

# Advisory committees for evaluation of community power-building programs: experiences and lessons learned

November 11, 2022

**Ranjani Paradise**, Institute for Community Health | [rparadise@icommunityhealth.org](mailto:rparadise@icommunityhealth.org)

**Carrie Fisher**, Institute for Community Health | [cffisher@icommunityhealth.org](mailto:cffisher@icommunityhealth.org)

**Katie Fox**, Grassroots Solutions | [katie@grassrootssolutions.com](mailto:katie@grassrootssolutions.com)


**Virginia Roncaglione**, Innovation Network | [vroncaglione@innonet.org](mailto:vroncaglione@innonet.org)



# Session overview

- Introduction
- Brief panelist presentations
- Panelist discussion
- Q&A


# Introduction



**Community power** is the ability of communities most impacted by inequity to act together to voice their needs and hopes for the future and to collectively drive structural change, hold decision-makers accountable, and advance health equity [and other goals].

<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/collections/building-community-power-to-advance-health-equity.html>


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# Evaluating power-building programs

- Participatory evaluation can advance the power-building goals of the program while also advancing the evaluation
- Advisory committees are one structure for this
- Today's discussion is a space to reflect on and learn from experiences working with advisory committees for evaluation of community power-building programs

# Case examples and panelists

## **An advisory committee focused on relationship-building: Community Solutions for Health Equity**

- Carrie Fisher, Institute for Community Health

## **An advisory committee focused on conceptual exploration: Community Change Power in Places**

- Katie Fox, Grassroots Solutions and Virginia Roncaglione, Innovation Network

## **An advisory committee focused on evaluation planning: Voices for Health Justice**

- Ranjani Paradise, Institute for Community Health

# **An advisory committee focused on relationship-building: Community Solutions for Health Equity (CSHE)**

Carrie Fisher, Roxanne James, Sofia Ladner, Amanda Robinson, Ranjani Paradise, Karla Walker

# Community Solutions for Health Equity (CSHE)

- Funded by Robert Wood Johnson (RWJF)
- Run by Community Catalyst
- National Advisory Council (NAC)
- Grantees: 11 small community-based organizations
- Focus on making local health systems more responsive to community voices and needs

