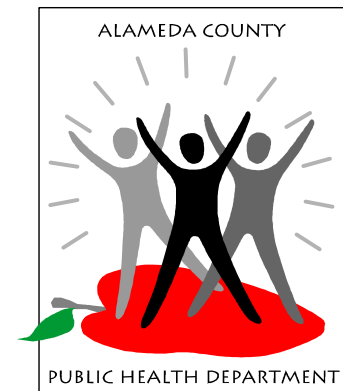


Addressing the Root Causes of Health Inequities through a Local Policy Agenda

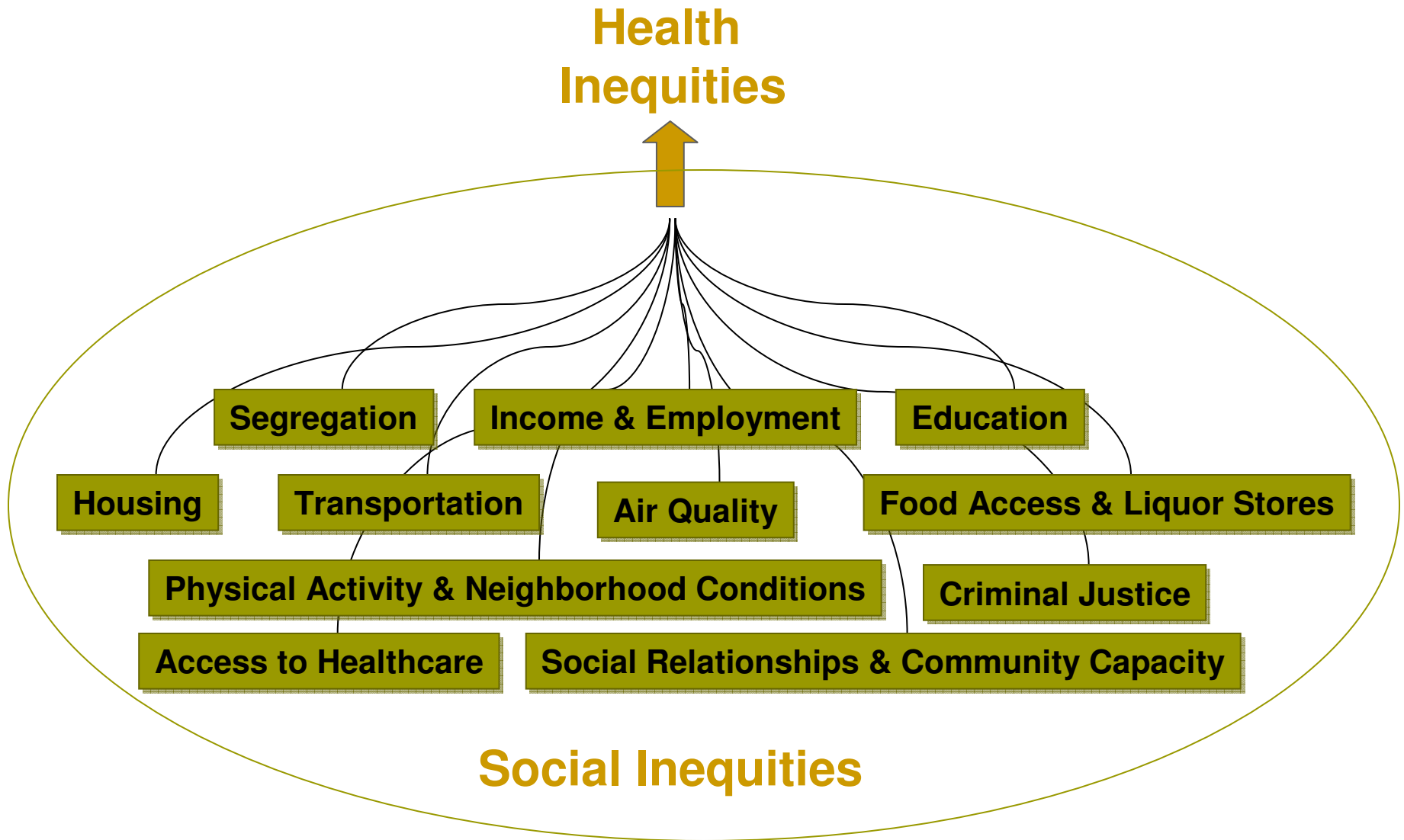
Presentation to the
Public Health Commission
July 9, 2009



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Building a policy agenda
 - Process Goals
 - Steps
- Implementing a policy agenda
 - Structure
 - Guidelines
- Policy Work to Date

