

Transforming a Child Welfare System into a Child and Family Well-Being System

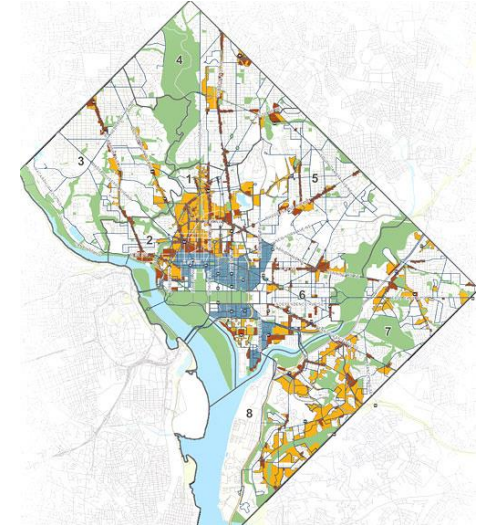
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CWLA 2023 National Conference
April 27, 2023

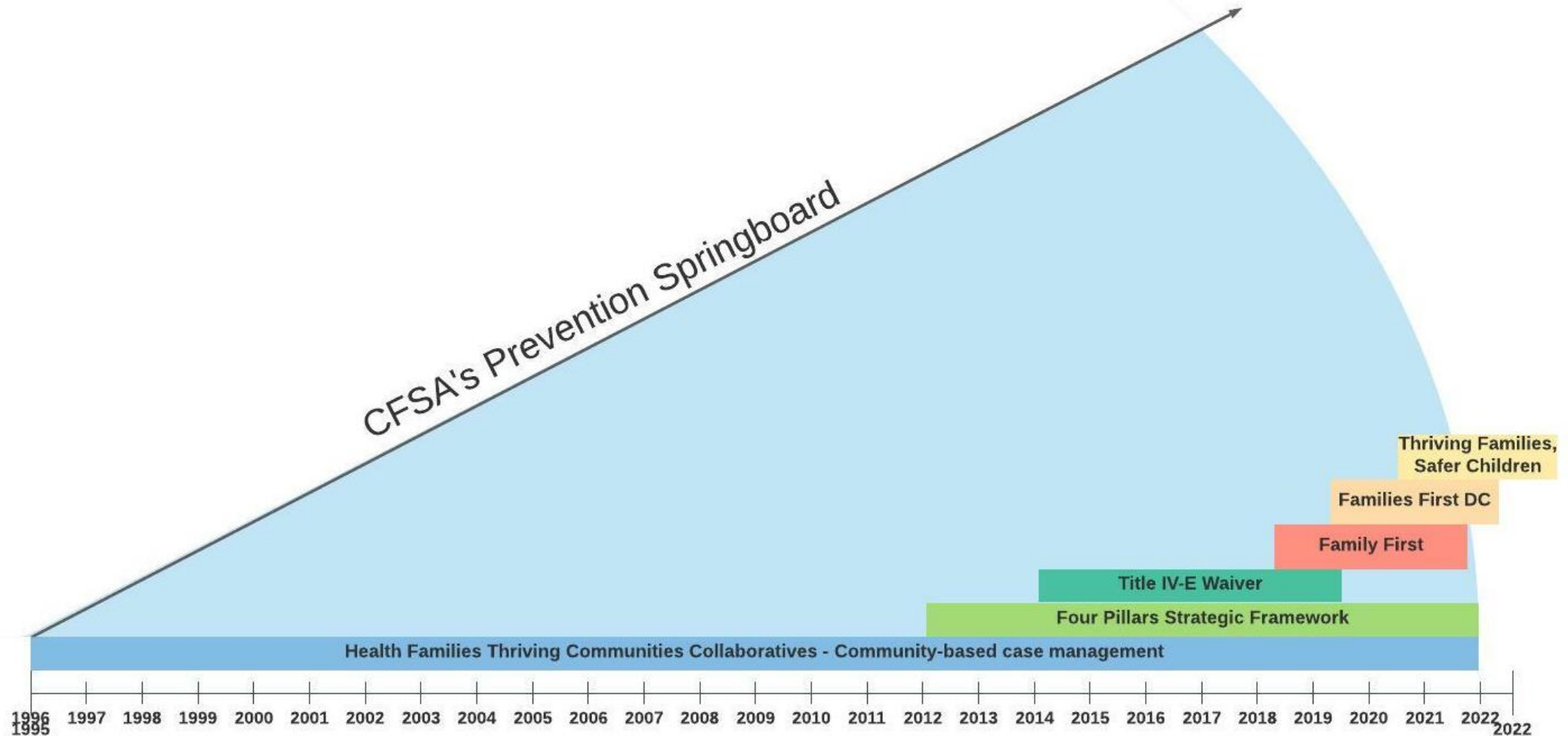


District of Columbia Child and Family Services Agency

- The **District of Columbia** is a small, agile jurisdiction with strong inter-agency coordination and a robust array of community-based providers.
 - The District is 68.3 sq miles comprised of 8 Wards.
 - As of 2020, the total population of DC was 689,545.
- **DC's Child and Family Services Agency**
 - CFSA serves both local and state government functions.
 - Partially privatized.
 - Have always supported youth in care to age 21.
 - All CFSA social workers are currently MSWs with licenses.
- CFSA has been on a journey of transformation.
 - Reduction in the **# of children in foster care** from over 3,000 in 2012 to **less than 600 today**.
 - Approved Title IV-E Prevention Plan since 2019.
 - Exited 30-year lawsuit (LaShawn v. Bowser) this year.



History of Prevention as a Key Priority



The Movement

Thriving Families, Safer Children

The national initiative, which is supported by the Children's Bureau, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Casey Family Programs, the Center for Disease Control, and Prevent Child Abuse America

DC's Thriving Families, Safer Children Steering Committee

The vehicle through which CFSA is helping to create the Child and Family Well-Being System

CFSA's charge in operating within the Child and Family Well-Being System



The Movement

Thriving Families, Safer Children

In FY21, CFSA formally joined the initiative as a Round 2 jurisdiction

DC's Thriving Families, Safer Children Steering Committee

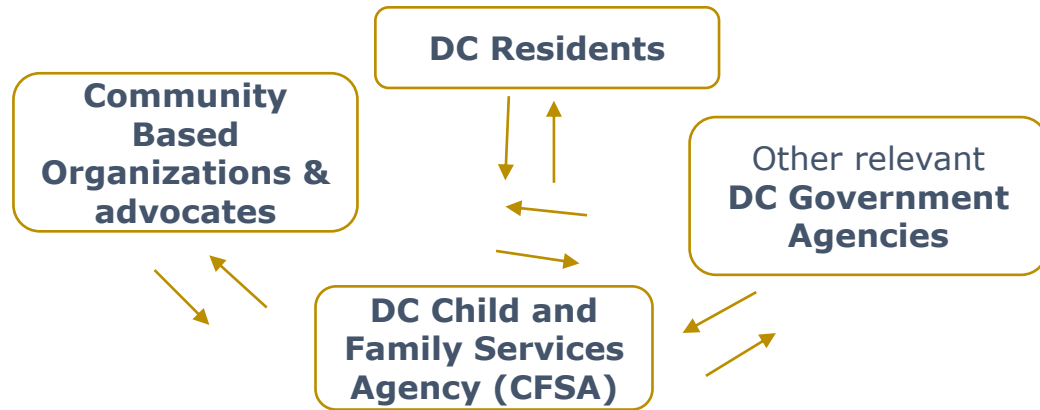
Coming out of LaShawn in FY22 gives CFSA the opportunity to chart forward with the goal of Keeping DC Families Together