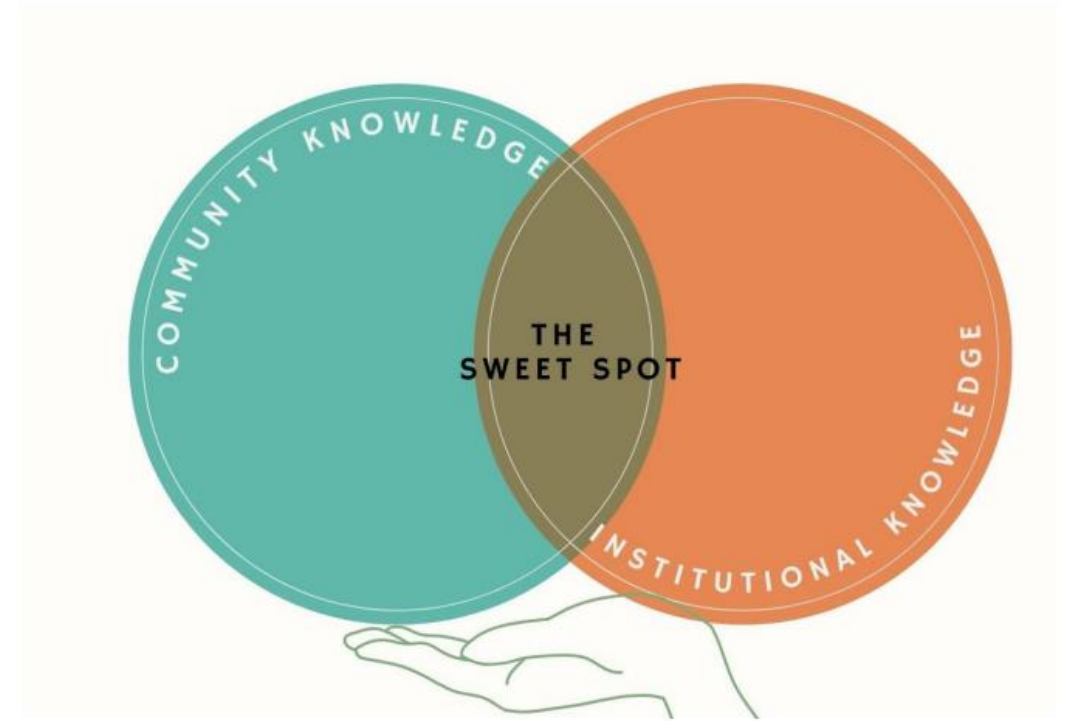


# CSHE values

- Moving at the speed of trust
- The process is the product
- Cultural translation – fully equal valuing of community knowledge and institutional knowledge

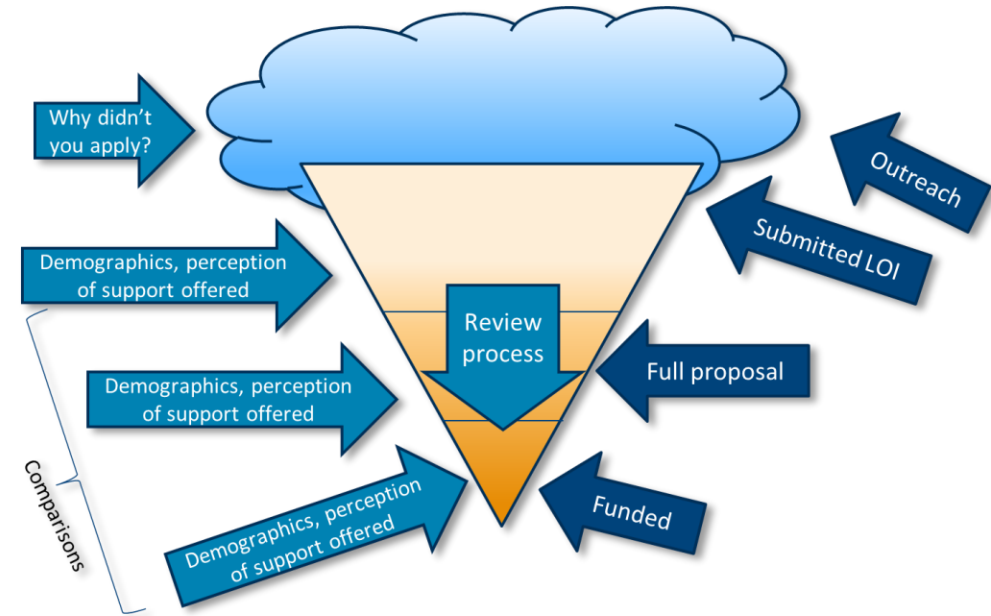
Community Catalyst ~ Cultural Translation

## Knowledge Systems



# CSHE evaluation

- Based in Equitable Evaluation principles
- First stage pre-award
- Focused on CFP development, proposal review, and selection process
- Turned lens on the Foundation
- Told the story of how the program came to be unique