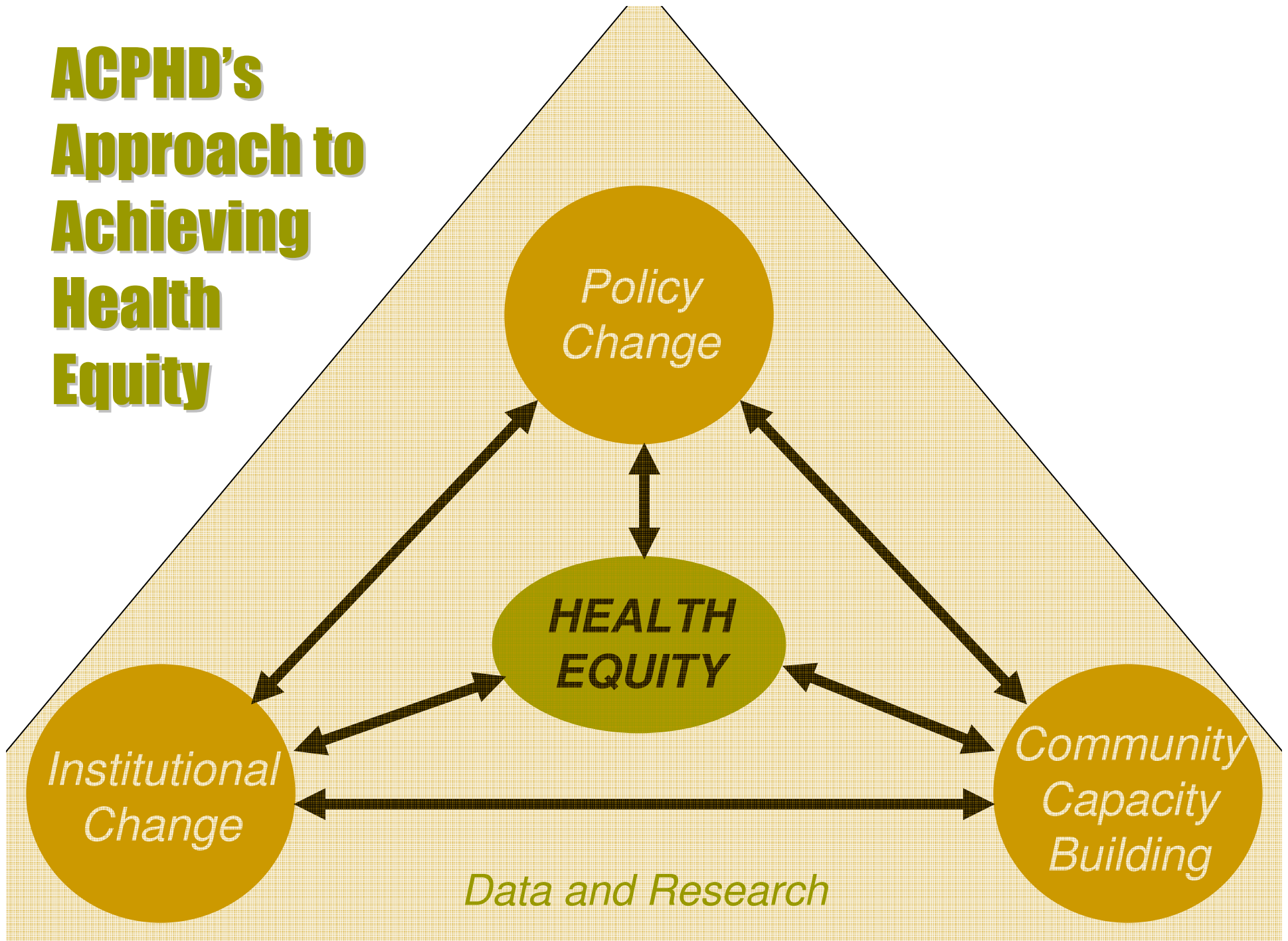
Social Inequities: Root Causes of Health Inequities



