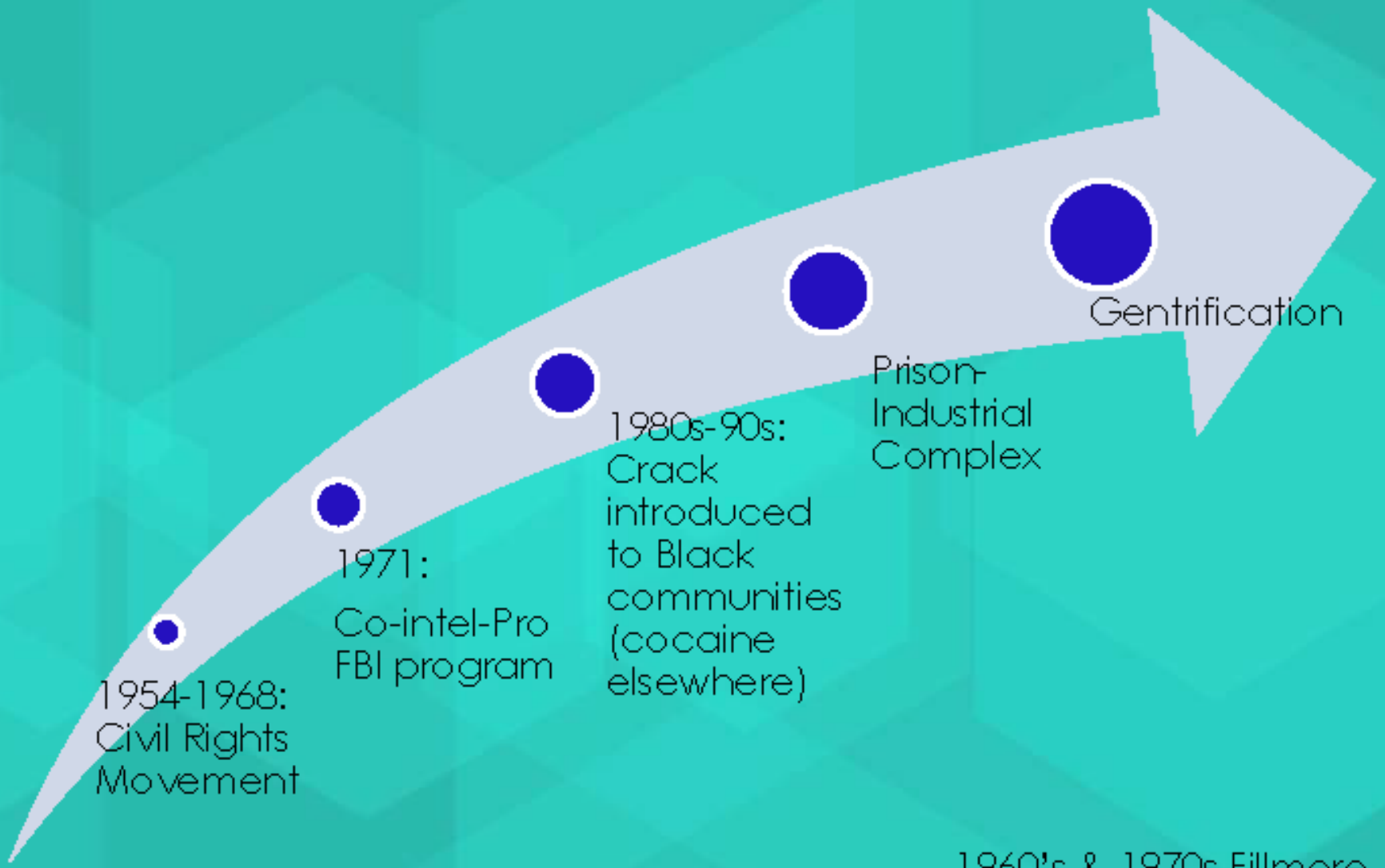
– Sis Ava

The Result of Slavery was a "made" people who had their memories erased, were trained to distrust and hate one another and taught that everything white is right…white people were superior, smarter, prettier, more powerful… even Jesus is White, right?

The most important thing that could be taken from a person was taken in Slavery – **IDENTITY**, the connection to Language, Culture, Ancestors and Religion.

ALWAYS ON THE DEFENSE

1865: Civil War ends; Black Codes begin
1866: KKK forms
1867-1877: Reconstruction
1877-1928: Convict leasing
1877-1950s: Jim Crow
1921: Black Wall Street
1923: Rosewood
1954-1968: Civil Rights Movement



1960's & 1970s Fillmore, Marin City, etc...

What kept us sane, connected and alive?

COMMUNITY

- The building of a culture from nothing
- Survival skills
- Cooperative Economics
- Support
- The importance of education, good manners, marriage and family, and work

AND THEN CAME...