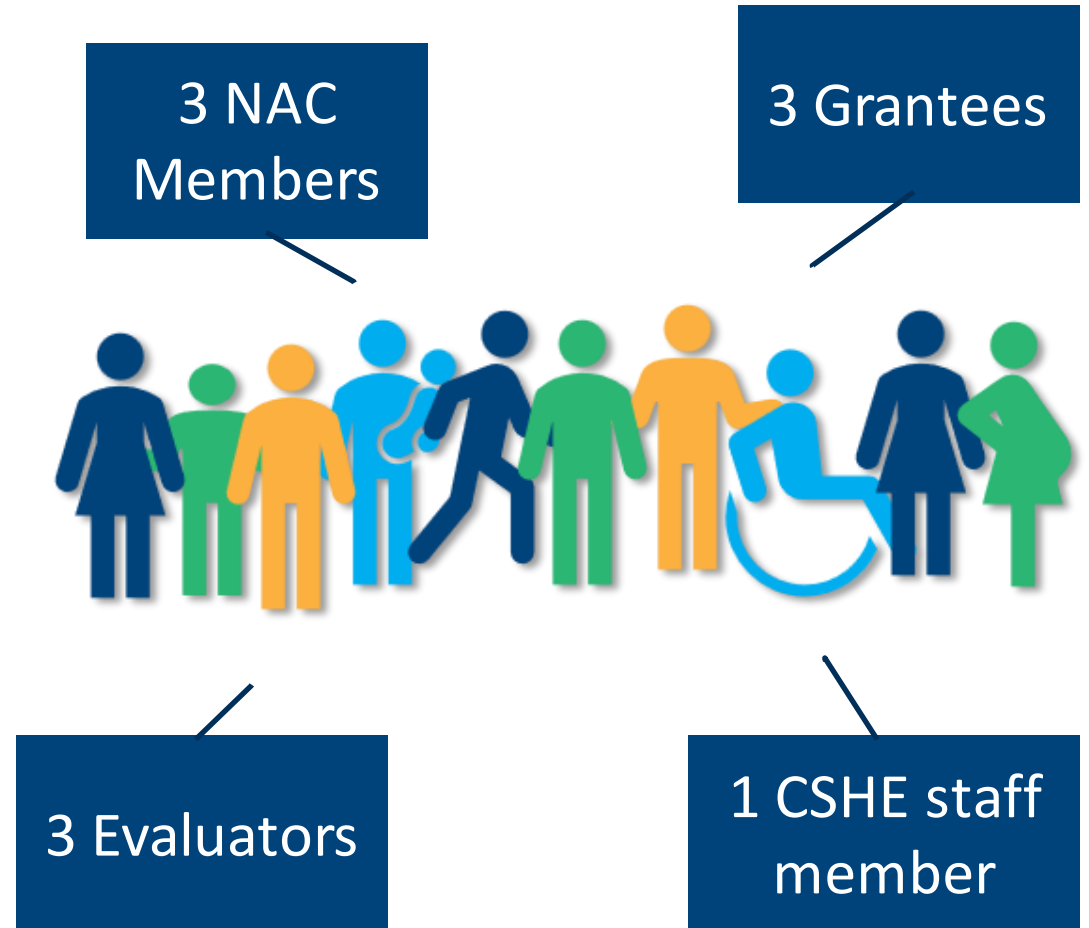
# CSHE evaluation

- Second stage intended to explore program implementation
- Turned lens to CSHE at Community Catalyst
- Planned participatory methods
- Began to encounter relationship-based obstacles
- Formed Evaluation Learning Group



# The Evaluation Learning Group

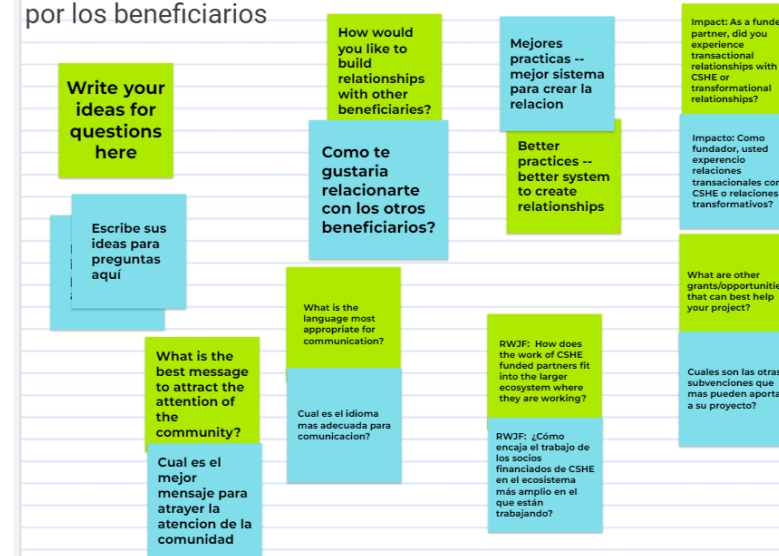
- Intentionally fostered diversity in members
- Monthly meetings, 1:1 make-up sessions
- Meetings: Careful balance between structure and openness



