



# PEOPLE POWER

FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

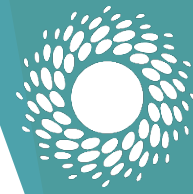
**People Power for Public Health Webinar: August 30, 2022**



CONTRA COSTA  
**BUDGET JUSTICE**



California Pan-Ethnic  
**HEALTH NETWORK**



California Pan-Ethnic  
**HEALTH NETWORK**

# Welcome and Housekeeping

- ▶ Please share your name, pronouns, organization, and what brought you here today in the chat!
- ▶ All sessions will be recorded and recordings, slides, and materials will be available after the event
- ▶ Everyone is muted! There will be a Q&A at the end where folks can unmute and ask questions or drop them in the chat!

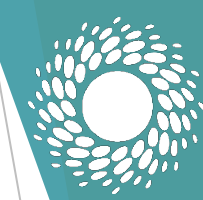
# Why People Power for Public Health?

- ▶ People Power for Public Health aims to reform budget processes and reallocate resources to address longstanding health inequities and chronic underinvestment in the public health infrastructure in communities of color.
- ▶ COVID-19 racial and ethnic disparities in infections, hospitalizations, and deaths coupled with the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others helped to expose local budgets that prioritize law enforcement and criminal justice at the expense of public health and social determinants of health.
- ▶ **People Power for Public Health uplifts the theory of change that communities of color know exactly what they need to live in thriving and healthy neighborhoods and deserve the power to fund their own community solutions.**

# Research Questions

1. Desire-Based Framework: What Do We Want?
2. County Spending: What Do We Get?
3. Changing the Equation: Building Community Power





# Methods

## Data Collection Methods

### STATEWIDE SURVEY

From September 2021 to January 2022, CPEHN administered a statewide “People Power Survey” and received 912 responses. The survey asked respondents how they access care in their counties, including emergency and prehospital care, behavioral health care, primary and preventive care, and other services related to social determinants of health. The survey also included questions related to engagement in local policy making and perspectives on community health priorities.



**912**  
respondents

### COUNTY LISTENING SESSIONS

In partnership with local grassroots organizations, we held five local listening sessions with a total of 416 community residents to dig deeper into community residents’ experiences with accessing health care and to solicit proposed solutions to current barriers.

We partnered with the following organizations in these five counties:

- **Sacramento:** Decarcerate Sacramento & Community Care First Coalition
- **Fresno:** Central Valley Urban Institute
- **Kern:** Visión y Compromiso
- **Orange:** Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies (MECCA)
- **San Diego:** Visión y Compromiso



**416**  
community  
residents

### COMMUNITY LEADER INTERVIEWS

We conducted interviews with 12 key community leaders and advocates to uplift existing community-led solutions and best practices around local advocacy for public health. These interviews elucidated lessons and recommendations on leading successful local public health advocacy work.



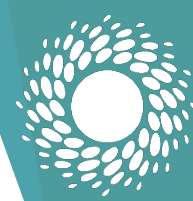
**12**  
community  
leaders

# Partners

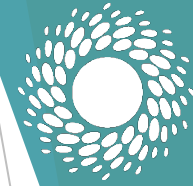
- ▶ Sacramento: Decarcerate Sacramento & Community Care First Coalition
- ▶ Fresno: Central Valley Urban Institute
- ▶ Kern: Visión y Compromiso
- ▶ Orange: Multi-Ethnic Collaborative of Community Agencies (MECCA)
- ▶ San Diego: Visión y Compromiso







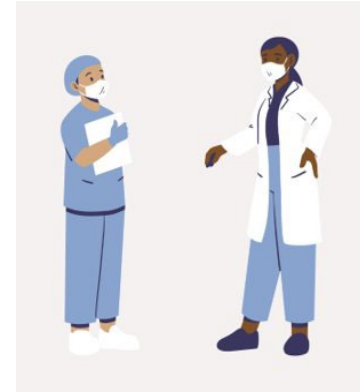
# Desire-Based Framework: What Do We Want?