Formerly the Prevention Work Group, DC has been working city-wide to develop a strategy to strengthen and stabilize families since 2018



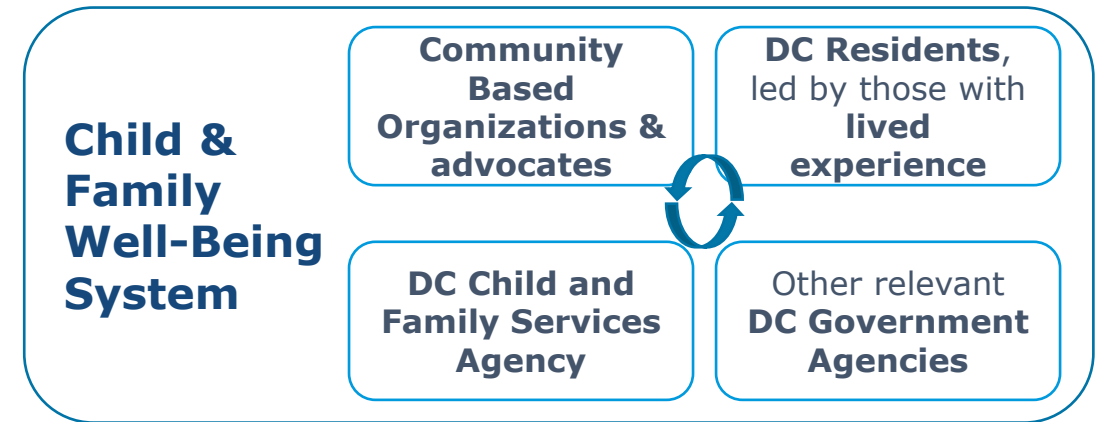
Where We've Been / Where We Are Going

Today



- Agencies often work in isolation to help families
- CFSA is viewed as “the system”
- Organizations mainly respond to crises
- Organizations assume to know what families need
- Racial equity & DEIB are sometimes considered

Vision for future



- Agencies take a unified approach to well-being
- CFSA is part of a broader system oriented toward healing
- The system is prevention-focused
- Families are trusted and their voice is central to decisions
- Racial equity & DEIB are imperative at all points



DC'S Child And Family Well-Being System

**Our
Vision**



We aspire to create a caring, diverse community comprised of residents, community-based organizations, and government agencies – each with unique roles and strengths – working together in seamless coordination to ensure that all individuals, children, and families thrive in DC.

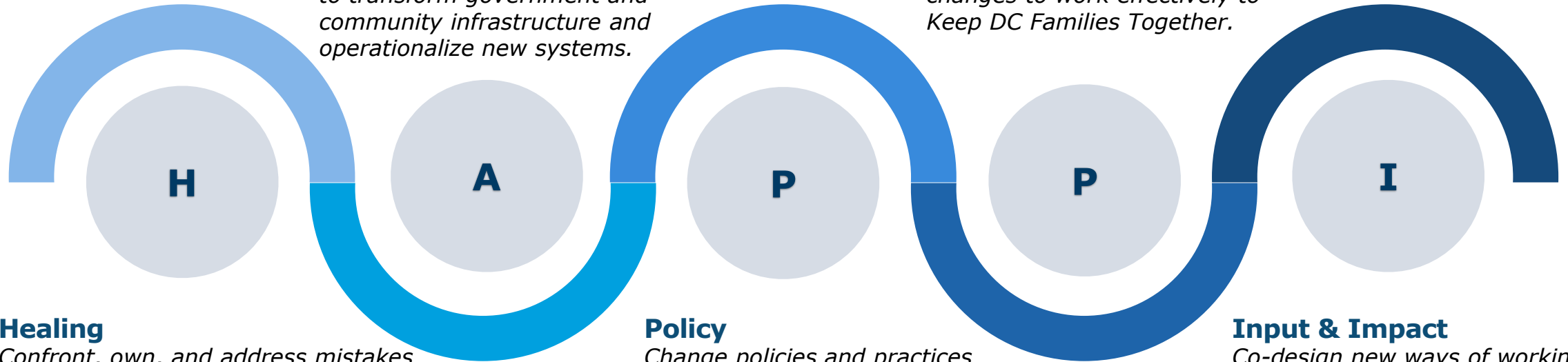
DC's Systems Transformation: Levers of Change

Action

Create inclusive and collaborative plans of action to efficiently and effectively ensure vision becomes reality. All stakeholders own their part to transform government and community infrastructure and operationalize new systems.

Partnerships

Collective responsibility and accountability to create the necessary conditions, programs, and resources for policy changes to work effectively to Keep DC Families Together.



Healing

Confront, own, and address mistakes of this past. Create safe spaces and transform them into brave spaces for our communities to thrive.

Policy

Change policies and practices that uphold systems that no longer serve the best interest of Keeping DC Families Together.

Input & Impact

Co-design new ways of working and evaluating impact with individuals and families impacted by these systems (lived expertise aka LEx).



