

Legislative-Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight (LEWPRO) Task Force

August 26, 2021

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

AGENDA



- Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)**
- Public Comment (10 minutes)**
- Task Force Business (10 minutes)**
- Enhancing and Modernizing LEWPRO Work (50 minutes)**
- Compensation for Community Experience (30 minutes)**
- BREAK (10 minutes)**
- TANF WorkFirst Updates (25 minutes)**
- Poverty Reduction Workgroup (PRWG) Updates (25 minutes)**
- Public Comment (10 minutes)**
- Good of the Order (5 minutes)**

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Public Comment



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Task Force Business



Strengthening LEWPRO Membership

- Adds the LGBTQ Commission and Office of Equity as nonvoting members to better guide and inform LEWPRO's work.



- Promotes Washington's and DSHS's principles of equity, diversity and inclusion.



Enhancing and Modernizing LEWPRO Work



Decision Making

Meeting Facilitation

Meeting Structure and Staffing

History of the Task Force

- Leg Exec WorkFirst Oversight Task Force established in 2011 through ESSB 5921
 - Membership consisted of former WorkFirst sub-cabinet agencies and legislators from both chambers and caucuses
 - Much of the TANF/WorkFirst oversight in E3SHB 1482 is from that legislation
- E3SHB 1482 expanded the Task Force to include a focus on intergenerational poverty, adding requirements to:
 - Develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty
 - Recommend policy actions to the Governor and the legislature
- Original meetings mirrored formal legislative hearing structure and included legislative staff. That structure/format was not re-evaluated after E3SHB 1482

E3SHB 1482 – Requirements

- Oversee operation of the WorkFirst and TANF program
- Determine evidence-based outcome measures for the WorkFirst program
- Develop accountability measures for WorkFirst recipients and state agencies
- Develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty
- Seek input on best practices for poverty reduction
- Analyze available data and information regarding intergenerational poverty
- Recommend policy actions to the Governor and the legislature to effectively reduce intergenerational poverty and promote self-sufficiency

Comparison to Similar Task Forces

	LEWPRO	C3TF	Food Policy
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in statute Membership defined Public meeting Defined tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in statute – now proviso Membership defined Public meeting Defined tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established in proviso Membership defined Defined task
Meeting structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal / mirrors legislative hearing Co-chairs facilitate the meeting Agency staffs agenda and work products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liberating structures format Small group discussion/table talk Contracted facilitator for meeting facilitation/Commerce staff the work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structured agenda with goals Contracted facilitator works with agency leads to develop agenda to meet goals Small group discussion as appropriate

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Equitable Compensation for Community Experience



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Break time!

😊 **We will reconvene in 10 minutes** 😊



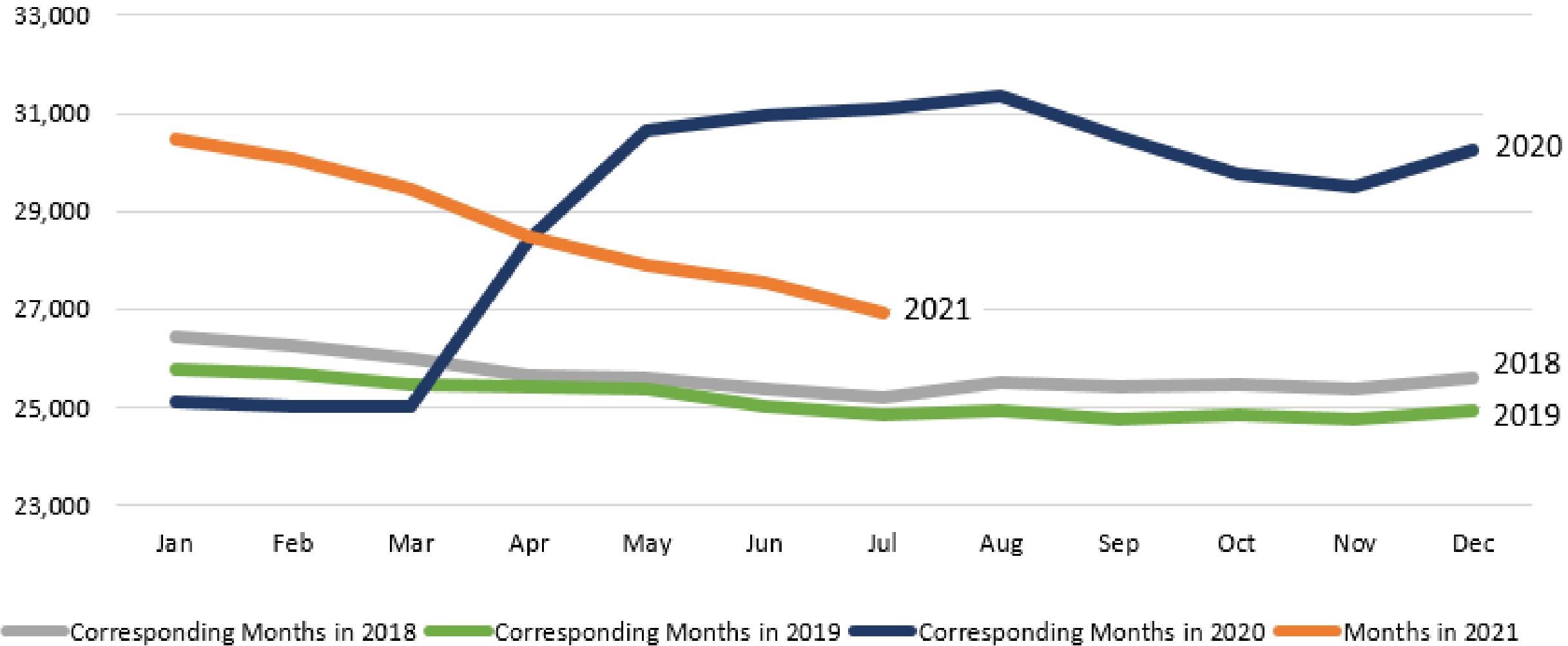
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WorkFirst Spending Plan