Organizational Context

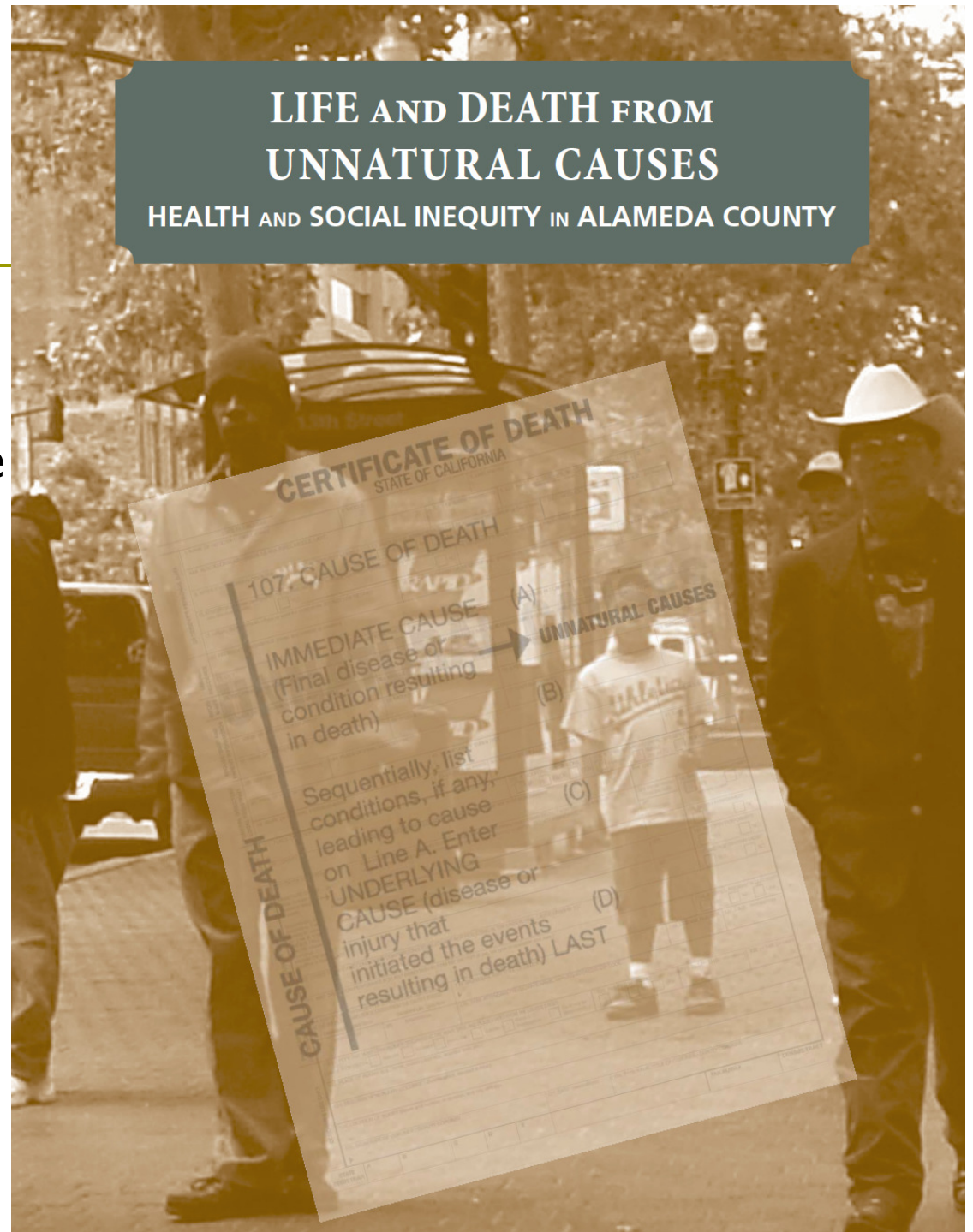
- Strategic Plan
 - Direction #5: “Advocate for policies that address the social conditions impacting health.”
- 1.5 FTE dedicated to local policy work
 - Flexibility and responsiveness
 - Strong relationships
- Part of a 3-pronged strategy for addressing health inequities

ACPHD's Approach to Achieving Health Equity



Organizational Context

- Report increases:
 - ACPHD understanding of the issues
 - ACPHD credibility
 - Public awareness of the issues and ACPHD work
- Find it online:
www.acphd.org



ACPHD's Place Matters Initiative

The Alameda County Place Matters team **promotes health equity through a community-centered local policy agenda** focused on education, economic development, housing, incarceration, land use, and transportation.

