COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS MODEL

Discussion Guide

The *County Health Rankings* are a data tool, but they are also a communication tool. They help start the conversation about health in your community. Use the *Rankings* model as a hook to ignite or re-ignite conversations about health in your community.

This guide offers reflection questions and tips for a facilitated conversation about the *County Health Rankings* model.

Where to use this tool

Consider using this guide or some of the questions included in the following settings:

- Partnership meeting
- Meeting with a potential partner
- Presentation to a new audience
- Classroom

Resources Needed

- Time – 30 minutes to prepare; 1 hour (or more) for discussion
- Printed copies of the *Rankings* model for each participant
- Optional: Flip charts or slides to display discussion questions

Step 1: Prepare

1. Prepare a copy of the *Rankings* model for each participant. Alternatively, you can project the model onto a wall or screen. Be sure the model is large enough for everyone to read.
2. Before you begin your discussion, consider these questions:

What do we want participants to know and do?	How do we want participants to feel?

3. Select 1-2 questions from each section for your group to discuss.

Objective Questions
Explore *what participants see* in the model.

- What do you think of first when I say the word *health*?
- What words stand out to you in this model?
- What about this model catches your attention?

Reflective Questions Explore *how participants feel* about the model.	• What seems most critical? • What parts reminded you of your own experience? • Where are you really clear? Where are you confused? • What concerns you? • What gives you hope?
Interpretative questions Explore the *implications* on individuals, your work as a group, or your community.	• What is the importance of this? • What new vantage point has this given us? • What difference will it make? • What questions did this raise for you? • What insights are beginning to emerge? • What kinds of changes will we need to make?
Decisional Questions Explore *what participants will do now*.	• What applications or action ideas does this model reveal for you? • What just became clear (or clearer) for you? • What are we really committed to? • What are the first steps we need to take? • What will you do differently?

Step 2: Consider

Give participants a few minutes to consider the model individually. You can do this in a common location or by sharing in advance before you meet.

Step 3: Discuss

Discuss your selected questions. Depending on the size and dynamic of your group, you may choose to do this as a large group or in small groups.

Step 4: Make a plan to take it further

Based on insights gained during your discussion, make a plan to use the model as a communication tool. The *Rankings* model can be an effective hook to engage potential partners. Here are some ideas for structuring a conversation with someone who is new to community health improvement work.

Ask …
• Where do you see your work in the model?
• What surprises you about the model?

- What policies are helping or hindering health in your community?
- Who may be benefiting and who may be harmed most by these policies? How are these people affected?

Reflect …
Consider the weights in the model. What do you notice?

Tell a Story …
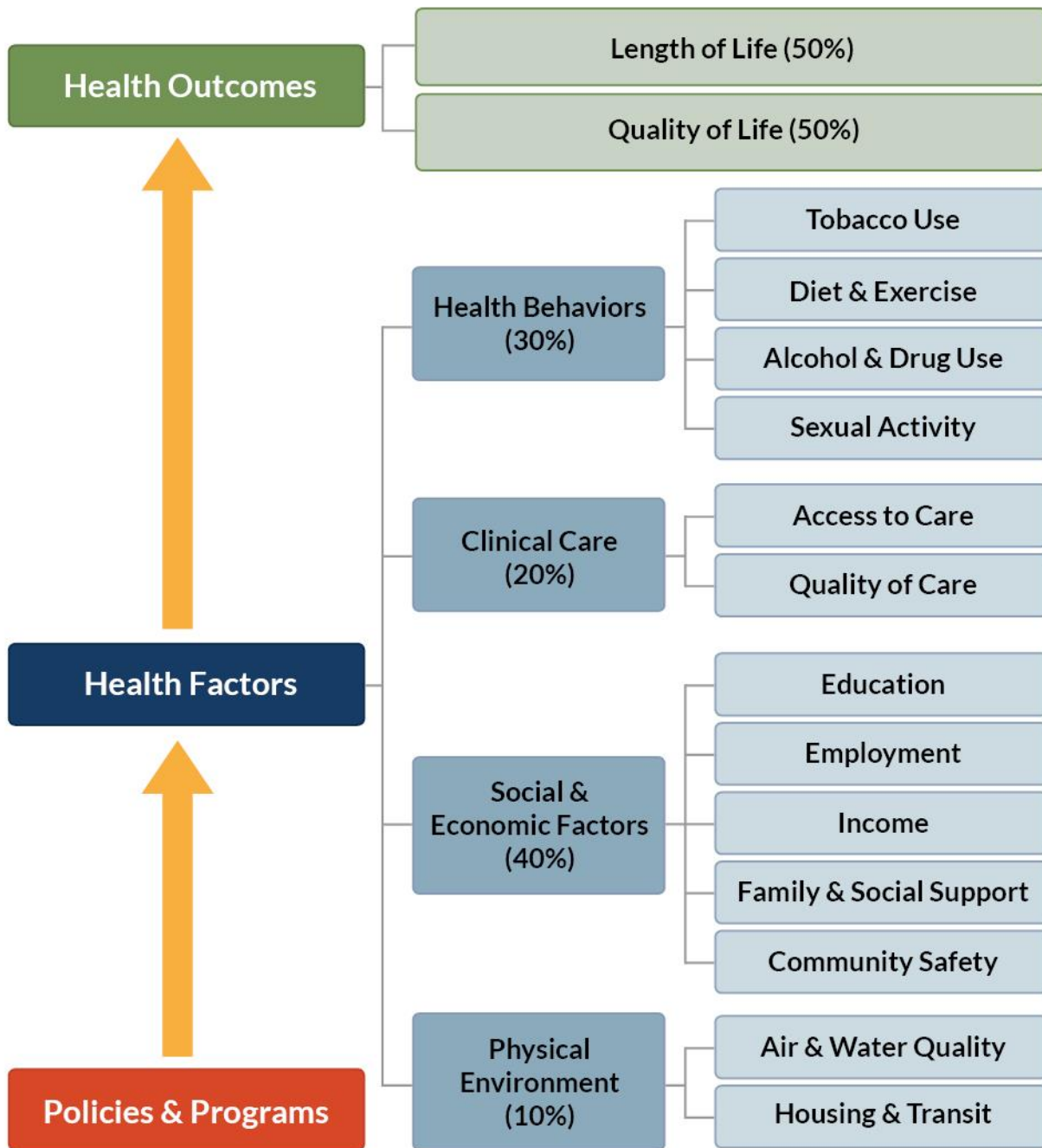Use the model as a visual to walk through a personal story about how a policy has impacted your health.

Next steps:

I will share this model with …	
I want them to know …	
I want them to feel …	
I want them do this …	

The frame and questions for this discussion guide are based on the Focused Conversation tool from The Institute of Cultural Affairs *ToP ® Group Facilitation.*

Learn more about the *County Health Rankings* rationale and methods.

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