Statewide TANF/SFA Caseload



Source: DSHS-ESA/EMAPS Assignment M5010 Request using ACES Data Warehouse as of the August 2021 load and EMAPS DataWeb website as of August 16, 2021

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WorkFirst Reengagement Plan

Overview

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- 18,000 participants
- Many with no participation experience
- Most with likely changes in circumstances
- Scheduled appointments for all by end of November



Reengagement begins in September

- Each adult will receive a phone appointment letter.
- WFPS- will begin with families with the fewest number of TANF months.
- WFSSS- will begin with families with the highest number of TANF months.

Communications Plan

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WorkFirst Participant Communications:


- Heads up mailer
- Automated phone message
- Hold message recording
- Automated appointment reminders

Stakeholder and Partner Communications:

- Letter to partners/stakeholders
- Update to COVID changes site, social media

Reengagement Notice to Participants—Post COVID

Washington WorkFirst



We Are Ready to Help Your Family Move Ahead

This past year has been a tough time for families. When you get TANF assistance, you are usually required to work or participate in WorkFirst activities to help you tackle challenges and find or prepare for a job. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation requirement was temporarily stopped. Starting in September 2021, mandatory WorkFirst begins again, and there are many opportunities to help you and your family move ahead.


Next Steps:

- You will get a letter for an appointment in the next couple of months with more information including the date, time and options for you to attend the appointment.
- You are expected to participate in this appointment. If you have questions, need to reschedule, or would like to begin activities sooner, please call the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233.
- At this appointment, you and your worker will talk about:
 - Your family's current situation and your goals. We know it has been a hard year, and things may have changed for you. We want to know how we can help.
 - A plan for you to begin WorkFirst activities. You have options, and participation may mean help with job search, taking community college classes, or paid or unpaid internships to help you get recent work experience. It may also help with issues you or your family are facing - treatment, support, access to resources.
 - We may be able to link you to the support services you need for WorkFirst activities. This may include free childcare, interview clothes, gas cards, bus passes, diapers, hygiene products, car repair, and licensing.

If you do not participate in this appointment or do not follow through with your plan's activities, without a good reason, we are required to reduce your cash benefits. Please stay in close contact with us to help avoid this situation.

If you have questions or want to start activities and qualify for childcare and other support services sooner, please call the Customer Service Contact Center at 877-501-2233.

You can get updates at www.dshs.wa.gov/esa
If you have questions, please contact us at 1-877-501-2233.