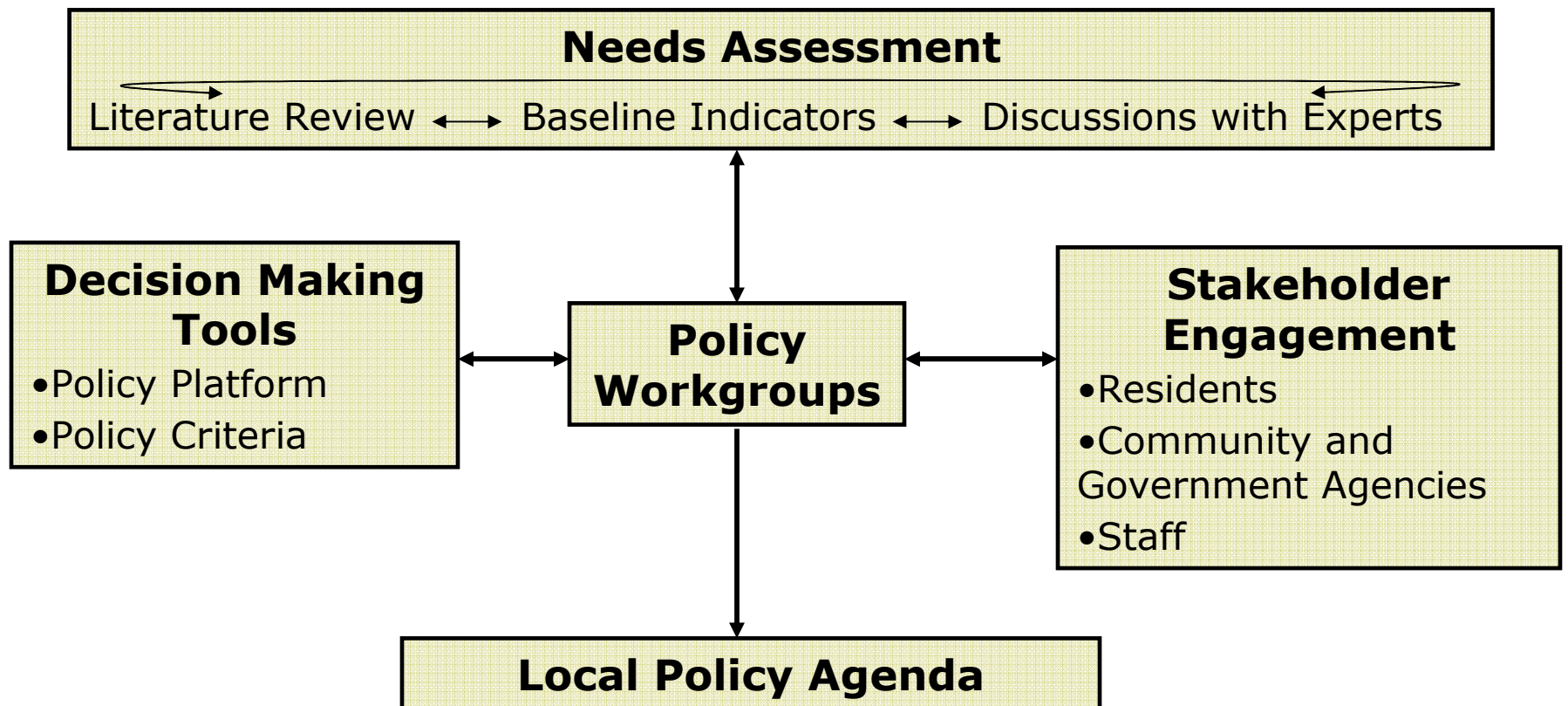
The ACPHD Place Matters Initiative is part of the Place Matters National Initiative of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies' Health Policy Institute and funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Building a local policy agenda

□ Process Goals

- Institutionalize policy work in ACPHD
- Ensure policy work is:
 - Community driven
 - Research driven
 - Proactive
 - Responsive
- Create and enhance stakeholder buy-in
- Build relationships