**Create healthy community  
conditions**



**Ensure access to preventive,  
primary care**

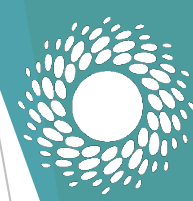


**Transform the workforce to  
meet community needs**



**Strengthen emergency and  
crisis response systems**

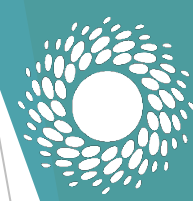




## Prioritize Investment in Social Determinants of Health and Healthy Communities.

- ▶ **Housing:** Provide tenant relief and financial support for home ownership for historically excluded communities.
- ▶ **Community Safety:** Fund community-based after-school and other youth programs, violence intervention and prevention, and trauma-informed services.
- ▶ **Food Access:** Create opportunities for locally-grown food to stay local through subsidized farmer's markets, grocery stores, and school meals.
- ▶ **Green Space:** Prioritize creation and maintenance of green spaces in each neighborhood.

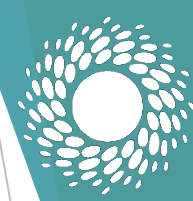
*"When I got to the park where I usually take [my daughter], the playground was burned down and melted... however the parks in the nice areas are farther away." - Kern County Resident*



## Develop Community-Connected and Culturally Responsive Care Workforce.

- ▶ Invest in workforce development programs such as:
  - ▶ Ensure fair wages for non-licensed health providers.
  - ▶ Develop advanced training programs for non-licensed health providers to specialize in their field.
  - ▶ Prioritize bilingual applicants for financial support for education and training.
- ▶ Build the capacity of CBOs to employ health care providers with lived experience, to serve as health and behavioral health homes, and provide navigation services.
- ▶ Remove barriers to licensing and certification based upon justice-involvement.

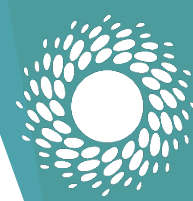
***"I am so glad that a Spanish speaking outreach worker was able to help navigate our family through the COVID-19 vaccination process. Without them, I wouldn't know what to do." - Orange County Resident***



## Ensure Affordable and Accessible Emergency, Prehospital, and Mental Health Crisis Response Services.

- ▶ Improve multi-sector collaboration to decrease the need for emergency services and improve follow-up navigation.
- ▶ Expand emergency response system to include community-connected providers.
- ▶ Improve the training of paramedics related to behavioral health and cultural humility.
- ▶ Better regulate the cost and scope of ambulance services, mobile mental health crisis response, and urgent cares.

***"When a family member was in mental crisis, we had called many agencies to get in-person mobile mental health crisis support but all they could do was call the police." - Survey Respondent***



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# County Spending: What Do We Get?


# General Flows of Funding

There are various taxes and revenue used to pay for health services and law enforcement. These funding sources are crucial to understanding net county costs and fluctuations in county budgets.

FUNDING SOURCES	MENTAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH <sup>1</sup>	PUBLIC HEALTH	SHERIFF DEPARTMENTS <sup>2</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realignment and other County Revenues</li> <li>• Mental Health Services Act</li> <li>• State Funds Allocated for Specific Programs/ Services</li> <li>• Federal Funds, Medicaid &amp; CHIP federal matching funds</li> <li>• Substance Abuse &amp; MH Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant funds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County General Funds</li> <li>• Realignment Funds</li> <li>• State and federal program funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• County General Funds</li> <li>• Property, business, and sales taxes</li> <li>• Federal and state grants</li> <li>• Local fees and fines</li> <li>• Voter-approved increases in general and special sales taxes</li> </ul>

*We recommend that advocates and policymakers do more in-depth research of the various taxes and revenue that support these departmental services.*


# Sacramento County

	Total Appropriations (Includes Net County Cost, taxes, and other revenue)	How Much the County Allocates from General Fund (Net County Cost)	How Much County Spends Per Resident**
<b>Mental Health</b>	\$383 Million	\$31 Million	\$20
<b>Public Health</b>	\$117 Million	\$19 Million	\$12
<b>Sheriff's Department</b>	\$617 Million	\$320 Million	\$201

Sacramento County's Total Population (US Census Bureau, July 2021): **1,588,921**

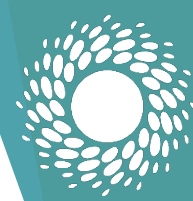


# Orange County

	Total Appropriations (Includes Net County Cost, taxes, and other revenue)	How Much the County Allocates from General Fund (Net County Cost)	How Much County Spends Per Resident**
<b>Mental Health</b> <i>Department of Behavioral Health – Public Guardian</i>	\$507 Million	\$5 Million	\$2
<b>Public Health</b> <i>Health Care Agency</i>	\$132 Million	\$5 Million	\$2
<b>Sheriff's Department</b> <i>Public protection includes the Sheriff Coroner's department</i>	\$899 Million	\$227 Million	\$72

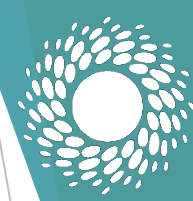
Orange County's Total Population (US Census Bureau, July 2021): **3,167,809**

Source: Orange County Adopted FY 21 - 22 Budget, Pages 95, 185, 234, 241, 243, Appendix pg. 60, pg. 61.