Washington State
Department of Social
& Health Services
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CSD's Future Service Delivery –

Utilizing lessons learned during COVID-19 to build CSD's future service delivery model in support of Washington's Roadmap to Recovery

2020 Background:

- CSD experienced over 44% increase in Basic Food applications from 2019
- Shift in service delivery primarily to phones
- Majority of staff became teleworkers
- Majority of clients shifted successfully to virtual services

Future Framework –

Offers flexibility for maintaining service delivery efficiency, supports staff telework, mitigates infection risk, increases creative local partnerships and accommodates customers who have significant barriers

- Framework
- Key features
- Planning process

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Poverty Reduction Workgroup (PRWG) Updates



SUMMER 2021 UPDATE

BLUEPRINT FOR A JUST & EQUITABLE FUTURE

The 10-Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty
in Washington State



8 STRATEGIES POVERTY REDUCTION

ROOT CAUSES & BEYOND



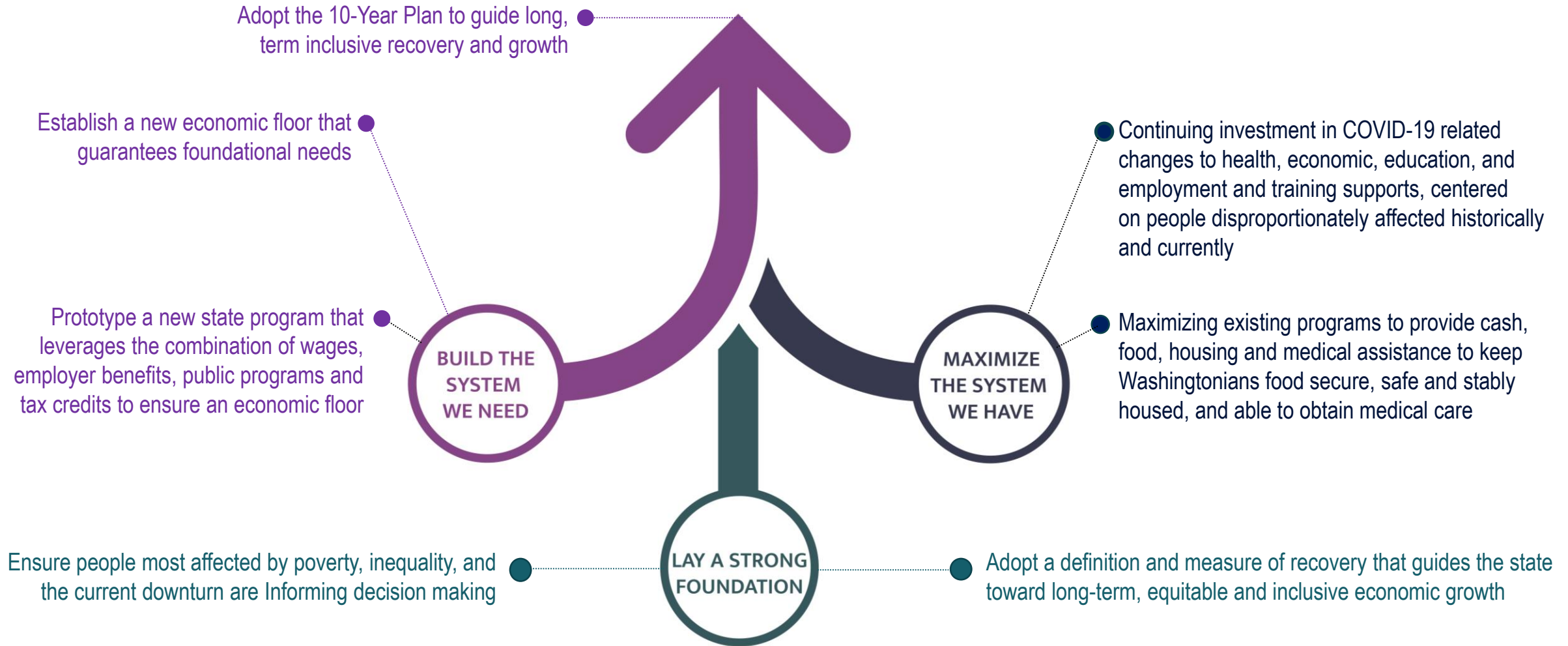
These strategies and recommendations aim to accomplish two goals:

- Effectively mitigate the effects of poverty on children, adults, and families
- Prevent the incidence of poverty from occurring by investing in opportunities all Washingtonians need to achieve social and economic mobility.

- 1 UNDO STRUCTURAL RACISM**
Understand structural racism and historical trauma and take action to undo how they manifest in state policy, program, and practice.
- 2 BALANCE POWER**
Make equal space in decision-making for people and communities most affected by poverty and inequality.
- 3 INCREASE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**
Target equitable income growth and wealth-building among people with low incomes.
- 4 ENSURE FOUNDATIONAL WELL-BEING**
Strengthen health supports across the life span to promote the intergenerational well-being of families.

