



Webinar

Engaging communities in budget decisions to build power

February 20, 2024

countyhealthrankings.org



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We value



University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Join the conversation

Question and Answer

Welcome to Q&A
 Questions you ask will show up here. Only host and panelists will be able to see all questions.

Where can I find strategies to address children in poverty?

Send anonymously

Who can see your questions?

Webinar Chat

Me to Everyone

JL: Hi Everyone, I'm James, from Madison, WI.

Zoomhost CHRR to Everyone: Hello James and welcome to today's webinar.


Who can see your messages?

To: Everyone

Your text can be seen by panelists and other attendees

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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps



Guidelines

- 1 Share** successes and lessons learned
- 2 Offer** resources
- 3 Build** knowledge
- 4 Listen** for multiple perspectives

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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps



Everyone has a role to play

- Setting priorities
- Making decisions
- Sharing resources

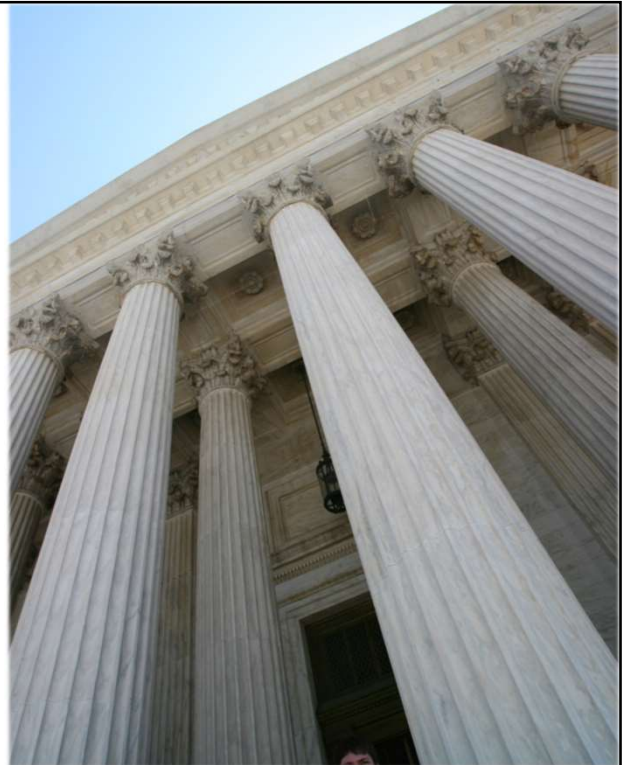
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County Health
Rankings & Roadmaps

Structural determinants of health

Society's written and unwritten rules



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Public budgets

Budgets shape community
conditions and health outcomes



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Building collective power

Changing conditions



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Participatory budgeting

A strategy to build community power



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Welcome



Anita Dos Santos
Advocacy manager
Participatory Budgeting Project



Benjii Bittle
Business development manager
Tacoma-Pierce County Health
Department

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Discussion group

When: Following the webinar

What: Share ideas, ask questions

How: Zoom

Why: Deepen learning



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What is participatory budgeting?

Participatory budgeting

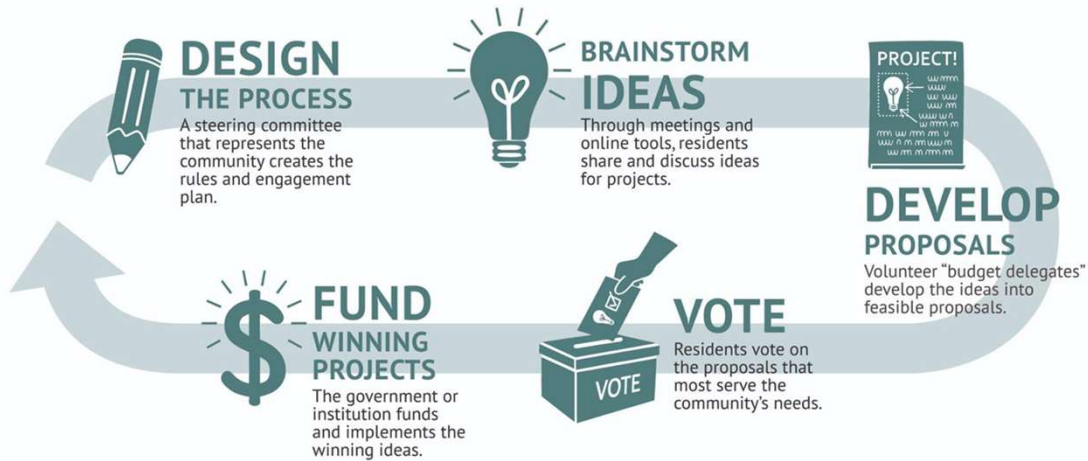
is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget.