DC's Systems Transformation: Levers of Change



Healing

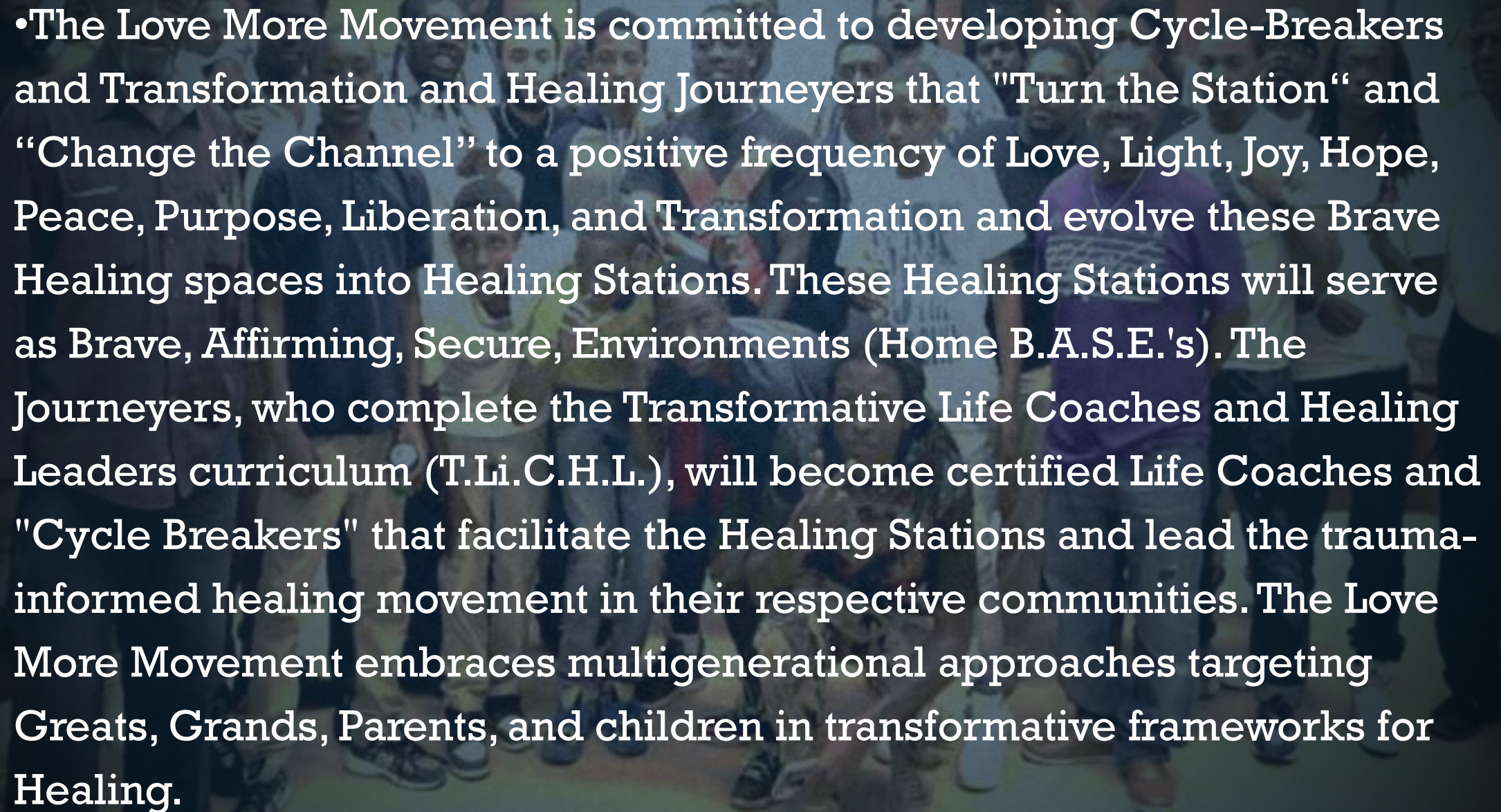
Confront, own, and address mistakes of this past. Create safe spaces and transform them into brave spaces for our communities to thrive.





**THE LOVE MORE
MOVEMENT, INC.
TRANSFORMATIVE
LIFE COACHES AND
HEALING LEADERS;
HEALING STATIONS;
SENIORS OFFERING
UNCONDITIONAL
LOVE (SOUL)
THE OVERGROUND
FREEWAY**

**By Dr. Bruce Purnell,
Executive Director,
The Love More Movement
www.lovemoremovement.org
Dr.bruce@lovemoremovement.org
2024863580**

A diverse group of people of various ages and ethnicities standing together in a group photo. The image is darkened to serve as a background for the text.

- The Love More Movement is committed to developing Cycle-Breakers and Transformation and Healing Journeyers that "Turn the Station" and "Change the Channel" to a positive frequency of Love, Light, Joy, Hope, Peace, Purpose, Liberation, and Transformation and evolve these Brave Healing spaces into Healing Stations. These Healing Stations will serve as Brave, Affirming, Secure, Environments (Home B.A.S.E.'s). The Journeyers, who complete the Transformative Life Coaches and Healing Leaders curriculum (T.Li.C.H.L.), will become certified Life Coaches and "Cycle Breakers" that facilitate the Healing Stations and lead the trauma-informed healing movement in their respective communities. The Love More Movement embraces multigenerational approaches targeting Greats, Grands, Parents, and children in transformative frameworks for Healing.

WHY THE LOVE MORE MOVEMENT IS DESPERATELY NEEDED

Many underloved communities have been plagued with symptoms of poverty and unresolved trauma, such as hopelessness leading to learned helplessness, crime, gun violence, and a plethora of social ills. Trauma, depression, and anxiety have become normative and many solutions involve managing or sustaining a social hospice. A situation where individuals, families, and communities are kept comfortable and sedated with no actual methodology leading to systemic and community change.

Transformation and Healing Journeys

Objectives:

- To provide a holistic framework and comprehensive toolbox for Cycle Breakers, “Journeyers,” and “**Cocooners**” to successfully navigate their Healing, Transformation, and emotional weight loss journeys.
- To create the “FEVERS”: Frequency of Loving More, Energy of Joy, Vibration of Hope, Elevation of Peace, Reflection of Divine Purpose, and Scope of Forgiveness
- Design a Blueprint for Building Brave Spaces with Home B.A.S.E.s (Brave, Affirming, & Secure Environments) for Healing and Transformation.
- Create a campaign to make Love “Cool.”



LOVE MORE HEALING LEADERS BRAVE SPACE

We Will Be
Brave

We Will be
Authentic
We will be
open

We will Atone,
Forgive, Heal,
Grow, Thrive,
Love
And

Transform
We will Be
Vulnerable



#WeLoveMore





Transformational Life Coach and Healing (TLiCHL) Ascension Ceremony



#WeLoveMore 

GIVE

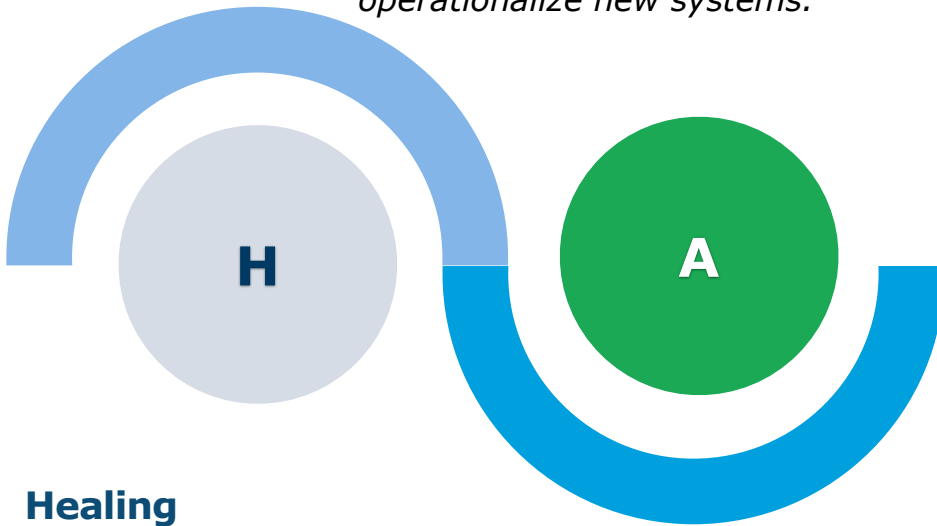
YOURSELF

TIME

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Governance Structure

KDCFT Planning Committee

KDCFT City Wide Steering Committee

LEx Input and Advisory Council

Warmline Community Response



Sets the vision for the role of the child welfare agency and the role of the Community Response Model.