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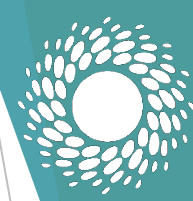
# Changing the Equation: Building Community Power



# Findings

- ▶ In our People Power survey, 74% of respondents said they are interested in creating or changing local policies.
- ▶ Respondents shared that training on the policy making process was needed for them to get involved.
- ▶ Communities and community-based organizations need to create opportunities for their residents to learn about and become engaged in local policy development and budgeting.

***"I think we have to get involved more as a neighborhood and participate more in the decisions, because sadly it's a handful of people that decide where those resources go." - Kern County Resident***



# Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition

- ▶ Since their founding in 2017, they have focused on building out **values-based local budgeting** towards safe and affordable housing, essential health care, access to critical social services, and quality early care and education.
- ▶ **County Budgeting Education & Town Halls:** The coalition has led town halls, hosted a budgeting 101 workshop, and developed stakeholder processes to ensure that community residents are involved in the budget making process.
- ▶ **Measure X:** In 2020, the Coalition helped pass Measure X, a countywide general sales tax that would bring in \$80 - \$100 million a year to fund a system of prevention, care, and social and public services. The measure also included establishing a Measure X Community Advisory Board to develop an annual needs assessment to determine where tax dollars should be funded.



# CONTRA COSTA **BUDGET JUSTICE**

Presentation to California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

August 30, 2022

Dan Geiger

[dan@budgetjusticecc.org](mailto:dan@budgetjusticecc.org)

# Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition

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Who we are

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What we do

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Goals, strategies

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History and 2020-21 highlights

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Looking forward



# About Us

## Our Mission

- *The Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition advocates for **community engagement in the Contra Costa County budgeting process and for a set of values-based budgeting principles** that support safe and affordable housing, stable employment with fair wages, sufficient healthy food, essential health care, access to critical social services, quality early care and education.*
- WE BELIEVE that the primary purpose of a county budget is to be a social safety net. It should strive to reduce economic, racial and gender inequities, reduce barriers to success, promote healthy families, prioritize crime prevention over incarceration, and meet the needs of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

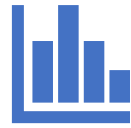
## Membership – Advocacy, Human Services, Labor and Residents

- 350 Contra Costa
- AFSCME Local 2700
- Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE) Contra Costa
- Asian Pacific Environmental Network
- Bay Area Community Resources
- Choice in Aging
- Community Clinics Consortium
- Contra Costa Labor Council
- Contra Costa Office of Education
- East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy
- East Contra Costa Community Alliance
- Ensuring Opportunity
- First 5 Contra Costa/Family Economic Security Partnership
- Food Bank of Contra Costa
- Great Richmond Interfaith Program
- Healthy Richmond/Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Human Services Alliance of Contra Costa
- IFPTE Local 21
- League of Women Voters Diablo Valley
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Meals on Wheels Senior Outreach
- Monument Impact
- Multi-Faith Action Coalition
- Planned Parenthood of Northern California
- Racial Justice Coalition
- Richmond Community Foundation
- Richmond LAND
- Rubicon Programs
- Safe Return Project
- SEIU Local 1021
- SURG Contra Costa
- United Latino Voices
- *And many residents of Contra Costa*