- 5 PRIORITIZE URGENT NEEDS**
Prioritize the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or addiction.
- 6 BUILD A HOLISTIC CONTINUUM OF CARE**
Build an integrated human service continuum of care that addresses the holistic needs of children, adults, and families.
- 7 DECRIMINALIZE POVERTY**
Decriminalize poverty and reduce reliance on the child welfare, juvenile justice, and criminal justice systems.
- 8 PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE OF WORK**
Ensure a just transition to the future of work.

Immediate Actions for a Just & Equitable Future



Systemic change becomes possible when we recognize the “system” is us – people working in state, tribal, and local government, non-profits, businesses, and philanthropic entities across the

POVERTY **REDUCTION**

Immediate and long-term systemic actions to create a foundation of well-being and a stronger economy

4Ps



POLICY



PROGRAMS



PEOPLE



PARTNERSHIPS

Current Focus

INTENTION, ACCOUNTABILITY & ACTION TO DISMANTLE POVERTY IN WASHINGTON.

- Commit to action within and between agencies to dismantle poverty in Washington state.
- Prioritize implementation of 10-Year Plan recommendations in coordination with tribal nations, state partners, and NGOs.
- Build toward a just and equitable future by ensuring people and communities historically excluded from social and economic well-being are represented in data, stories, and decision-making.
- Hold the state accountable to a just and equitable future by measuring progress based on achieving racial, social, and geographic equity.