Impact (Evaluation)



Sets the vision for how KDCFT will utilize data to evaluate the impact of the new Warmline and Community Response Model.

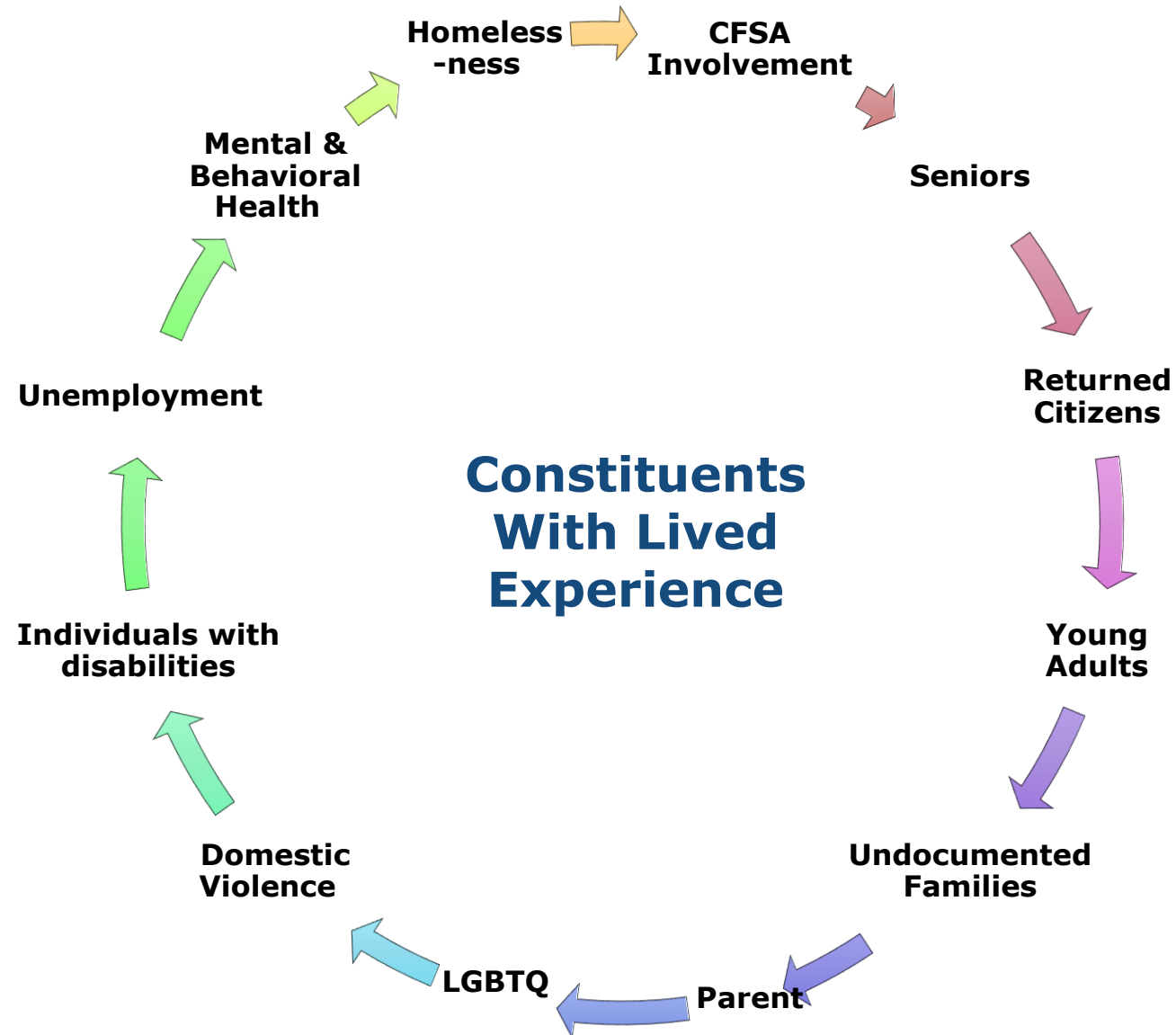
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB)



Sets the tone and context for the vision of Diversity Equity and Inclusion the role of the child welfare agency and the role of the Community Response Model.