# Our Work



Educate



Analyze



Activate



Advocate



# Goals and Strategies



## High Level Goals



Transform county culture around budgeting



Establish a values-based budgeting process and equity priorities



Increase transparency and community engagement in budgeting



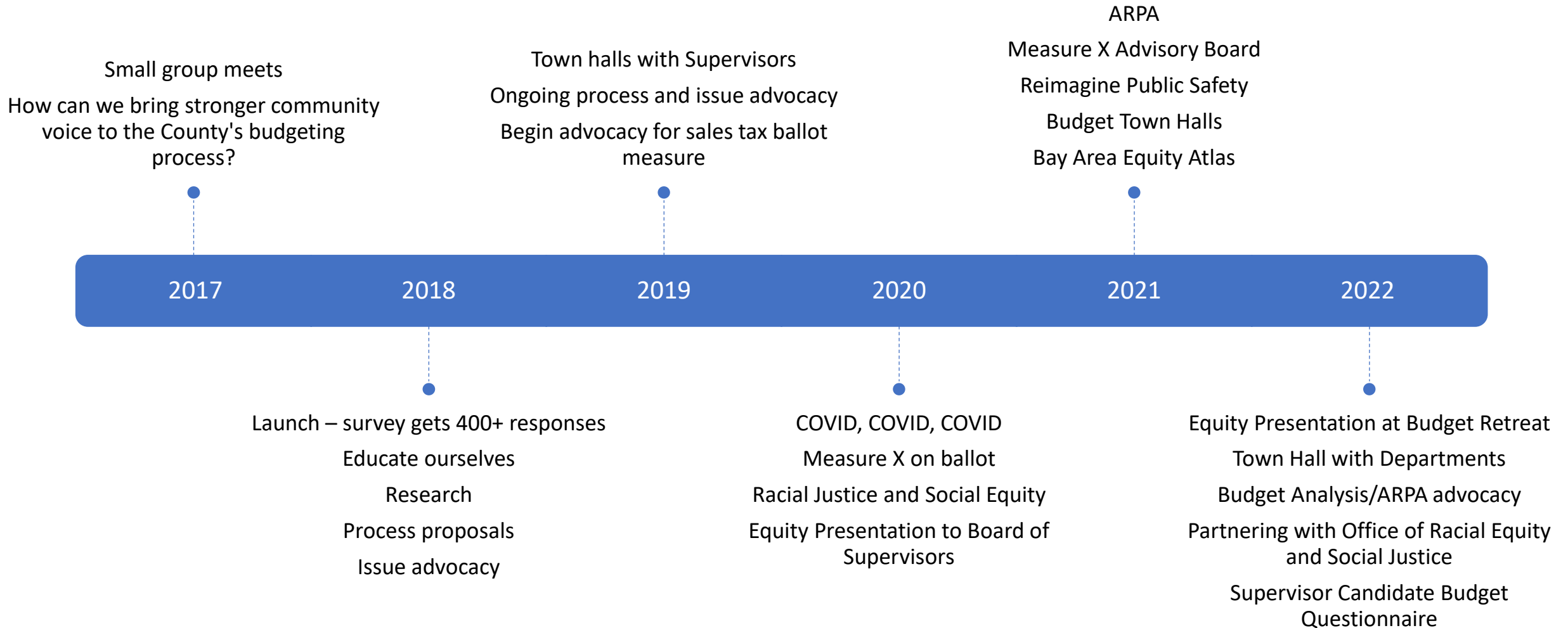
Educate community stakeholders on budget and budget advocacy

## Strategies

- Build coalition of labor, human service, advocacy orgs, residents
- Research and analysis
- Hold County accountable on budget deliberations and decisions
- Develop and advocate process and transparency proposals
- Various educational programs
- Cultivate relationships with BoS, CAO, department heads
- Issue advocacy
- Mobilize members

WE ARE A FORCE TO BE  
RECKONED WITH!