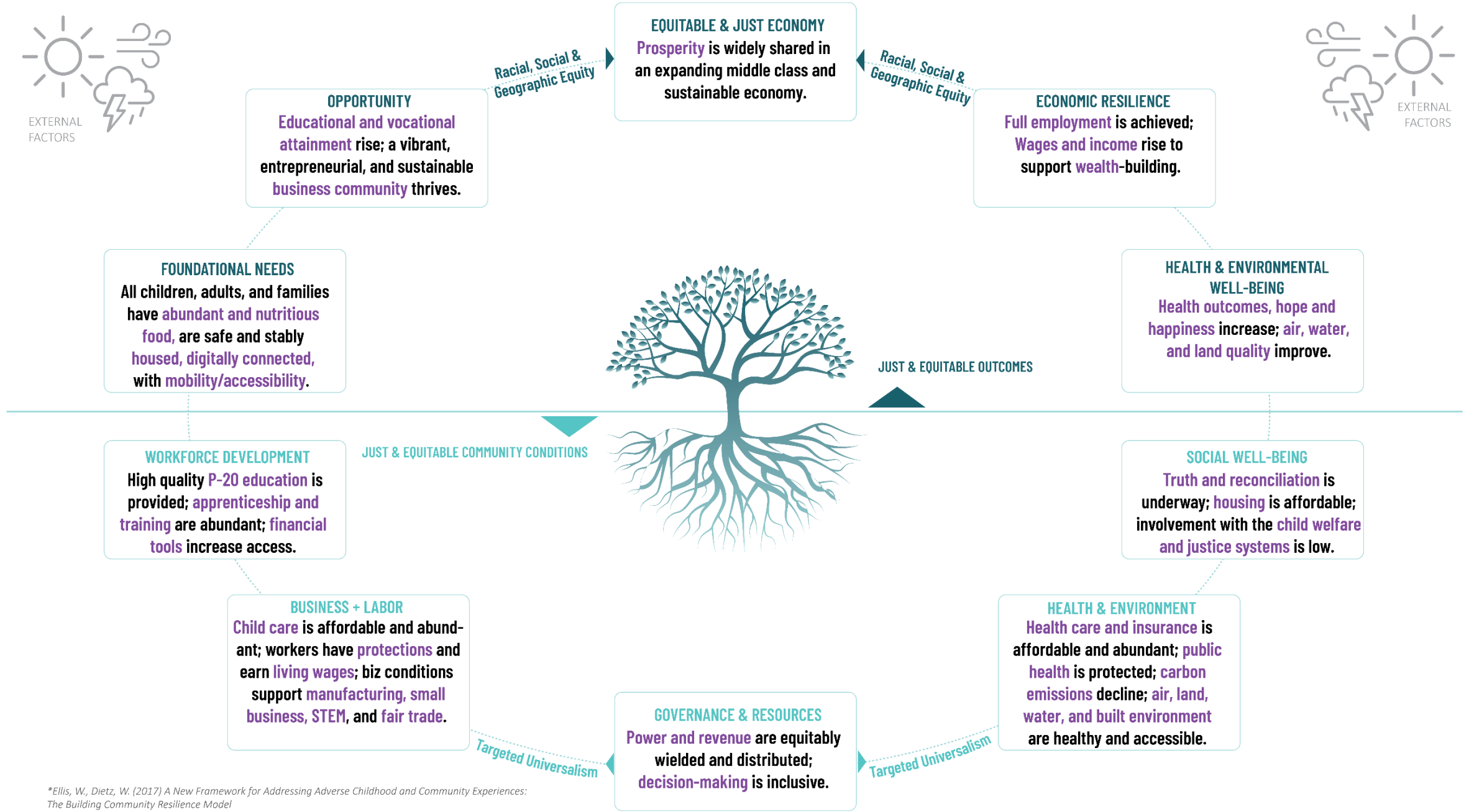
RESULTS WA GOAL 2.1 PROJECT

Toward a Just & Equitable Recovery



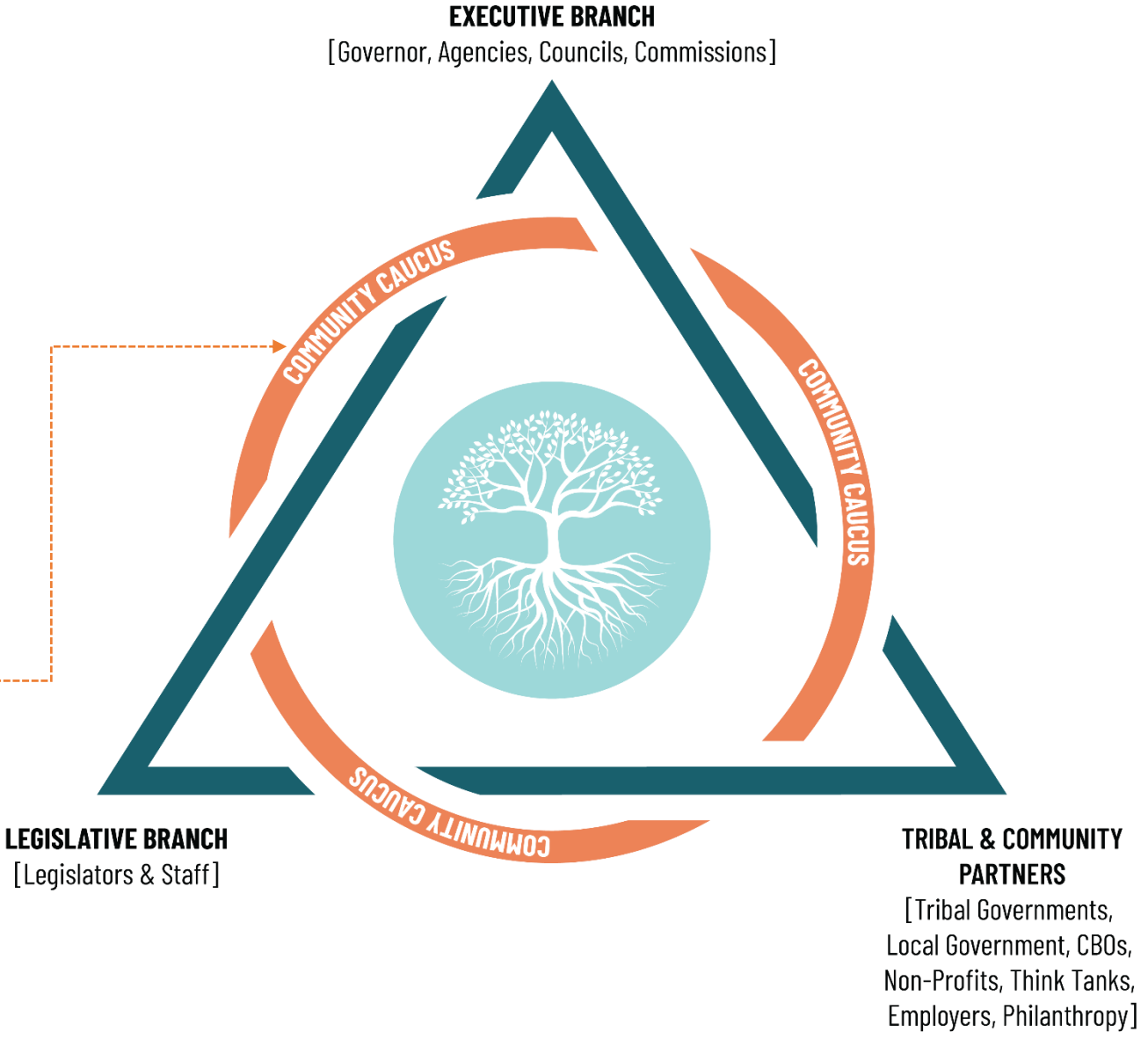
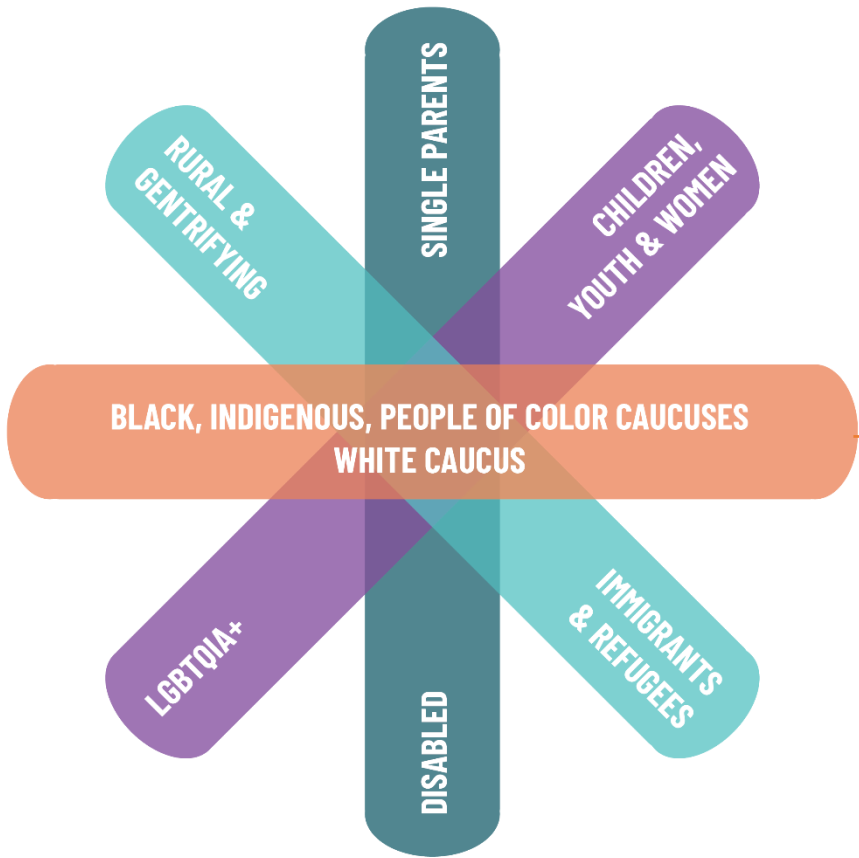
- Traditional definitions and measures of recovery from economic downturns are not equitable or inclusive.
- COVID-19 and its economic consequences are exacerbating existing inequality.
- Without a shared vision and accountability toward a just and equitable future we risk maintaining the status quo and limiting progress.
- People and communities historically excluded from economic well-being are vital to our success.