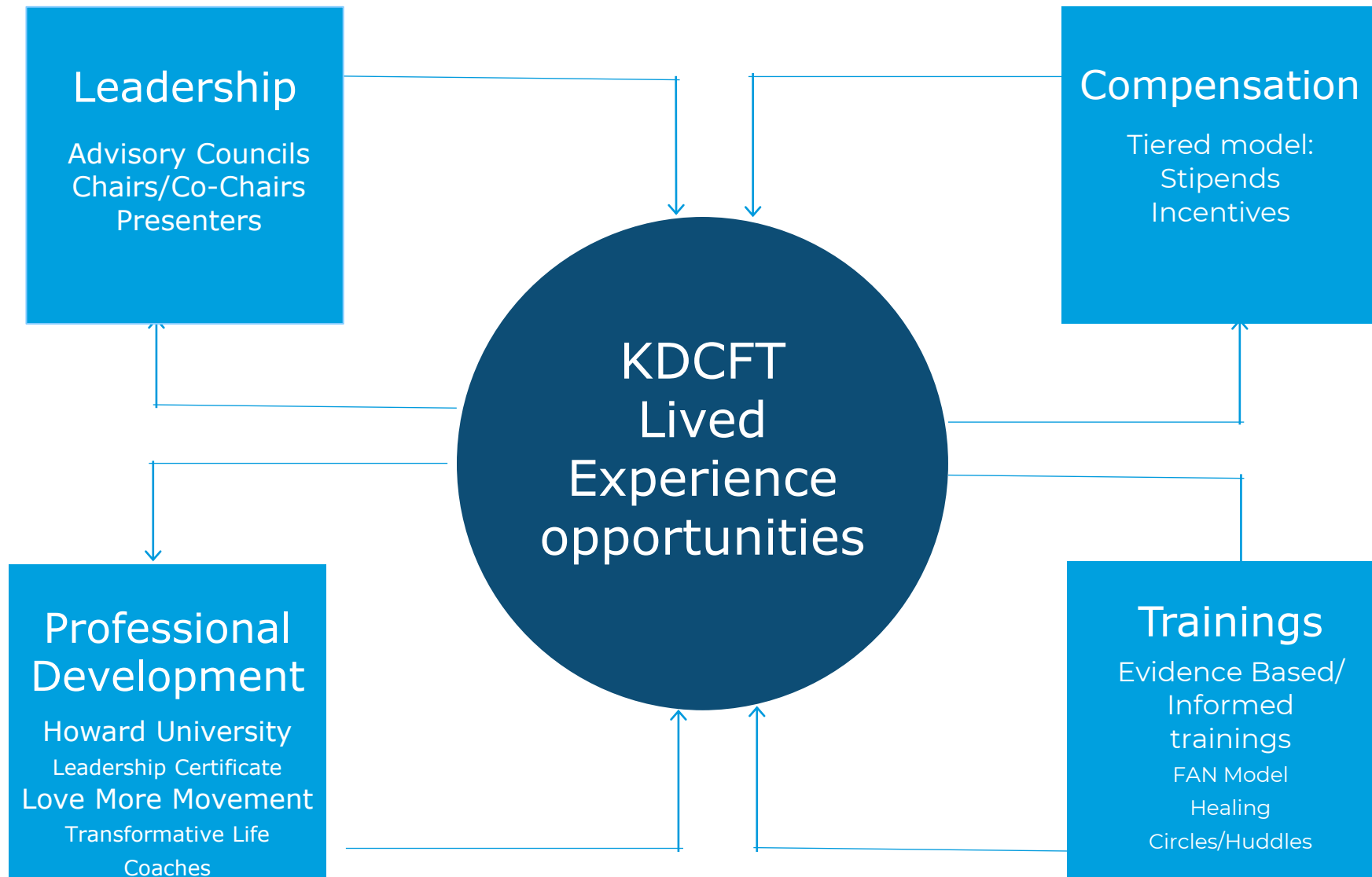
Action





Action





Action



LEx Advisory Council

The LEx Advisory Council is comprised of residents of the District of Columbia. Members have committed to partnering with CFSA to design a Child and Family Well-Being System that meets families where they are in their communities.

The LEx Advisory Council:

- Meets monthly
- Partners with CFSA & Sister Agencies
- Offered KDCFT LEx opportunities:
training/prof dev, leadership, consulting
- Advises on the key activities of KDCFT
- Helps make decisions that are in the best interest of the community



Photo: Inaugural cohort of the Howard University LEAD Certification – Graduation Ceremony, January 2023

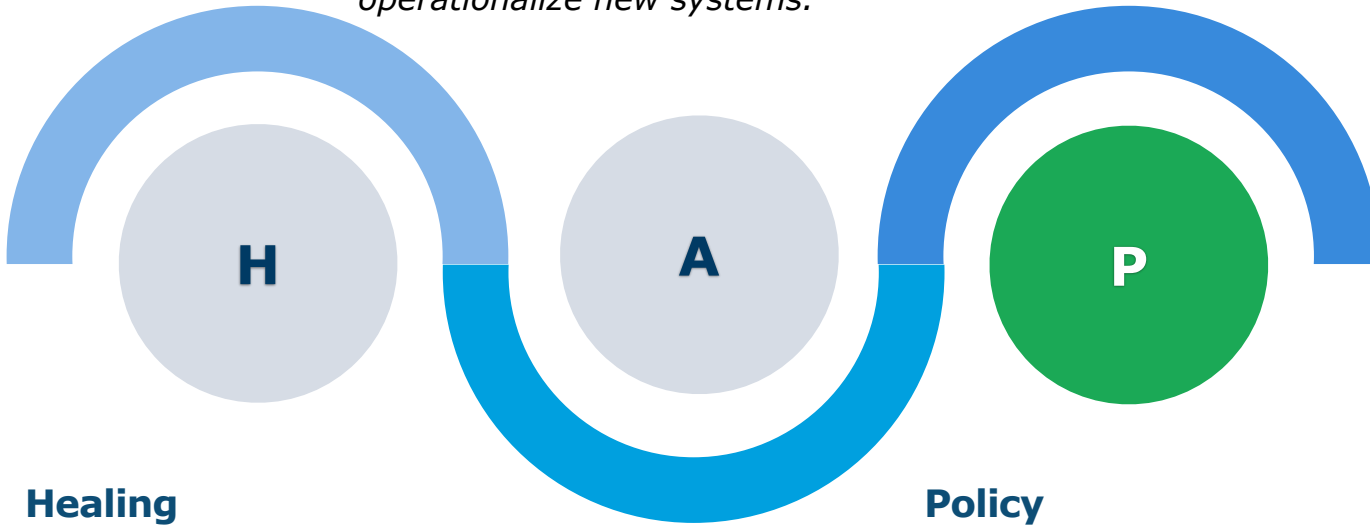
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Draft Proposed Rulemaking for Neglect Statutes

Making DC Code 16-2301 (9)(A)(I) more Domestic Violence (DV) informed

Revising the definition of “abandonment”

Moving positive toxicology at birth to a mandated report and removing it as a stand-alone definition of neglect

Removing exposure to illegal drug activity.

Policy



Update Mandated Reporter Training

- Differentiate reasons for calling CPS Hotline vs. Warmline (211).
- Focus on re-training: Educators, Healthcare providers, Child-care center staff, Health and Human Services cluster staff, etc.

Mandated Reporting

Mandated Reporters are currently trained on how to recognize types of child abuse and neglect and how to make a report to the CPS Hotline when abuse or neglect are suspected or known.



Community Supporting

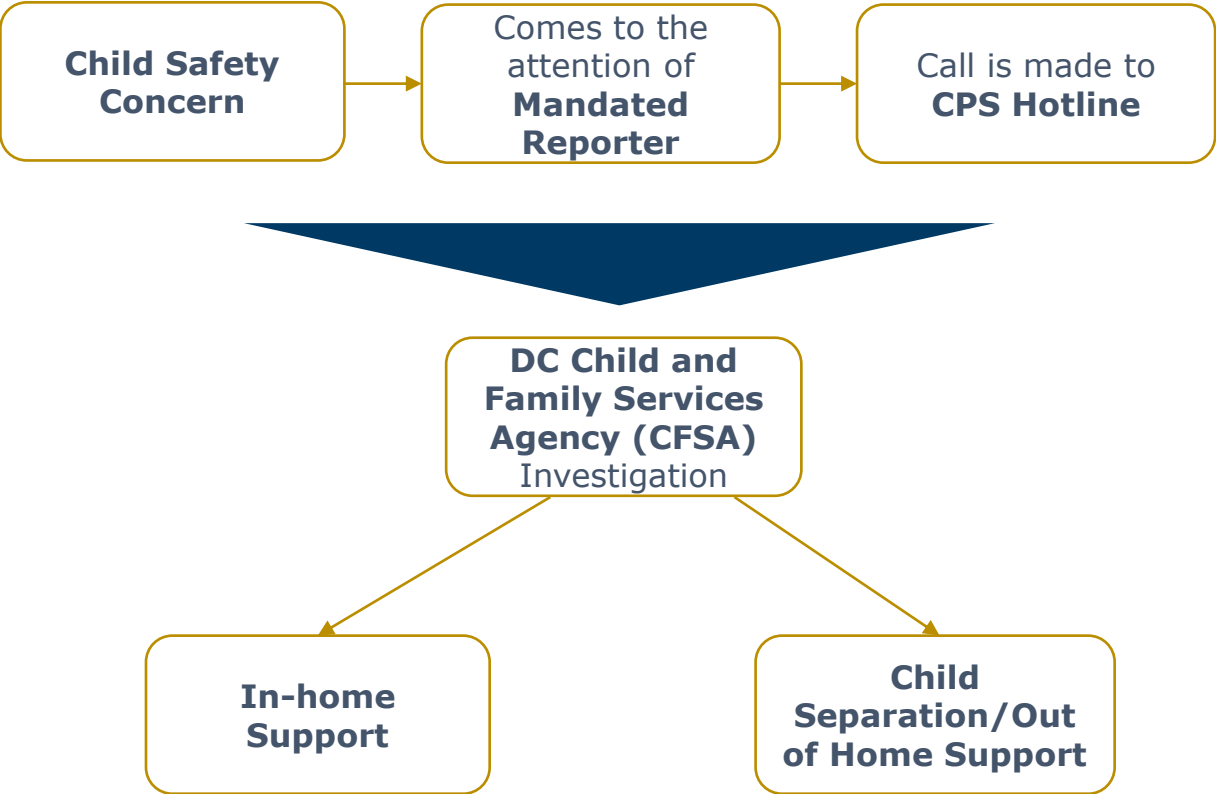
Mandated Reporters will also be trained to provide specific solution-focused, healing-centered support to families before calling the CPS Hotline unless there are concerns for the child(ren)'s safety.