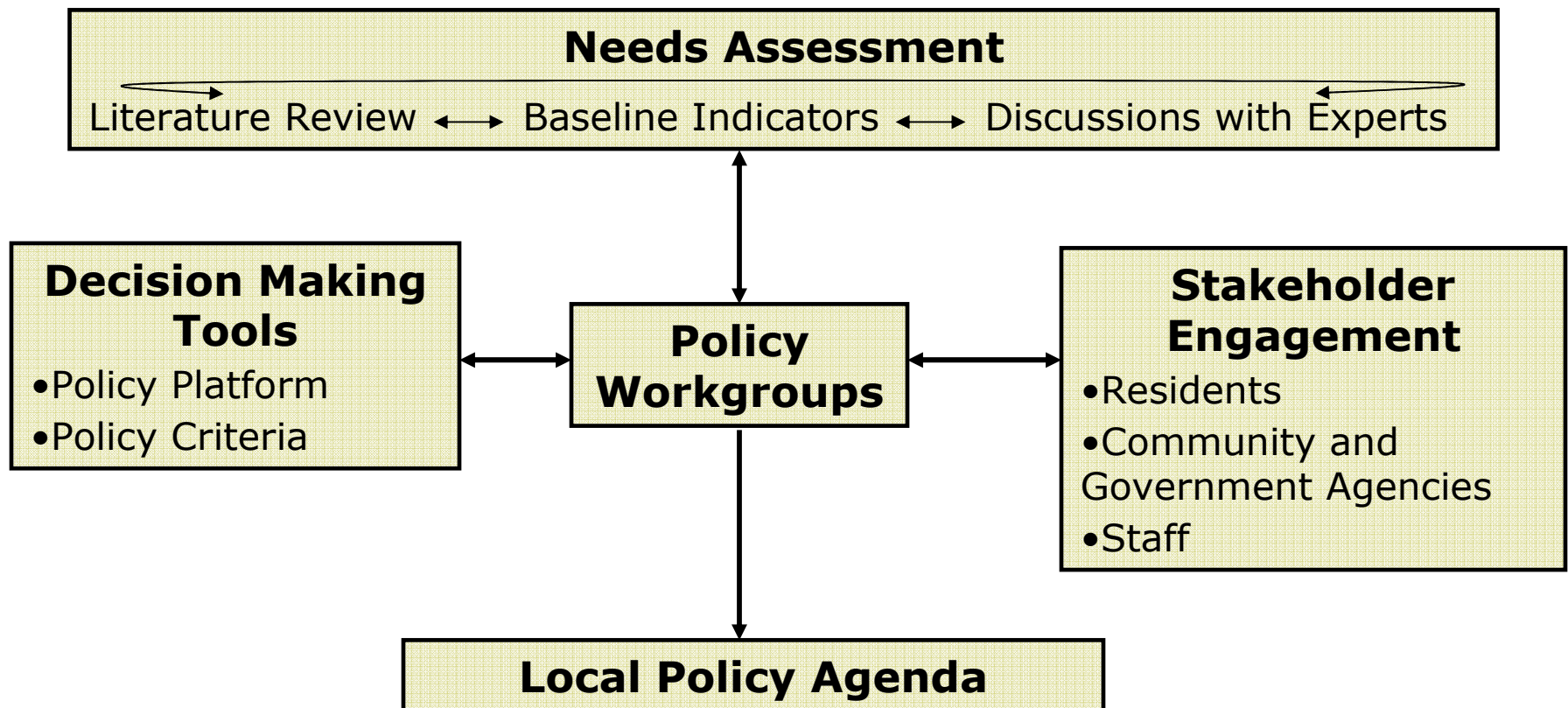
Building a local policy agenda



Needs Assessment

- One per policy area
- Mutually informing components
- Outputs:
 - Full report & summary documents
 - Relationships!!!
 - Policy analysis and testimony

Building a local policy agenda



Local Policy Workgroups

□ Goal

- Department-wide participation
- Increase ACPHD staff capacity for policy analysis and advocacy
- Create and work towards the implementation of ACPHD's local policy agenda
 - Oakland focused at first

□ Levels of Participation

- Key members
 - Approx. 40 key members
- Informed members
 - Approx. 60 informed members

Policy Workgroups

□ Initial Tasks

- Attend trainings
- Organize discussions with experts
 - Use this information and needs assessment to identify policies for the policy agenda