CRACK COCAINE

Pre-crack:

- Rosewood, Black Wall St., Fillmore District
- Working families in Marin City / Bayview Hunters Point shipyard jobs
- Intact families stay together & sacrifice for the community
- Black excellence, home-based businesses

Post crack:

- Families broken
- Death
- Child "Protective" Services
- Community breakdown
- Gangs
- Fatherless homes
- Prison

No recovery since crack

Loss of Community & Family Structure + Loss of Black Business Districts

= Prime environment for Gentrification

How **white "norms"** affect SDOH in **poor black** communities

Culture:
White "gentrification" trumps Black culture: displaces Black families for the sake of diversity (weaponized), changes the fabric of the community & creates the Willie Lynch syndrome

Schools:
Lack of culturally appropriate curriculum that models Black leaders, education fails to make leaders

Housing:
Laws that prohibit Blacks from owning property

Language:
Inferiority complex, liberal microaggressions

Lack of Marriage:
No longer considered important

Work for Others:
Blacks taught to get a job vs. starting businesses/building local Black economies and Blacks lack access to resources

Healthcare:
Continued medical experimentation, lack of cultural competence

To survive, Blacks have become "functioning white people"

MENTAL HEALTH

Depression

Anxiety

Disassociation & Self Hatred

PHYSICAL HEALTH

Hypertension & Cardiac Diseases

Diabetes

Obesity

Young Black people are showing up different. But to prove that nothing has "really" changed; That White people still have to have the controlling voice and set the expectation…that Black people have still not been freed up to heal and repair their broken experience

– Colin Kaepernick

This is why the MCHWC mission of **African American health equity** is so important *and* so difficult.

African immigrant women have the same reproductive health outcomes as White women

So **WHY** is an African American woman **born and raised in the U.S.** nearly **3** times as likely to die in the year surrounding childbirth than a White woman?

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. *One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway.*

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth…and say "This is not just."

– *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

"A Time to Break the Silence," Riverside Church, New York City, April 4, 1967

Our Ask

What happens when we value a community?

Gay Marriage*

Sanctuary Cities*

Recreational Marijuana*

***All were against the Federal Law**

JayVon Muhammad

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Healthier communities for all through better

laws & policies

Disclaimer

The information provided in this discussion is for informational purposes only, and does not constitute legal advice. ChangeLab Solutions does not enter into attorney-client relationships.

ChangeLab Solutions is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization that educates and informs the public through objective, non-partisan analysis, study, and/or research. The primary purpose of this discussion is to address legal and/or policy options to improve public health. There is no intent to reflect a view on specific legislation.

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AGENDA

- What do we mean by health equity?
- How can policy promote health equity?
- How can we shift the narrative?
- What's the role of local government?
- How do we sustain equitable change?

What do we mean by **health equity**?

What is equity?

Health equity = "the state in which everyone has the opportunity to attain full health potential and no one is disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or any other socially defined circumstance."

(source NAS)

EQUALITY

EQUITY

You say health equity, I say…

Fairness / Justice / Opportunity

The goal is for health equity efforts to be effective.