Policy

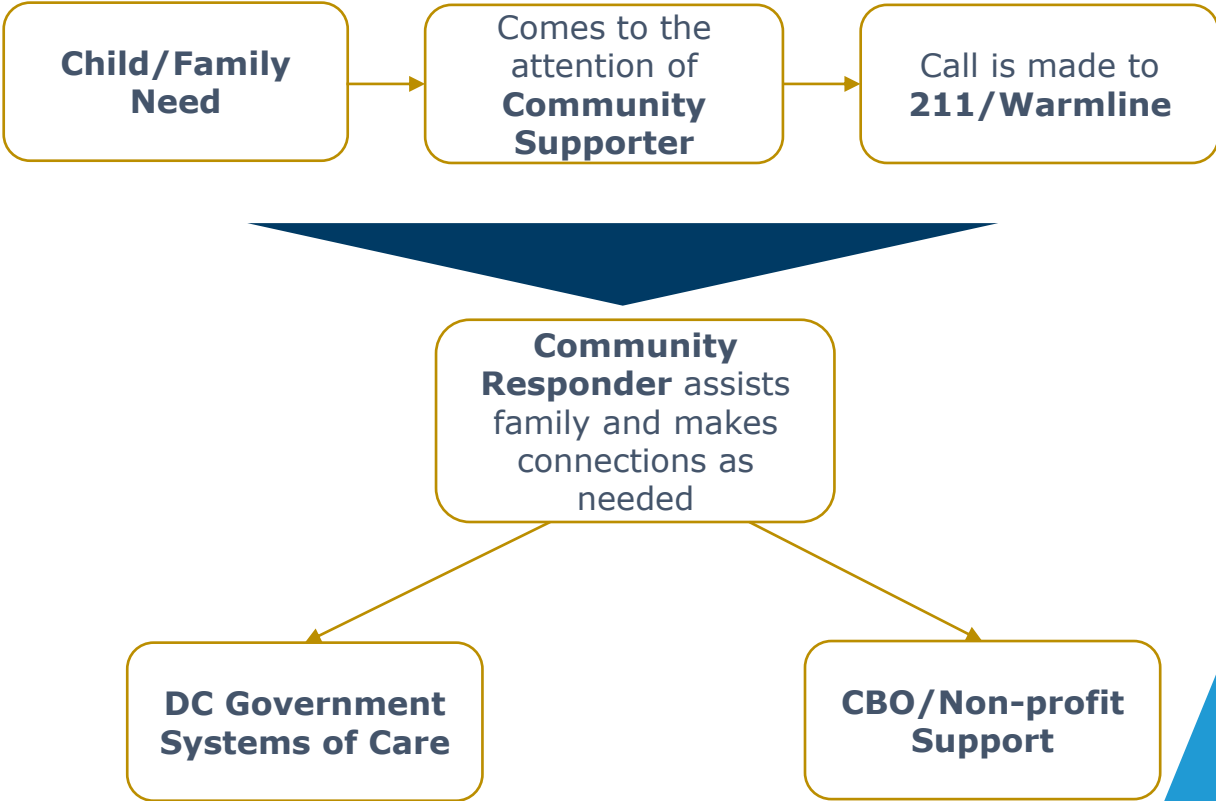


Systems for Safety and Support

Formal System (Child Welfare Agency)



Informal System (Community Support)



Policy



Systems for Safety and Support

Formal System (Child Welfare Agency)

Child safety concern

Mandated Reporter

CPS Hotline

CFSA Investigator

CFSA In Home Case/Support

Child/Family Separation

- Temporary Safe Haven
- Well Being
- Exit to Permanence

Informal System (Community Support)

Child/family need

Community Supporter

211 - Warmline

Community Responder

Community-based case mgmt

DC Government Systems of Care
Community-based organizations

Keeping
DC
Families
Together

Keeping
DC
Families
Together

Policy



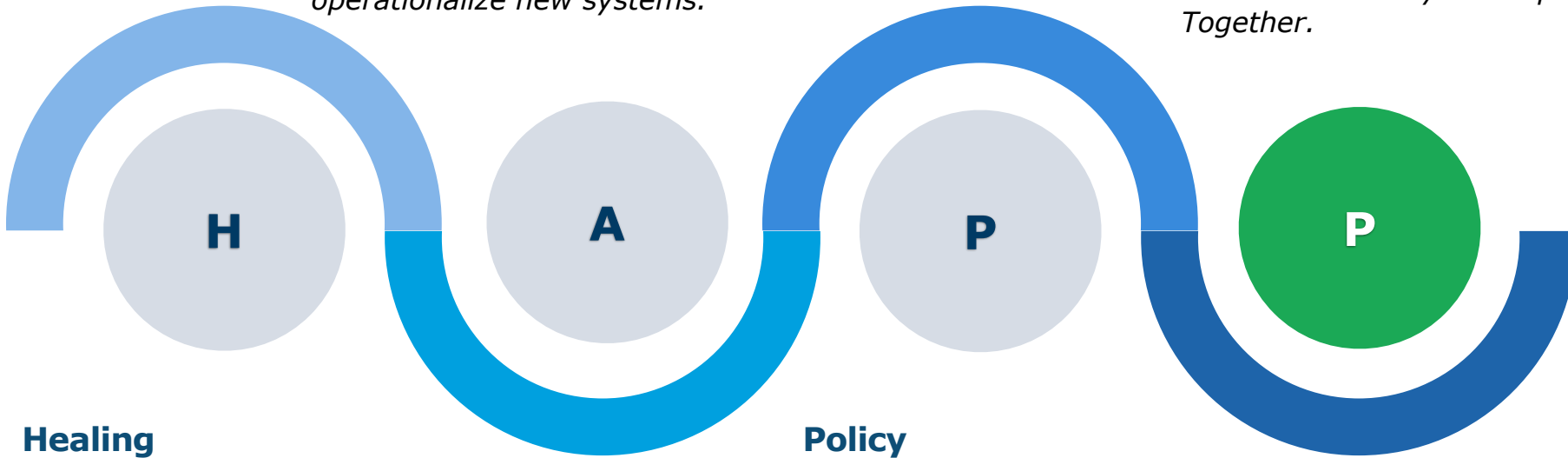
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Create Partnerships to Support the New System