# Key approach: language justice

- Prioritizing language access
  - 100% of email communication is translated
  - Live interpreters at all meetings
  - Bilingual slides
  - Bilingual facilitators translate chat in real time

Topic 1: "Ecosystem" (networks and relationships) of the work done by funded partners  
Tema 1: El "ecosistema" (redes y relaciones) del trabajo hecho por los beneficiarios



We want YOU, the CSHE community, to decide what questions we ask  
Queremos que USTEDES, la comunidad de CSHE, decidan qué preguntas hacemos

What questions should the Learning Group ask to understand this topic?  
¿Qué preguntas debemos hacer el Grupo de Aprendizaje para comprender este tema?

What questions do YOU have about this topic?  
¿Qué preguntas tengas en cuanto a este tema?

# Key approach: using program concepts

- Building on concepts established by program
- No shortcuts to putting in time
- 1:1s and knowing each person individually (despite Zoom!)
- Getting personal / allowing vulnerability





# An advisory committee focused on conceptual exploration: Community Change Power in Places

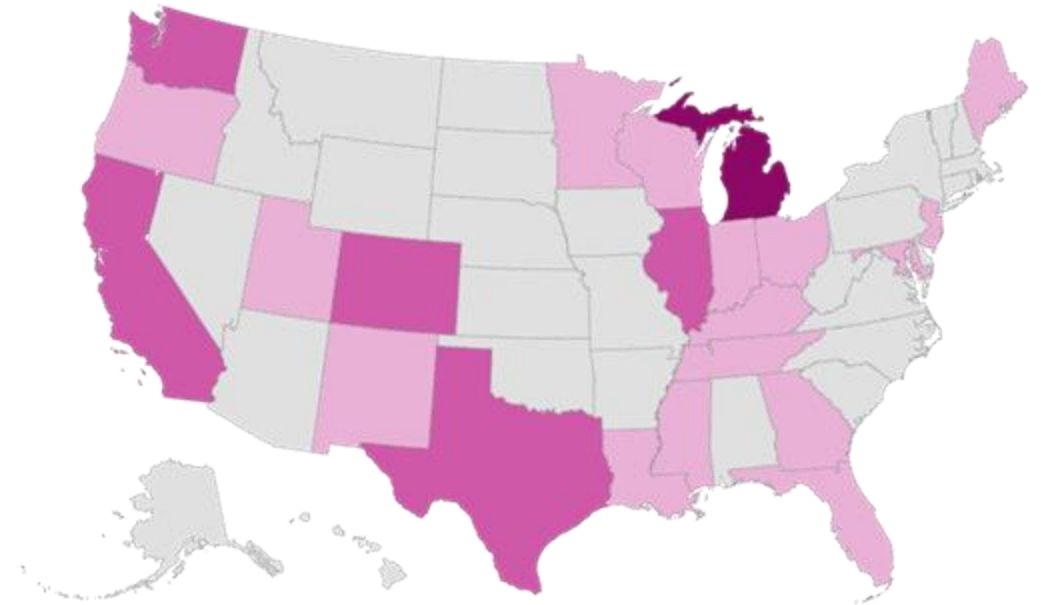
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American Evaluation Association



# Community Change Power in Places Initiative

- **Peer learning cohort** of 29 community organizing groups, in 22 states and Washington, DC
- Focuses on **supporting and surfacing** successful and innovative approaches to building grassroots bases and power in Black, Brown, and immigrant communities
- The **JPB Foundation** funds both PiP and the evaluation



Number of partners in each state:  1,  2,  4

# Advisory Committee Purpose and Goals

**Purpose:** To ground the PiP learning and evaluation project in the experiences and interests of the cohort organizations.

## Goal 1



To explore and build **shared understanding of base building concepts** and practices.

## Goal 2



To gather ideas for how we can **maximize the benefits and minimize the burden** of learning and evaluation activities for PiP partners.

## Goal 3



To create a space and process that is **co-creative, enriching, fun, and mutually beneficial** for everyone involved.