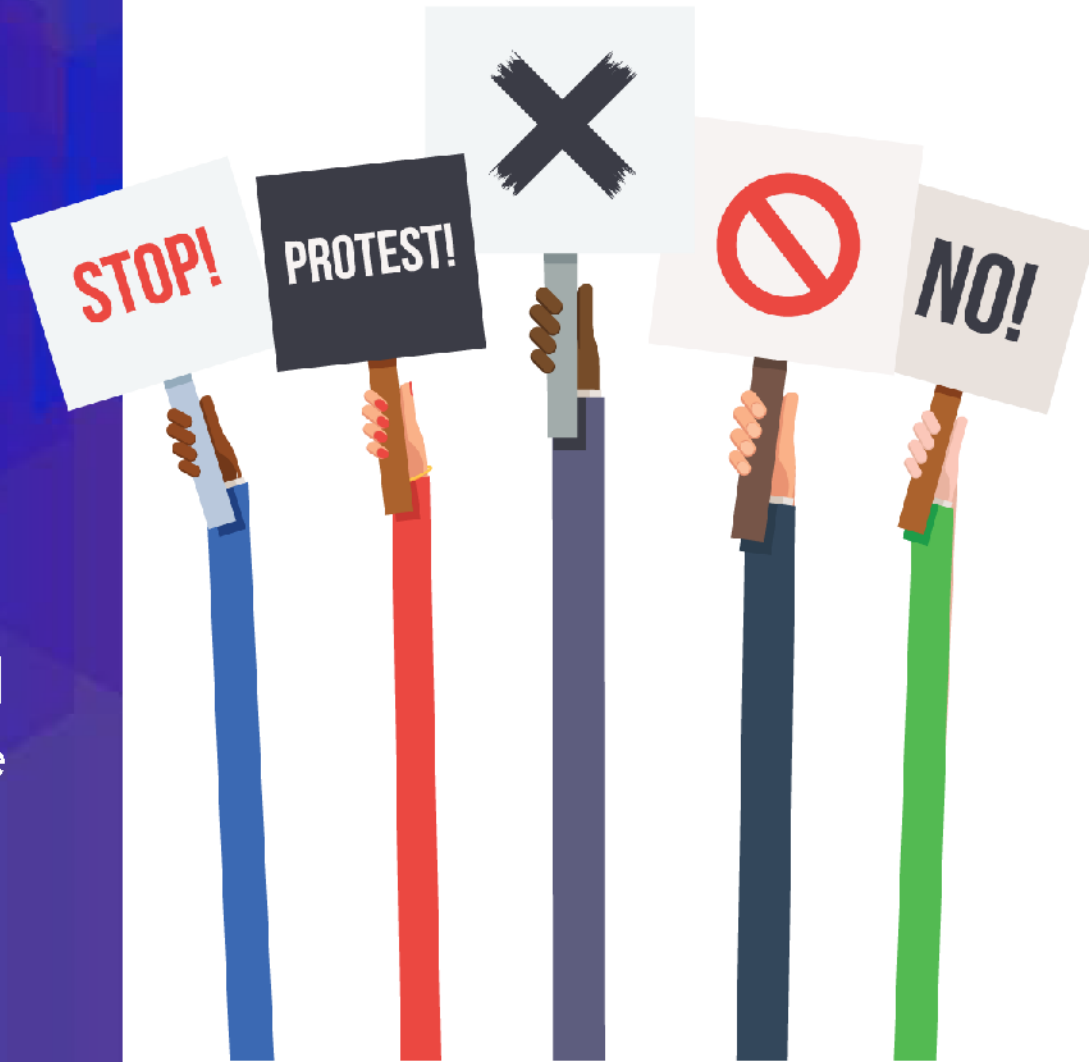
Racism must be addressed to achieve health equity

Intersectionality 101

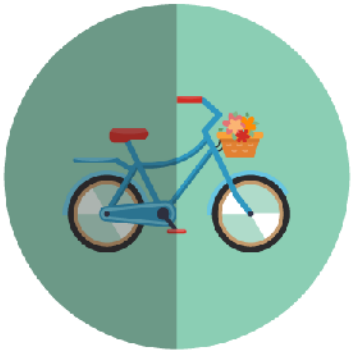
Addressing the root causes of poor health

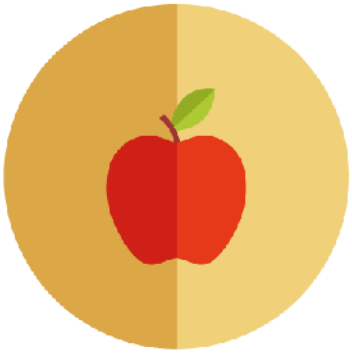
How can **law & policy** promote **health equity**?

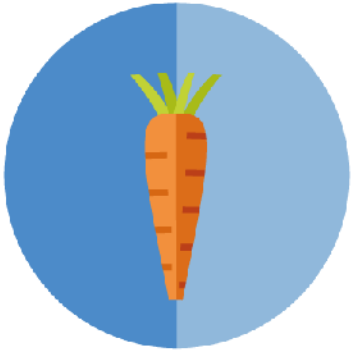
Efforts to **remove resources**—even unhealthy ones—from already under-resourced communities may not be received well



Focus on
health-promoting
community
resources







Supporting community resilience

Understand the effects of trauma on a community

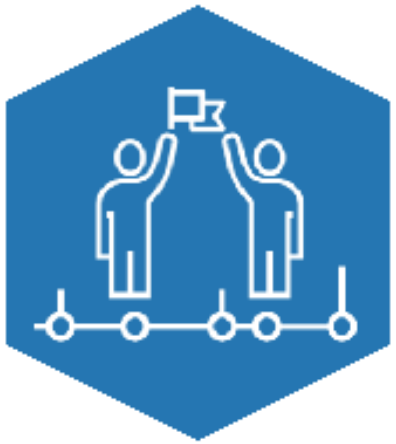
Work to build resilience

Community-directed policy

Community Power +
Policymaking Process =
Improved Health Outcomes

How can we shift the narrative for **health equity**?