Office of Unified Communications →
211 Implementation



Collaboratives →
Community Responders



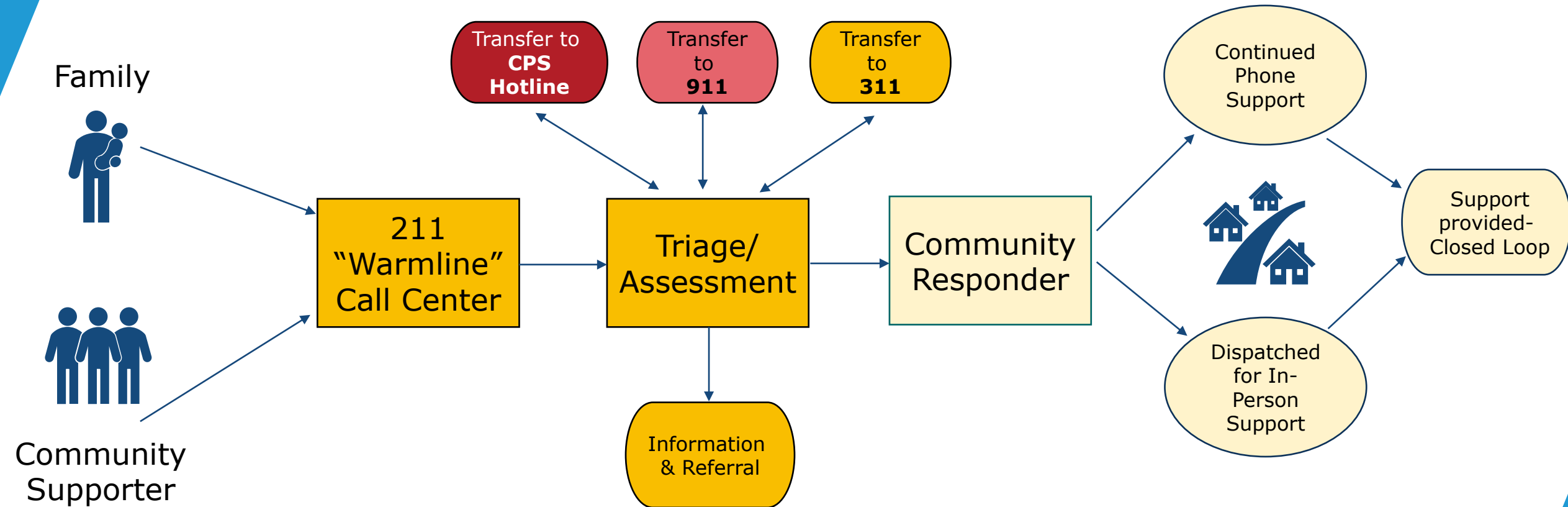
Where Community and
Family Come First



Partnership



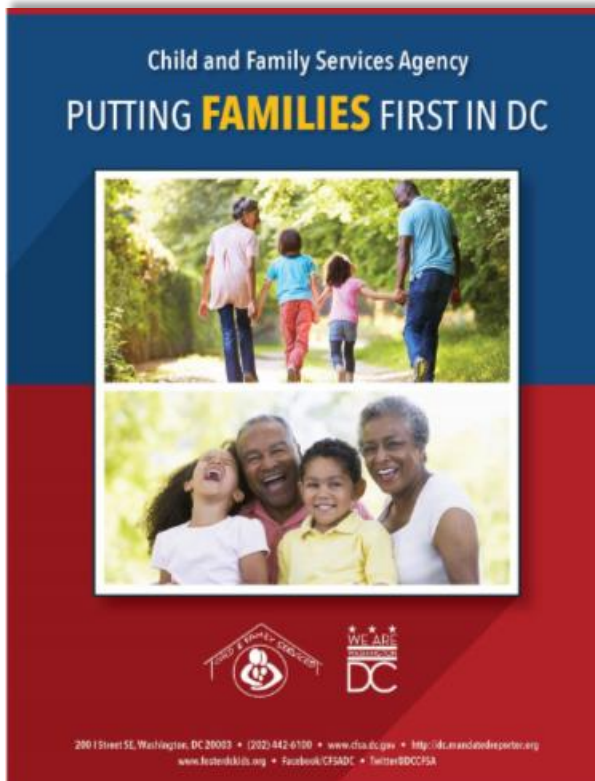
Implement a Warmline & Community Response Model



Partnership



Work with Other Agencies to Improve Practices



Family First Five-Year Prevention Plan

The candidacy population includes Front Porch and Front Door sub-populations



We will amend the plan to include children and families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness

Partnership between CFSA and DHS



Partnership



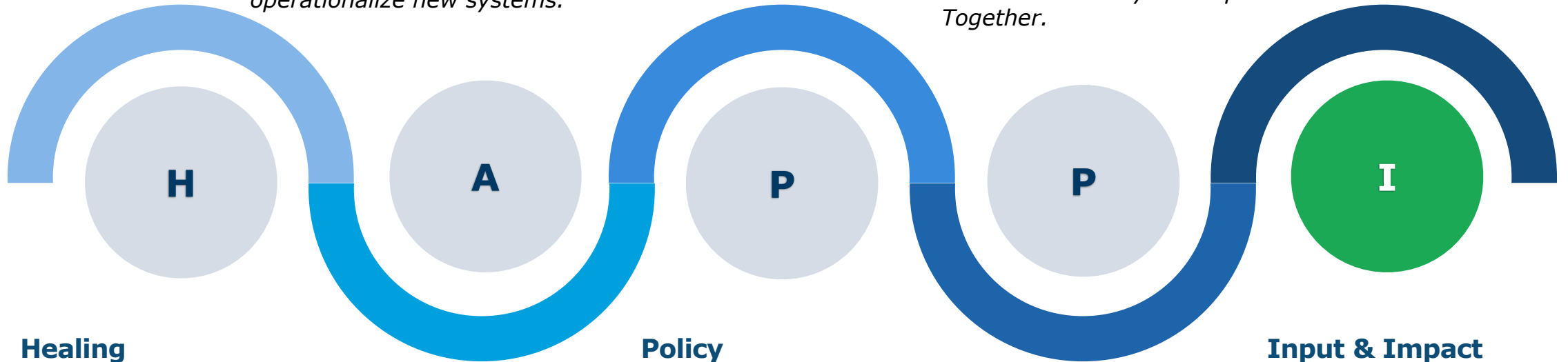
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Incorporate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Principles



Focus on creating practices and policies that promote a culturally competent system that upholds equity principles throughout its operations and decision-making.



Ensure that CFSA is engaging with community-based organizations that demonstrate a commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging (EIB). Work with these organizations to increase their EIB capacity.