What's in the Soil Bears the Fruit

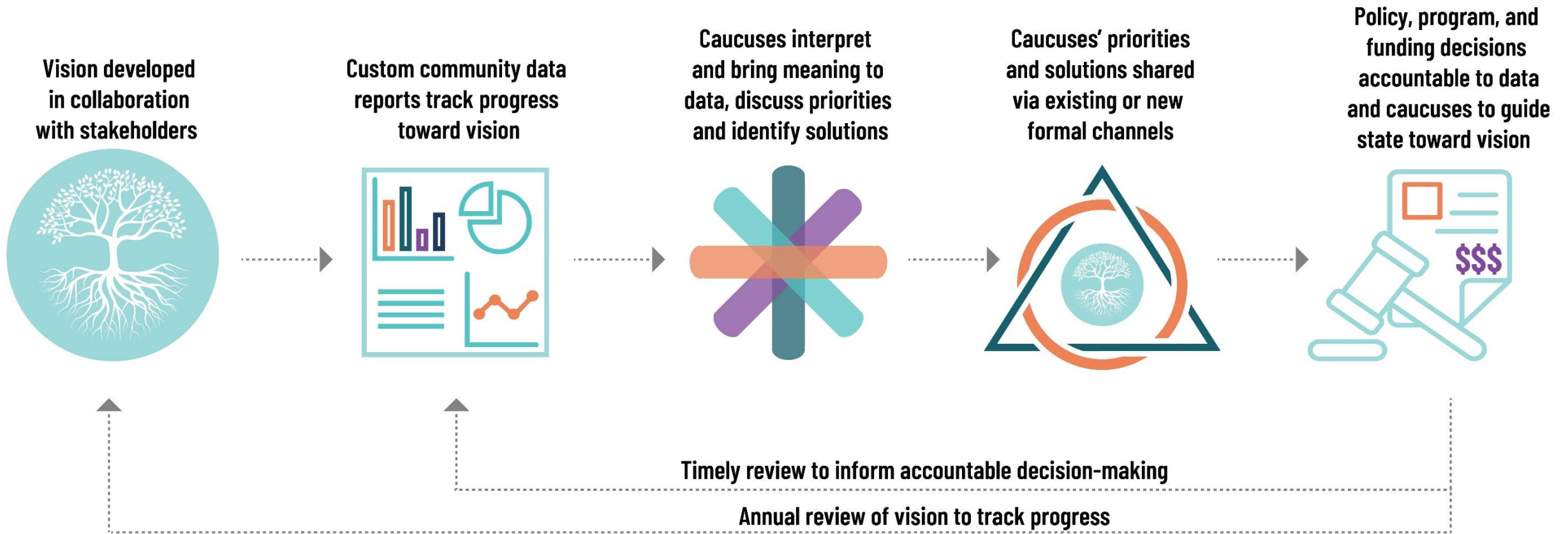


A Community Caucus Model

A process that elevates community-led expertise and partnership to meaningfully inform policy, program, and funding decisions that result in a just and equitable future.



An Accountability Process to Achieve Equity



Project Specifics

	2021									2022			
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
PROJECT KICK-OFF													
Building Trust & Partnerships													
Setting Container for Work													
DEVELOPMENT PHASE													
Community Organizing/Input													
State Meetings & Activities													
Proposal Refinement, Review & Sharing													
IMPLEMENTATION PHASE													

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATION

- Poverty Reduction Work Group
- Community Partners
 - **Statewide Poverty Action | Front & Centered**
- Tribal Nations
- State Agencies
- Office of Equity, WA Recovery Group

PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

- Kresge Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Support for communities to participate





BASIC INCOME FEASIBILITY STUDY

Alignment with 10-Year Plan

Recommendation 6d. Increase cash assistance and make it unconditional upon work.

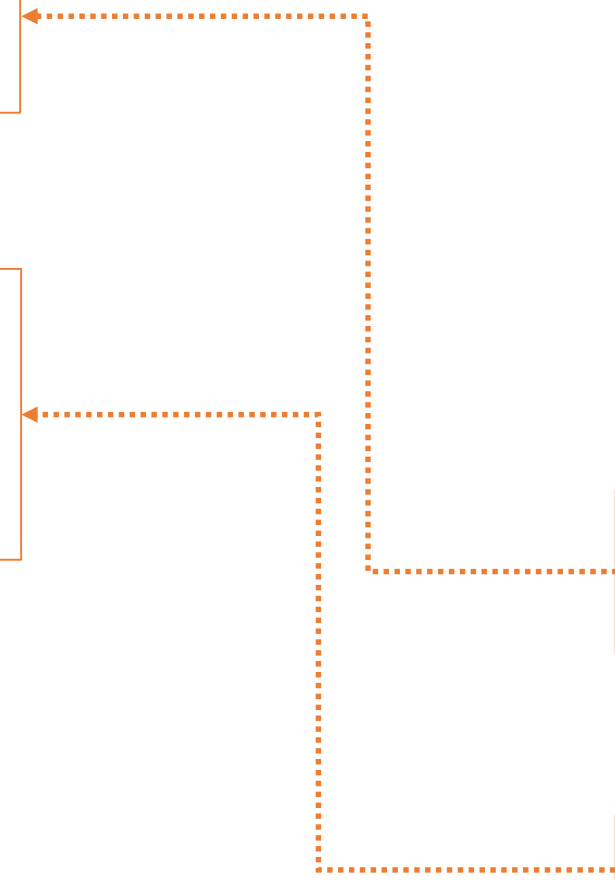
Recommendation 8d. Develop and pilot a portable benefits model and a guaranteed basic income program.