Setting the **historical context** of health equity



Acknowledging **past harms** to create a more **just future**

Shift the frame to systems thinking and away from the idea that individuals bear the responsibility for poor health caused by decades—or centuries—of systematic harm

Systems thinking

is important for health equity

Changing the frame

Using traditional data & community experience

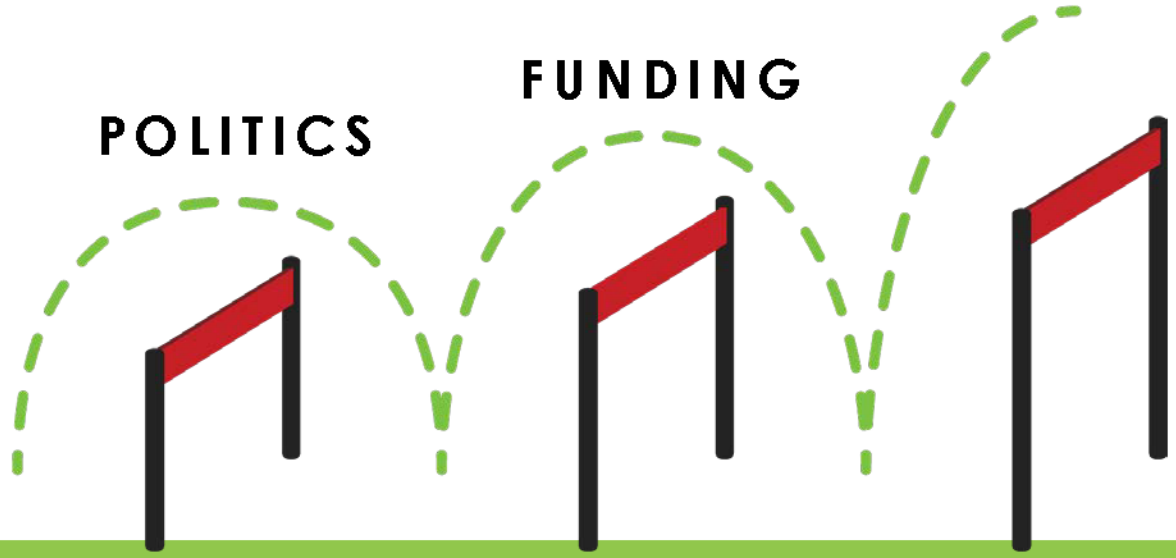
Consider the trade-offs in how you use **data**

What's the role of **local government** in promoting **health equity**?

There is an opportunity for different fields to come together to produce & protect **equitable local innovation** in policy

Local governments can & should be effective partners in addressing community priorities

PREEMPTION



Preemption often appears as a hurdle to **equitable changemaking**

Preemption is a legal tool that can be used to stifle equitable policy or to protect it

How do we **sustain policy** that promotes **health equity**?

Change takes…

- Time
- Commitment
- Effort
- Relationship building
- Financing
- Stability

Policy can be

messy

Equitable policy change requires shifting the power base **without leaving people behind**

Issues in equitable funding & financing

Lack of infrastructure and services

Lack of funding & resources to make changes

Siloed funding streams

Strategies to equitably direct resources

Direct resources to undeserved communities & policies that address their needs

Invest & divest

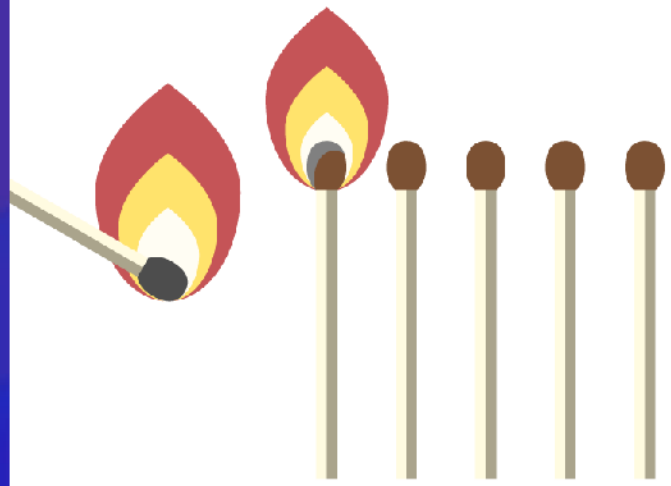
Use existing funding streams more flexibly

Effective **implementation & accountability**

Ensure **equitable enforcement** to improve policy impact

Evaluation is essential to ensure that policy is working

Troubleshooting for **unintended consequences**



- School discipline policies
- Tobacco "PUP" laws
- Occupancy standards for rental housing
- Criminalizing food sharing

Whose perspective do you still need?

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Thank you! Questions?

Join our expert panel for **Continued Conversation About Health Equity** on April 26, 11am - noon PT

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Want more **health equity**?

Next up, Episode 2! *Building Healthy, Equitable Communities Through Supports For Working Families*

- Blog: May 1
- Webinar: May 17
- Expert Panel: May 22

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Stay tuned for **resources**:

- Blueprint for Collective Action
- Guide to Equitable Enforcement

For these and other resources, visit us at changelabsolutions.org

Keep the conversation going

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