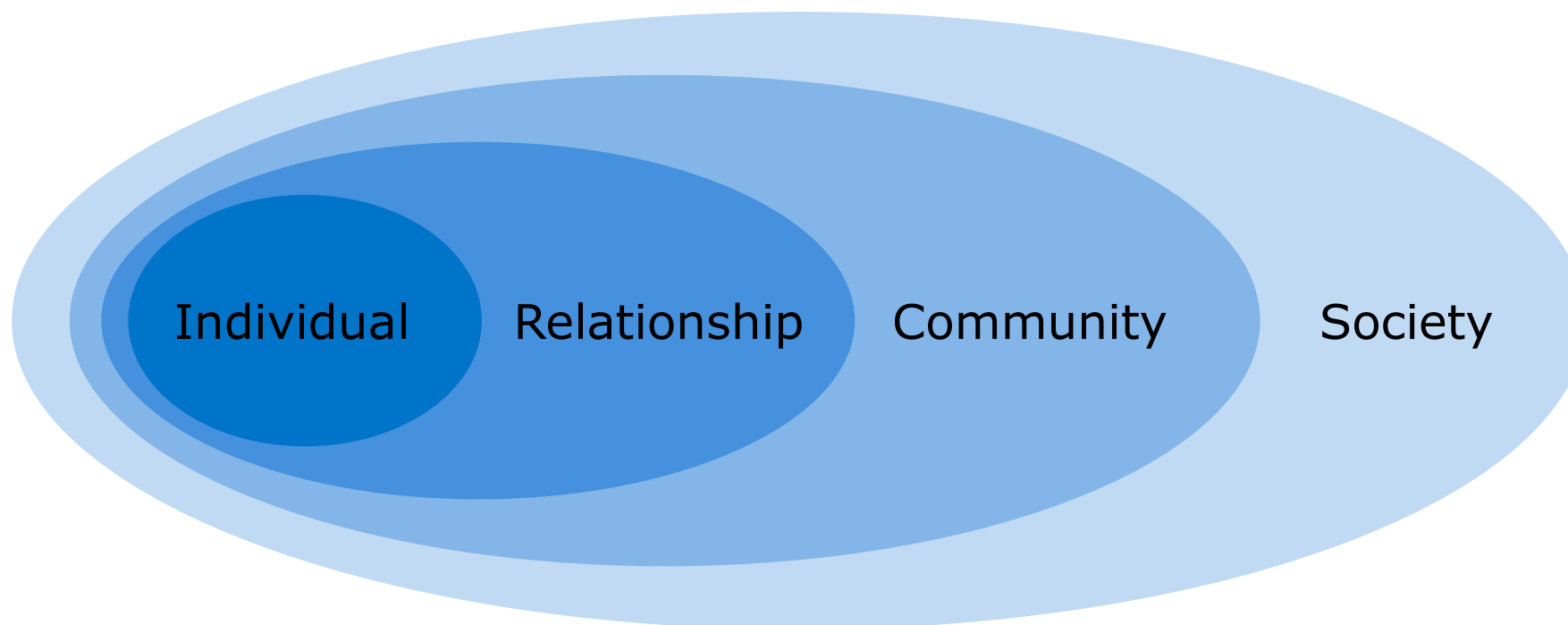


Work to ensure the application of an equity lens when modifying the trainings for Mandated Reporters.

Input & Impact



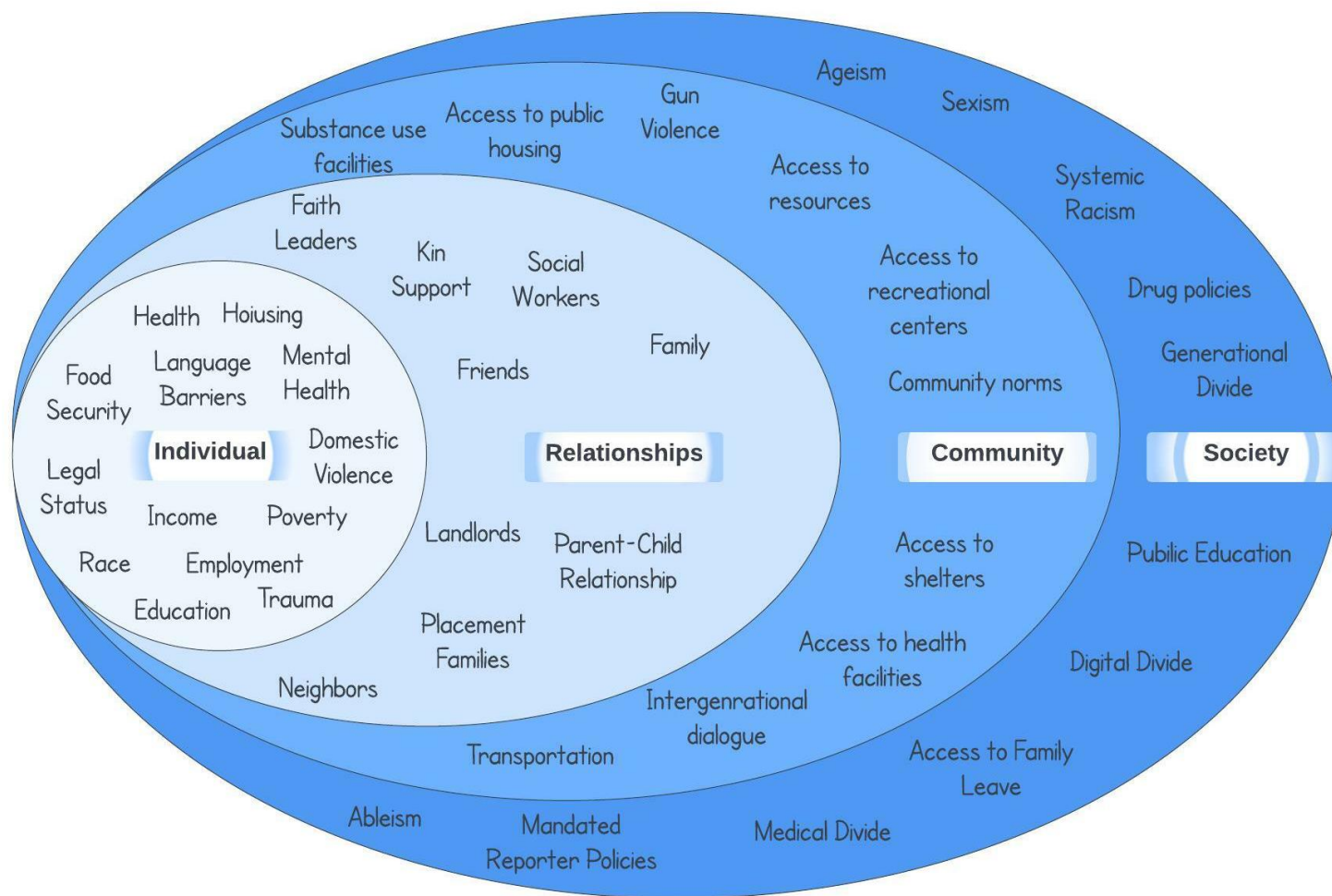
Measure Impact: The Social Ecological Model



Input & Impact



The District of Columbia's Social-Ecological Model



Input & Impact



Questions & Answers