# History & Highlights

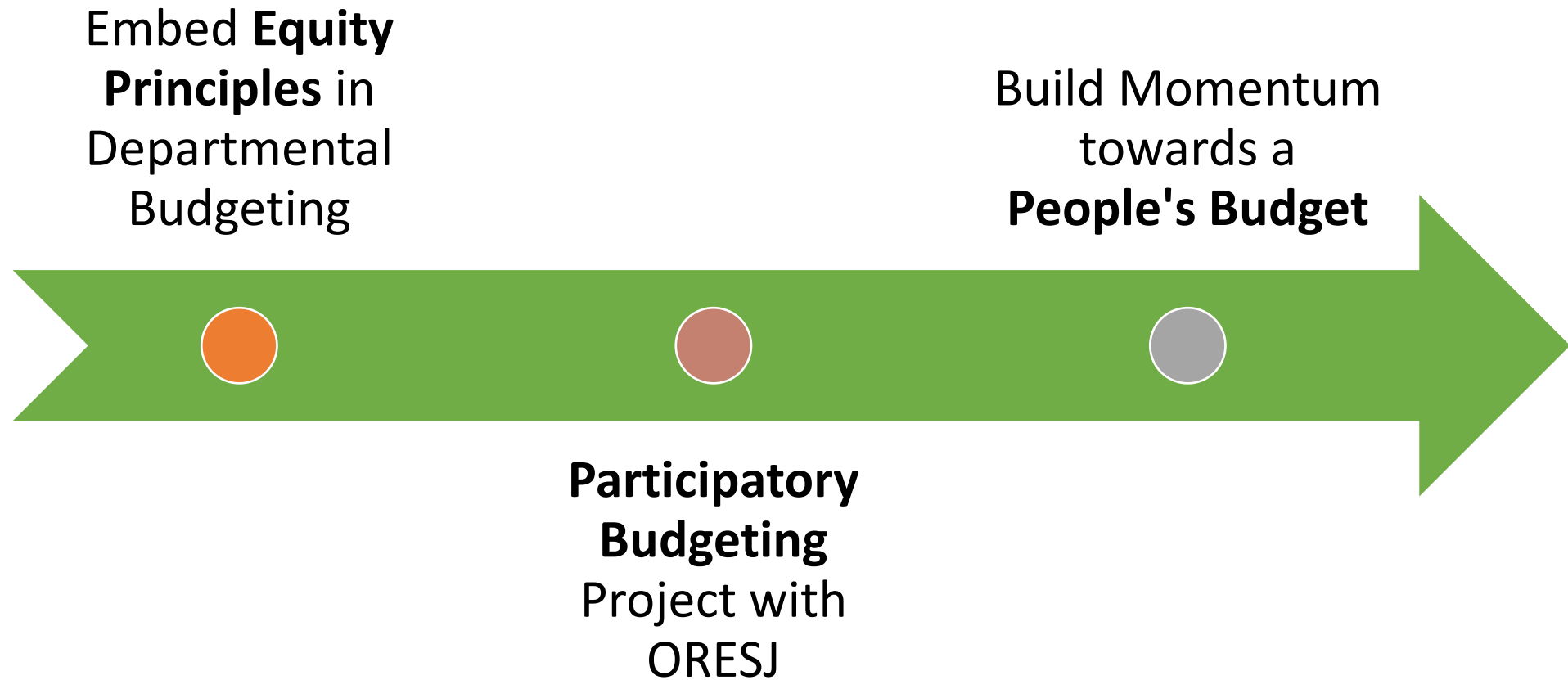


# Moving Forward – Plans for 2022-23

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# A Staged 3-Pronged Approach



Ongoing advocacy, supported by community education, engagement, and partnership

# Participatory Budgeting

*Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process in which **community members decide how to spend part of a public budget**. It gives people real power over real money*

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## How does PB work?

PB is an annual cycle of engagement that is integrated into a regular budgeting process. A typical PB process follows these steps, usually over the course of a year:



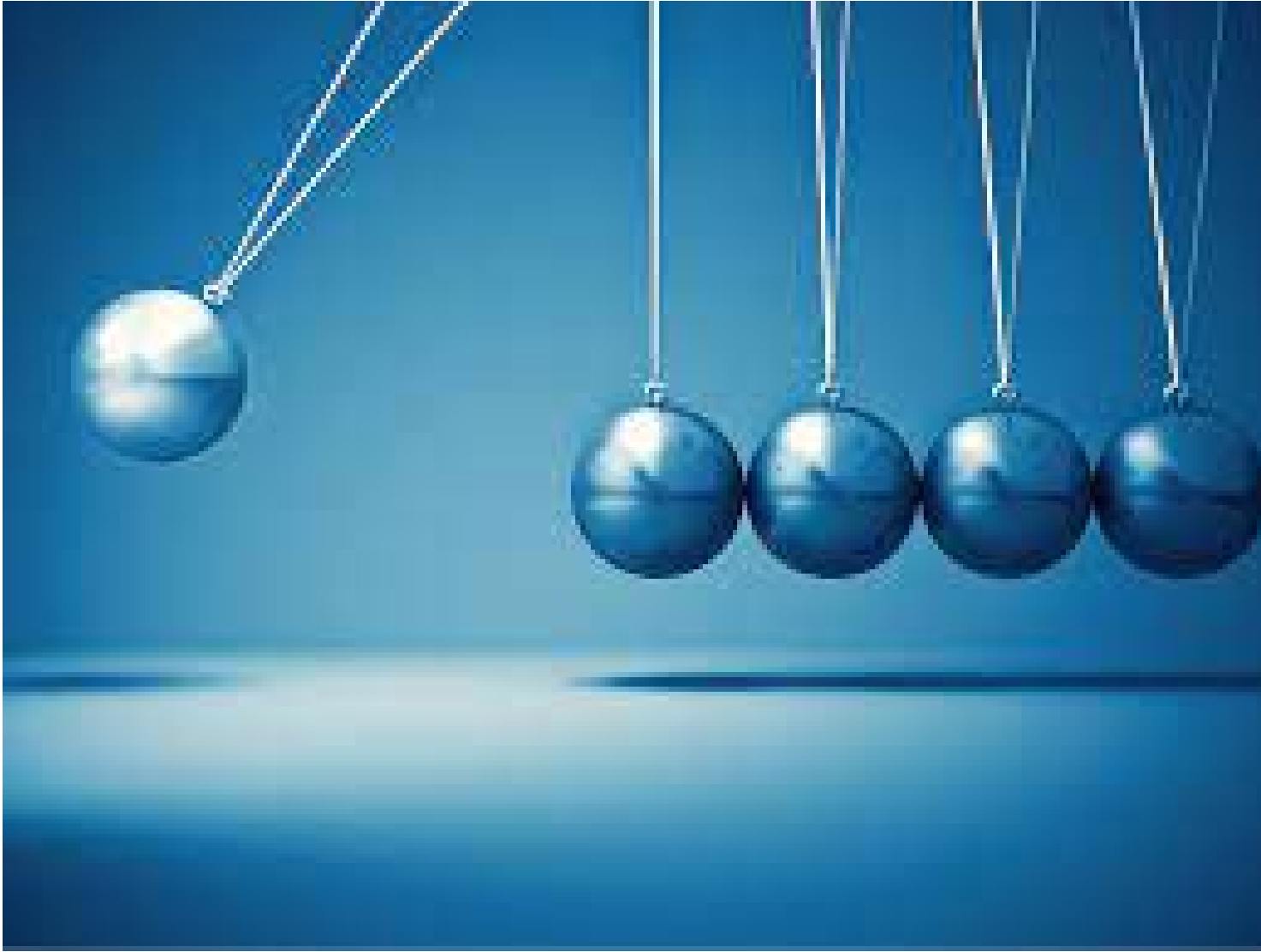
# PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

## Benefits and Impacts

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- Increased civic engagement
- Stronger relationships between residents, government, and community organizations
- Broader political participation, especially from historically marginalized communities
- More equitable and effective spending.
- New community leaders.





These efforts build momentum towards a larger **People's Budget** that would address the entire County Budget

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# A People's Budget

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A People's Budget is an interactive way to center civic engagement as a core emphasis in the budget process and which is structured in a more meaningful way to learn about how government works and how it spends money.



# Towards a People's Budget in Contra Costa

- Would apply to the **entire County** Budget
- Challenges
  - We have more to learn; want to do it right
  - A significant undertaking; resources needed
  - It will take time to develop and utilize it as an advocacy tool
- **Start small and learn**
  - Get the ball rolling with a community survey, modeled after the Oakland People's Budget
  - Can help frame FY 23-24 budget advocacy

## Oakland People's Budget Survey

Welcome! How much of our money should go to each city department every year? Click a department name to see a description of its function.

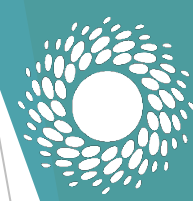
*Note: This survey reflects the budget's general funds. A true People's Budget, as proposed by the [Community Democracy Project](#), would include community control of the entire budget. Read more at [Behind the People's Budget Survey](#).*

<input type="text" value="Find your district here"/>	I live in: <input type="text" value="--"/>
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DEPARTMENT	CURRENT ALLOCATION	MY ALLOCATION
▶ Police	45.99%	<input type="text" value="45.99"/>
▶ Fire	24.50%	<input type="text" value="24.5"/>
▶ (Other)	14.77%	<input type="text" value="14.77"/>
▶ City Administration	5.33%	<input type="text" value="5.33"/>
▶ Parks, Recreation, & Youth	2.03%	<input type="text" value="2.03"/>
▶ Human Services	2.01%	<input type="text" value="2.01"/>
▶ Transportation	1.86%	<input type="text" value="1.86"/>
▶ Library	1.83%	<input type="text" value="1.83"/>
▶ Economic & Workforce Development	1.06%	<input type="text" value="1.06"/>
▶ Violence Prevention	0.37%	<input type="text" value="0.37"/>



# QUESTIONS?



## Get Involved!

- ▶ If you'd like to learn more about our public health and local budget work, please contact Weiyu Zhang at [wzhang@cpehn.org](mailto:wzhang@cpehn.org)