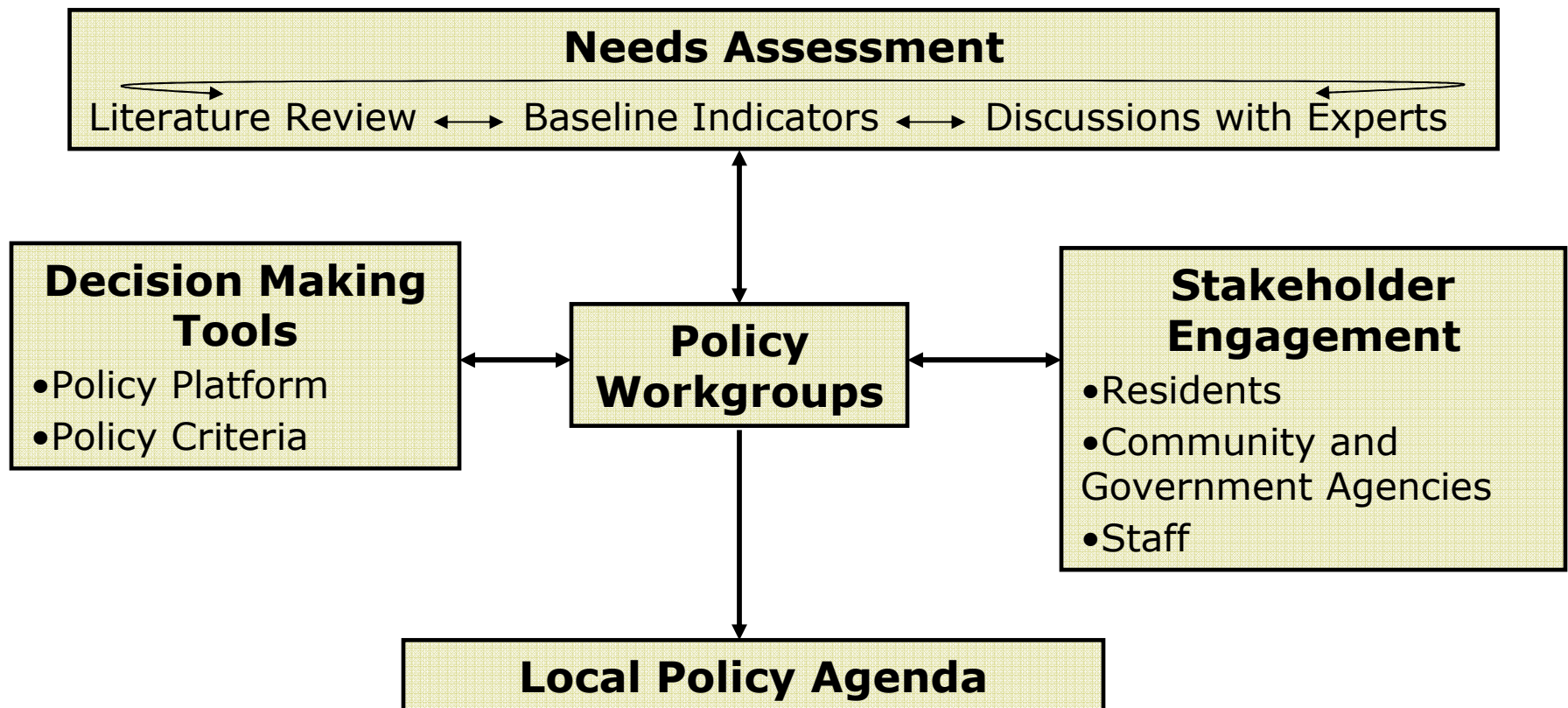
□ Intermediate tasks

- Apply the Policy Criteria to potential policies
- Finalize and release Local Policy Agenda

□ Long-term tasks

- Implement Local Policy Agenda
- Coordinate with state and federal policy efforts
- Engage stakeholders in policy work
- Respond to community requests for policy analysis and expert testimony

Building a local policy agenda



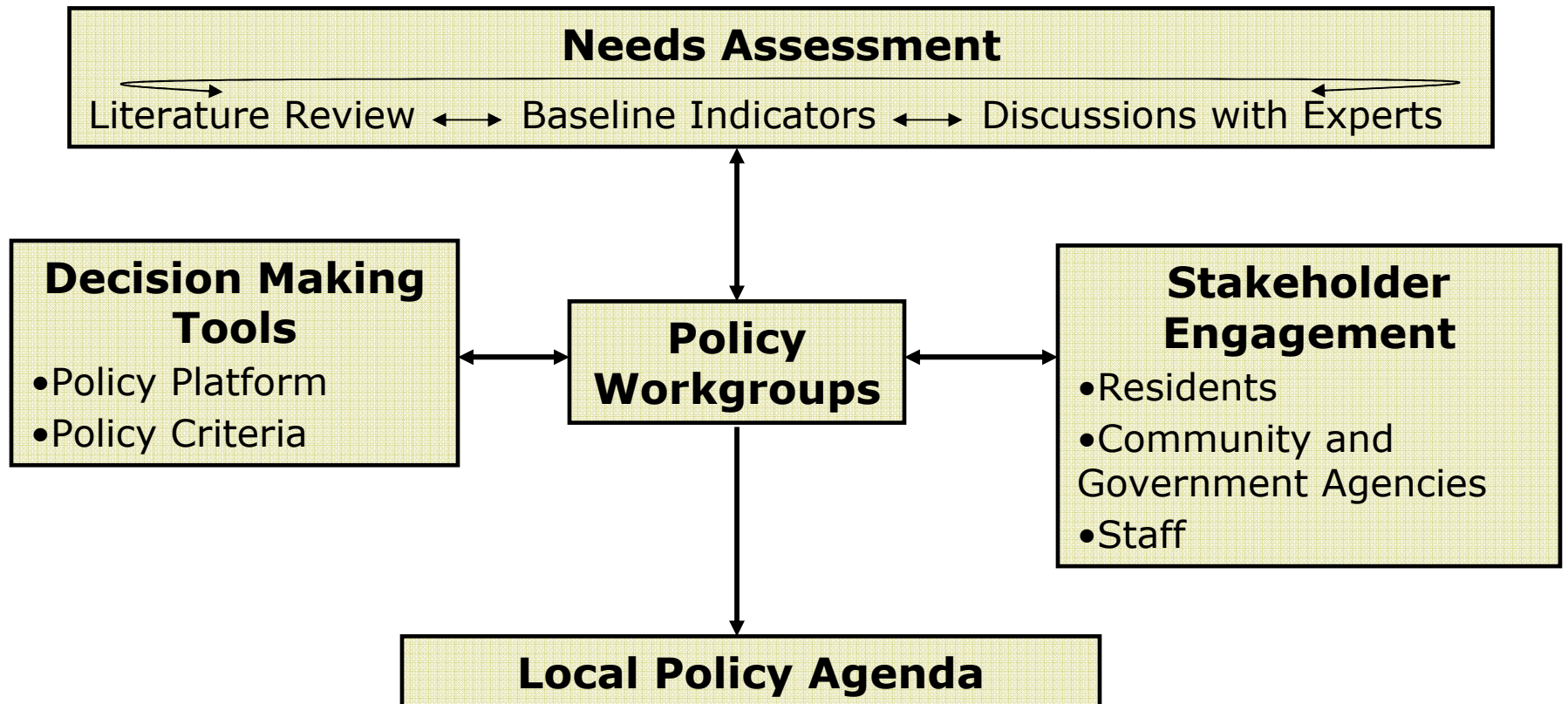
Community and Government Organization Engagement