## Participant Recruitment

- 1) Developed criteria and a short list
- 2) Created a recruitment flyer
- 3) Recruited organizers at CC to do outreach
- 4) Six organizations opted in and self-selected their representative

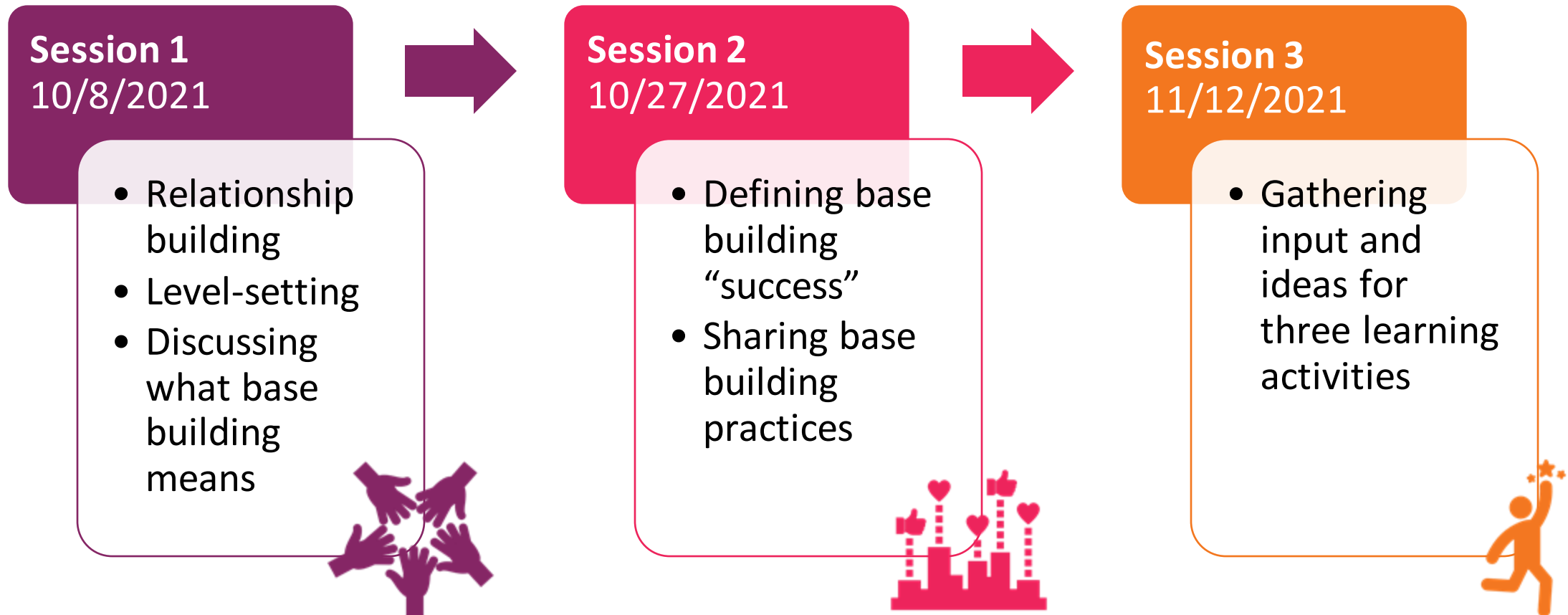


## Compensation

Each participant received \$3,000 via money transfer to their organization at the end of the three sessions.

Estimated 12 total hours time commitment over 3 months at \$250/hour.

# The advisory committee met in three, two-hour sessions over five weeks.



# **An advisory committee focused on evaluation planning: Voices for Health Justice**

Ranjani Paradise, Julia Curbera, Nubia Goodwin, Sofia Ladner, Amanda Robinson, Carrie Fisher

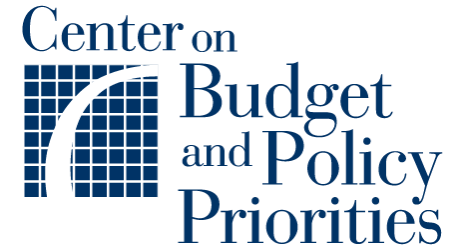
# Voices for Health Justice (VHJ)