PARTICIPATORY
BUDGETING PROJECT

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The Participatory Budgeting Cycle



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Successful Participatory Budgeting

Accessible

We meet people where they are and make processes simple.

Inclusive & Equitable

We center community members who have been systematically excluded.

Centers Lived Experience and Community Decision Making

We recognize that lived experience uncovers intimate information about an area that data can't always explain.

Field Research

We know that exploring neighborhood dynamics is key when developing proposals that will be implemented impactfully.

Learn by Doing

We take an *experiential* approach to everything in PB because we know that people learn democracy by doing it!



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What kinds of budgets?

- City, county, state, and federal budgets
- Non-governmental sources like foundation or nonprofit budgets
- Discretionary funds of elected officials
- School, school district, and university budgets
- Public agency budgets
- Police and carceral budgets



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Coming Soon: Denver, CO

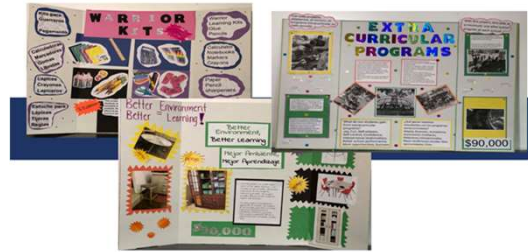
- *“The **Engaging Communities with Lived Experiences** project ... uses **participatory budgeting to empower the community**. The project aims to support individuals in recovery, address health disparities, and **promote equity in substance use disorder treatment.**”*
- Funded by a tax that sets funding aside for addressing mental health and substance misuse needs in Denver.



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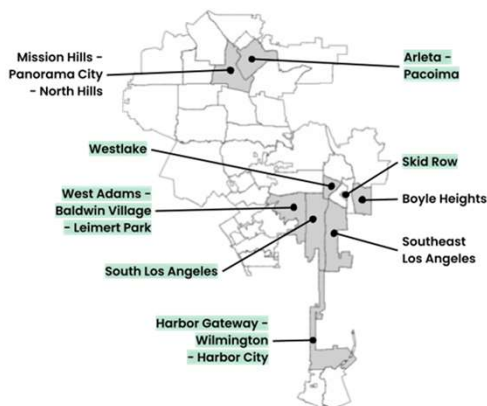
Central Falls, RI

- **Voces con Poder:** Students and parents at all schools in the Central Falls school district voted to dedicate **\$100,000** from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to improve their schools.
- The Rhode Island Dept of Health ran a process through the Health Equity Zones Initiative. Residents of Central Falls and Pawtucket decided on how to spend **\$385,000** to “improve the conditions that help us stay or become healthy.”
- Winning projects were a **Sprinkler Water Park & Outdoor Fitness Park**, and the “**Mental Health: End the Stigma**” Campaign.



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L.A. Repair in Los Angeles, CA



- Organizers in L.A. advocated for a **new approach to public safety** and **substantial investments in Black and Brown communities**. Office of Racial Equity is formed.
- **REPAIR Zones** were selected based on a number of factors including:
 - employment and poverty data
 - home access to Internet
 - COVID-19 case rates
 - CDC Social Vulnerability Index
 - CalEnviroScreen Environmental Index
 - historically “redlined” neighborhoods
- Effective PB **requires a commitment to racial equity and shared decision making** from those in government *and* **accountability systems** rooted in a strong base of community members.

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Challenges of Participatory Budgeting

- Getting buy in from elected officials or those in power
- Time and resources
- Managing the community's expectations



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

We design, strengthen, and facilitate equitable and innovative Participatory Budgeting and Participatory Democracy processes.

PARTICIPATION LAB

Engage in shared learning, research, and design, and test improvements to participatory democracy practice.

CAMPAIGNS & ADVOCACY

Advocate in collaboration with community partners to win and expand equitable, accessible and significant PD practices.