- Participation:
 - Content “experts” from local and regional organizations
- Goals:
 - Identify potential policies and strategies for our policy agenda
 - Build relationships for action
- Format:
 - “Discussions with Experts”
 - Convening(s), roundtable, informational interviews, etc.

Resident Engagement

- Participation:
 - Existing resident groups
 - People receiving services through ACPHD
- Goals:
 - Provide opportunity for meaningful engagement
 - Prioritize issues within each policy area
 - Build relationships for action
- Format
 - Large convening(s), attending pre-existing meetings, etc.

Building a local policy agenda



Policy Assessment Tools

- Policy Platform
 - Goal statements for each policy area
 - Communicates overall vision to the public
- Policy Criteria
 - Used to assess policies for inclusion in the Local Policy Agenda
 - For internal use
- Informed by:
 - Needs Assessments
 - Stakeholder Engagement process

Policy Assessment Tool Example

Needs Assessment

- ❑ Overpayment on housing associated with poor nutrition, displacement, homelessness, community instability, etc.
- ❑ Increasing % of Oakland households overpaying for housing

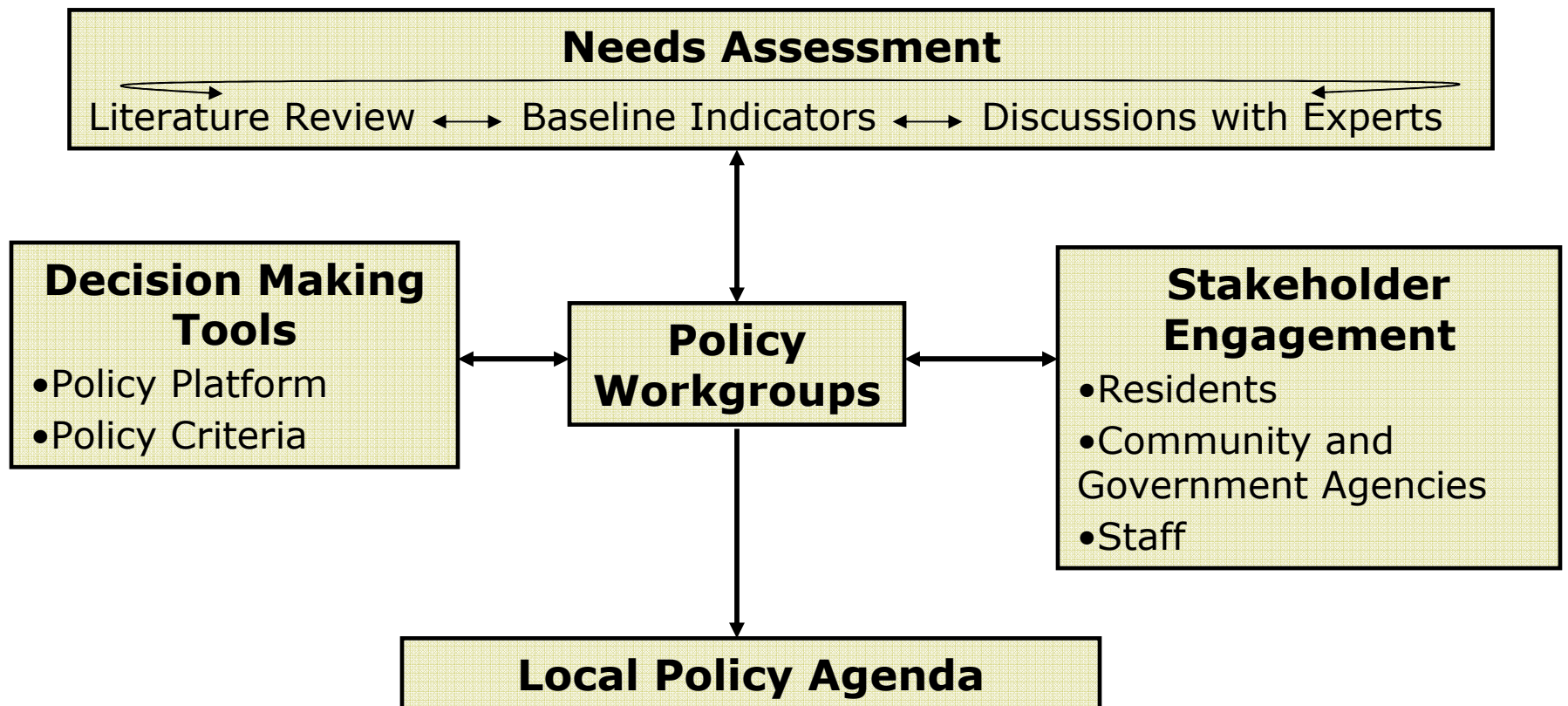
Policy Platform [DRAFT]