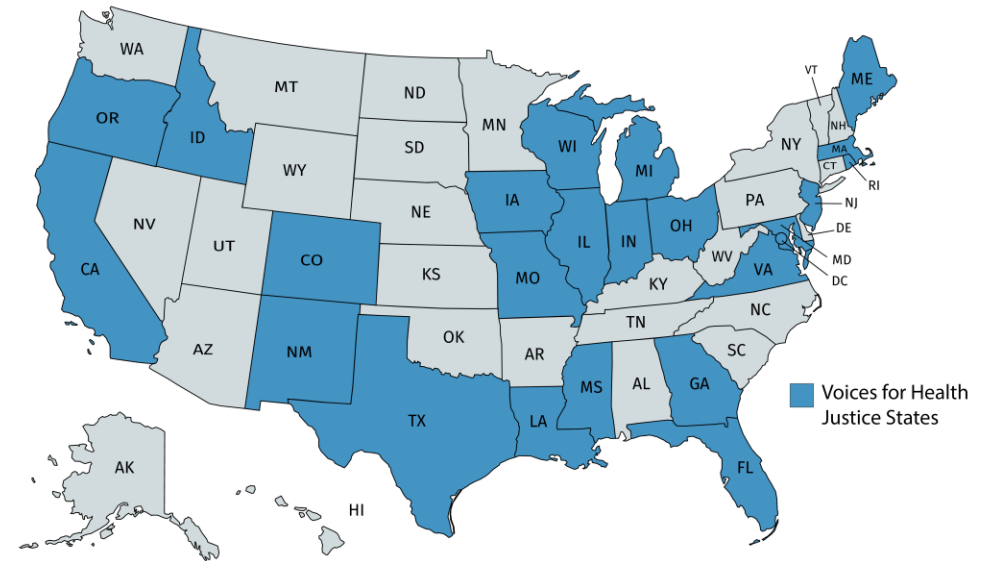
## Funder



## Program implementation

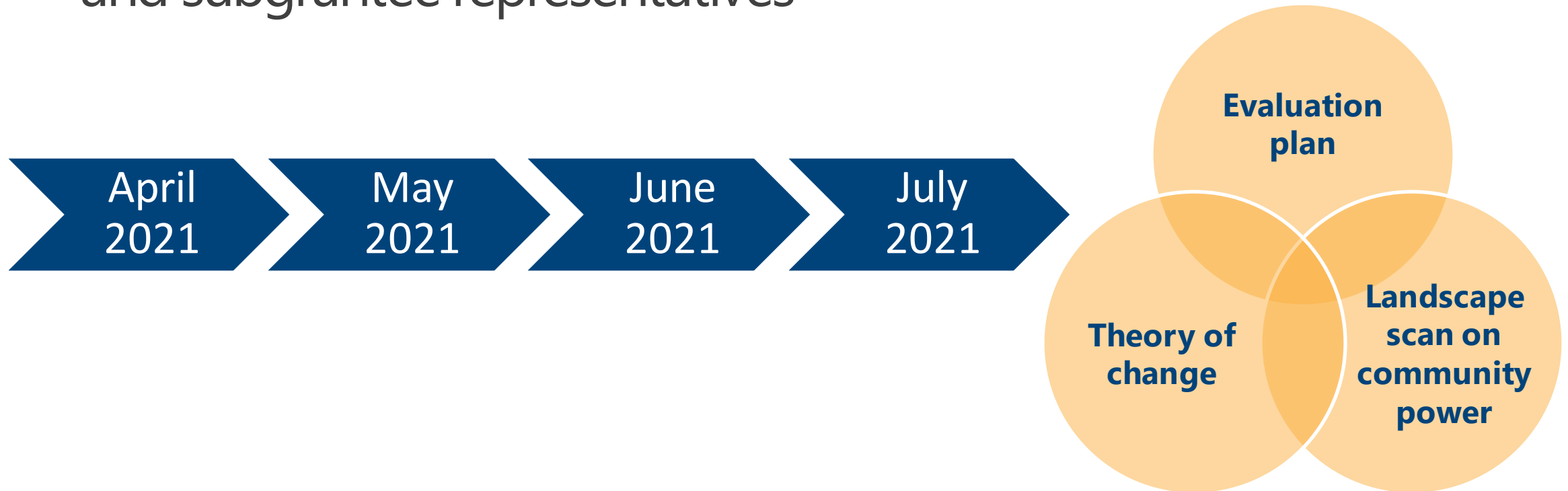


- Provides grants and technical assistance to 25 multi-org projects in 24 states
- Goal: build community power for health justice, with focus on **healthcare access, affordability, and dignity**