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BUDGETING PROJECT
www.participatorybudgeting.org

Anita Dos Santos, Advocacy Manager
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 ParticipatoryBudgetingProject

 @PBProject

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Health Benefits of Participatory Budgeting

Community

- Support community power.
- Share resources equitably.
- Address root causes.
- Make decisions more inclusive, transparent, accountable and efficient.
- Reduce scale and duration of problems.

Individual

- Improve self efficacy.
- Increase trust.
- Improve social cohesion.
- Resilience.
 - Improved sleep, wound healing.
- Resistance to disease:
 - Heart disease, cancer.

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➤ Audre Lorde

“In our world,
divide and conquer
must become
define and empower.”

Sister Outsider and
Other Essays

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➤ Participatory Budgeting in Pierce County

We led

- Tacoma Creates.
- National evangelism.
- Build the evidence base.

- Pilot project in a park.
- Three urban school-based projects.
- Subject specific and rural projects.

We partnered

- City of Tacoma:
- \$1 million projects in five Council Districts.

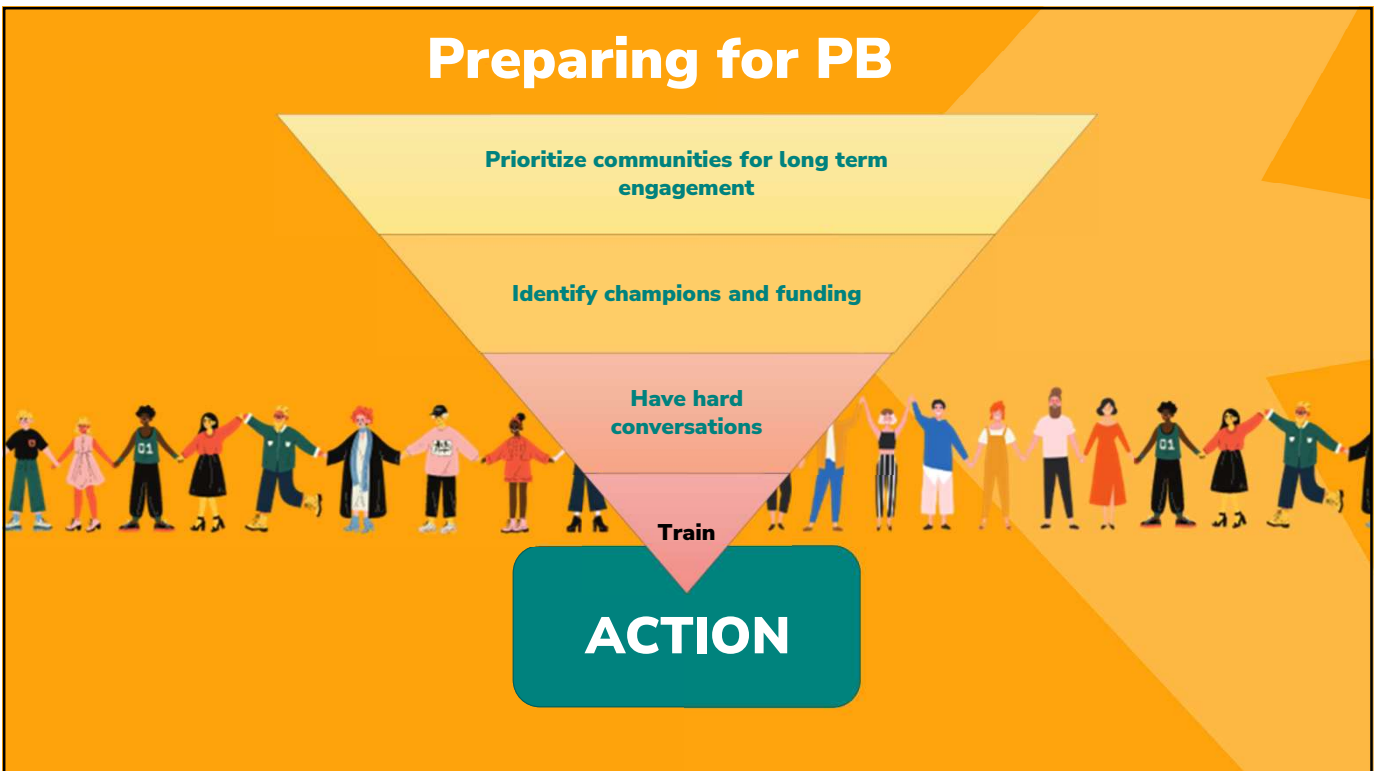
We supported

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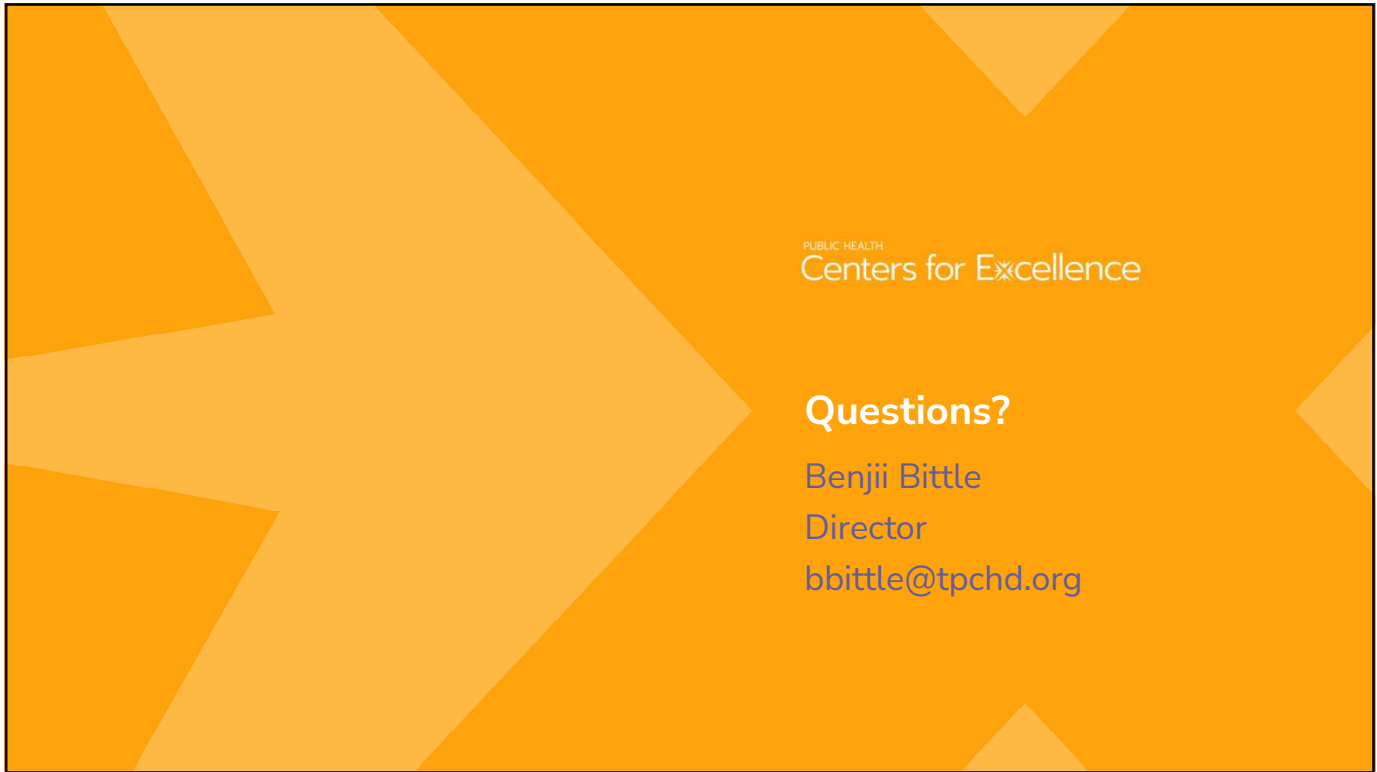
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Questions?
Benjii Bittle
Director
bbittle@tpchd.org

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Summary: Participatory budgeting

- **Is a process that shares power**
When implemented successfully, PB engages community and builds power.
- **Can influence health**
PB activities can create healthier communities and better individual health outcomes.
- **Has been used in many settings**
Seek support in implementing PB into your work.

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What Works for Health

Keyword: participatory budgeting



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Questions?



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**Click on
survey in
the chat**



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Upcoming webinar:

March 12, 2024

**Previewing the
2024 Annual
Data Release**



Bethany Rogerson
Co-director, CHR&R



Molly Burdine
Data analyst, CHR&R



Gillian Giglierano
Evidence analyst,
CHR&R

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