An adequate supply of housing is constructed and preserved in proportion to demand, maintaining cultural, racial, and class diversity of the community. All housing is safe, habitable, and supports good health. No household resides in overcrowded conditions, is homeless, or resorts to spending more than 30 percent of the income on housing costs.

Policy Criteria [DRAFT]

Will this policy decrease the number of households overpaying for housing?

Building a local policy agenda



Implementing the Local Policy Agenda

- Place Matters Policy Workgroups
 - Function
 - See previous slide
 - Structure
 - Coordinator
 - Liaison to ACPHD Legislative Council
- Place Matters Planning and Action Team
 - Function
 - Provides guidance on the boundaries of policy work
 - Structure
 - Representative from each of the policy area workgroups
 - Key ACPHD decision makers

Implementing the Local Policy Agenda

□ Guidelines for Policy Activities

- Asses policy for health impacts
- Communicate health impacts clearly and strategically
- Offer criteria for evaluating alternative solutions

Local Policy Advocacy To Date

□ Process

■ **Receive a request**

- Community groups
- Government agency

■ **Apply basic screening criteria**, including:

- Will this produce poor health outcomes in communities already disproportionately experiencing health inequities?
- Does this policy address the root causes of health inequities?
- Will working on this policy help build relationships?

■ **Complete analysis**

- Examine potential health impacts of a given decision

■ **[Engage ACPHD and resident stakeholders]**

■ **Oral and/or written testimony**

Influencing Planning Decisions

□ Eastshore Power Plant

■ Issue

- Permit hearing before the California Energy Commission (CEC) on building a power plant in a low-income community of color in Hayward

■ Action

- Analysis and testimony regarding cumulative impacts facing communities of color already burdened by poor health outcomes

■ Outcome

- CEC denied the permit to build
- Improved relations with community



Influencing Planning Decisions

□ San Leandro Crossings

■ Issue

- San Leandro Station Area TOD Plan:
 - strong commitment to affordable housing
 - created through a participatory public process
- Some groups opposed affordable housing component of 1st phase

■ Action

- ACPHD testified at City Council hearing on health impacts of *lack* of affordable housing

■ Outcome

- Decision expected in February 2009
- City Council reaction: "We need to listen to what [the health person] is saying."



Influencing Planning Decisions

□ Port of Oakland

■ Issue

- Maritime Air Quality Improvement Plan (MAQIP):
 - Work with stakeholders to ensure a strong commitment from the Port of Oakland to improving air quality
- Comprehensive Truck Management Program (CTMP):
 - Improve Port of Oakland's standards for truck emissions
 - Ensure that solutions do not burden already impacted populations

■ Action

- ACPHD participated on the MAQIP and CTMP advisory groups and on the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports
- Various presentations and testimonies

■ Outcome

- MAQIP passed without a strong implementation plan
- CTMP passed with moderate trucking standards

Reactive Policy Work

- A good compliment to the proactive policy agenda
- Drawbacks if completed in a vacuum
 - “Siloed”
 - Not connected to ACPHD’s programs
 - Lacks a unifying vision and goal
 - Not sure if we were actually getting at root causes
 - Not necessarily community priorities

Thank you!

For more information:

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Equity

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www.acphd.org/healthequity/placematters.html