# VHJ evaluation

- Evaluation partner: Institute for Community Health (ICH)
- Recruited an Evaluation Advisory Committee (EAC) of grantee and subgrantee representatives



# VHJ Evaluation Advisory Committee recruitment

## Recruitment process

- Recruitment language emailed to all grantees and subgrantees
- Drop in Zoom Q&A sessions to learn more and ask questions

## Commitment and compensation

- Asked for initial 4-month commitment, estimating ~3 hrs/mo
- Stipend corresponding to ~\$250/hr

→ 19 EAC members!!!

## EVALUATORS WANT YOUR HELP

Help us create an evaluation that is  
RELEVANT, VALUABLE FOR GRANTEES, and NOT OVERLY BURDENSOME

The [Institute for Community Health](#) (ICH) has been hired by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as the evaluators for the Voices for Health Justice program. As evaluators, we value participation, social justice, and equity in our work. **We are looking for people from grantee and sub-grantee organizations of the Voices for Health Justice program to help in designing the evaluation of the project.**

NO EVALUATION EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED. We have expertise in evaluation methods and data -- you have expertise in your organization's work and the lived experience of the communities you serve. Both are valid and valuable for this work!

### Why join the committee:

- Help shape the evaluation, answering questions like "What does success look like? What is important to measure, and what is NOT important to measure? What information will be helpful for the grantees, not just the funders?"
- Help us see things from the point of view of community members and organizations most affected by the project and the evaluation.
- Make sure the evaluation is not too burdensome on grantees and subgrantees
- Hold evaluators accountable to our goals and social justice values
- Learn evaluation methods and skills that may be useful beyond this project -- we will tailor topics according to both project needs and member interest
- Network and build relationships with evaluators and other grantees and sub-grantees

# VHJ Evaluation Advisory Committee activities



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Relationship-building
- Discussion about progress and next steps
- Gather input and feedback on potential approaches and methods



## DESIGN SESSIONS

- Session 1 – Theory of change
- Session 2 – Evaluation questions
- EAC members expected to attend one
- Pre-work: generating ideas in online shared document
- Facilitated discussion during sessions (Zoom)

# VHJ Evaluation Advisory Committee activities

- After the design phase, 10 members continued on to participate in the EAC for the implementation of the evaluation
- Quarterly meetings during implementation phase:
  - Relationship-building and networking
  - Discuss evaluation progress and reflect on findings
  - Provide input and feedback on specific evaluation activities
    - Social network analysis survey instrument
    - Selection criteria, data collection methods, and compensation for case study projects

# Panelist discussion

# Panelist discussion

- Successes and facilitators
- Challenges
- Advice and tips

# Key takeaways



**Q&A**



**Ranjani Paradise**, Director of Evaluation,  
Institute for Community Health  
[rparadise@communityhealth.org](mailto:rparadise@communityhealth.org)

**Carrie Fisher**, Research and Evaluation  
Scientist & Senior Manager of Learning  
and Development, Institute for  
Community Health  
[cfisher@communityhealth.org](mailto:cfisher@communityhealth.org)



**Katie Fox**, Senior Strategist, Grassroots  
Solutions  
[katie@grassrootsolutions.com](mailto:katie@grassrootsolutions.com)



**Virginia Roncaglione**, Interim  
Co-Director, Innovation Network,  
[vroncaglione@innonet.org](mailto:vroncaglione@innonet.org)

**Use this QR code to view and  
download:**

- Copy of slides
- Power in Places learning brief about the advisory committee
- Power in Places advisory committee recruitment flyer
- Voices for Health Justice advisory committee recruitment "job description"