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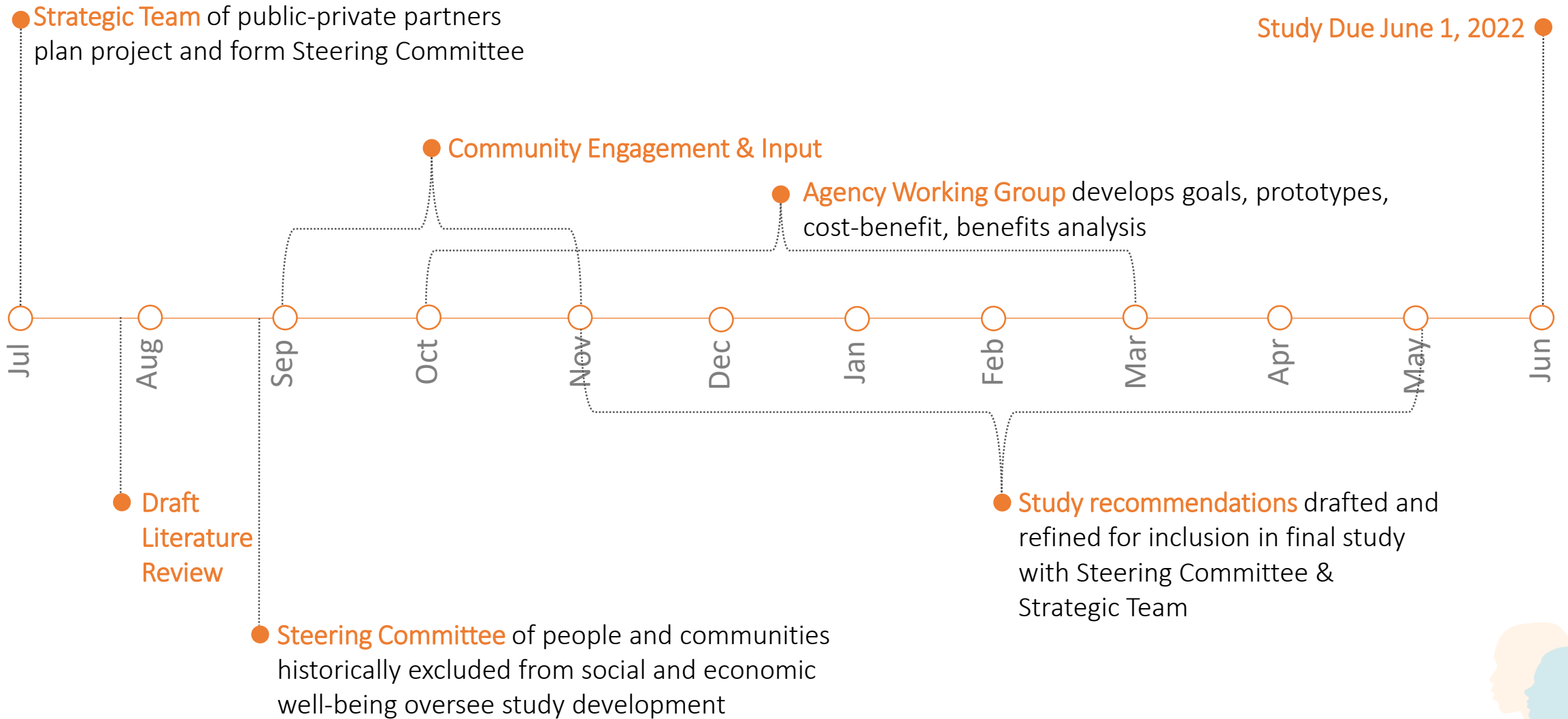




2021-23 Budget Proviso: Basic Income Feasibility Study

“\$77,000 of the general fund—state appropriation is provided solely for the department to conduct a study, jointly with the poverty reduction work group, on the **feasibility of implementing a universal basic income pilot program**. The study must include **research** of other universal basic income programs, **recommendations** for a pilot in Washington, **a cost-benefit analysis, operational costs**, and an **implementation plan** that includes a strategy to ensure pilot participants who voluntarily quit a public assistance program to enroll in the universal basic income pilot will not experience gaps in service upon completion of the pilot. The department shall submit recommendations required by this section to the governor and appropriate legislative committees no later than **June 1, 2022.**”

Basic Income Feasibility Study





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PRWG@dshs.wa.gov

Public Comment



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Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 17, 2021

