

Whatcom County (WFCN)  
Community Capacity Building Model  
STRUCTURAL FRAMEWORK

Step One

Identify and Enhance  
Conditions of Readiness, Opportunities for  
Reflection and Action, and General Capacity  
For Change

Step Two

Implement Targeted strategies, locally selected

Implement general community  
engagement, leadership, and collaboration  
development strategies

Step Three

Change quality and  
Approach to addressing an identified  
community issue – shift the conversation

Step Four

Change outcomes to more deeply address issue

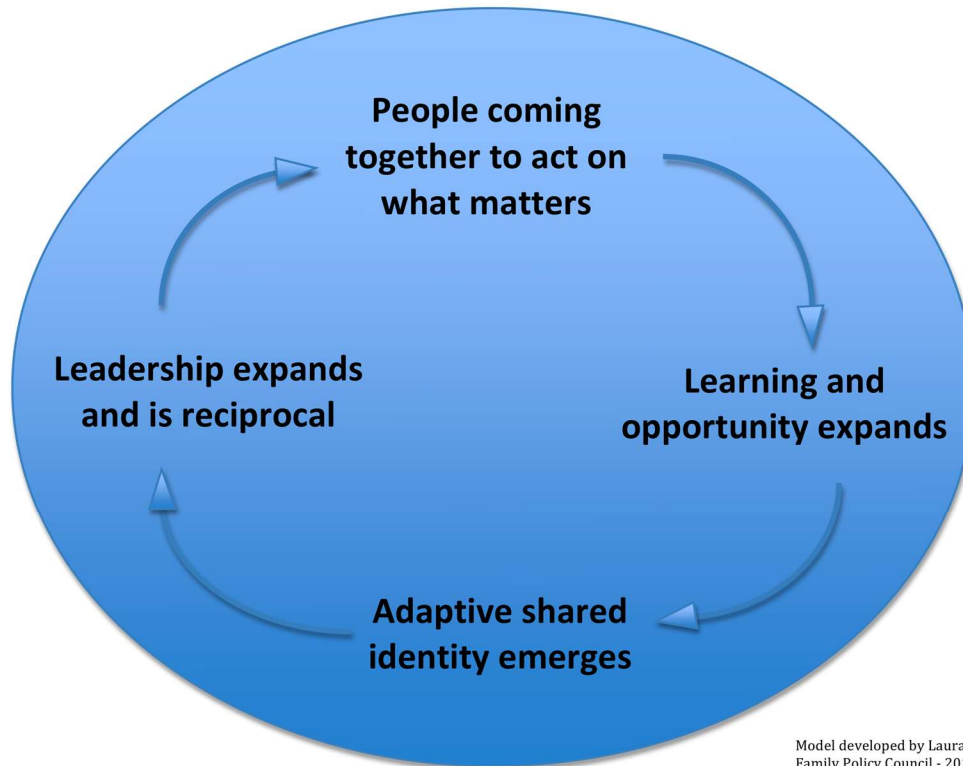
Step Five

Change interrelated outcomes  
to match desired future

GUIDING PRINCIPLES/BELIEFS:

- Community already has core capacities and gifts within itself to solve problems and self actualize
- Culture and customs of community are respected and seen as assets
- Residents define the urgency, set goals, and lead the process
- Marginalized groups are essential in leadership and decision making
- WFCN role – come alongside and help recognize, uncover, highlight, build upon, and mobilize those capacities; support and coach local leadership; help with data collection and analysis, and help link partnerships and resources to the community
- Direct WFCN resources to highest, long-term benefits in increasing community capacity

## ***Dynamics of Community Capacity Building***



State and local leadership formed a state-wide learning community to figure out:

- What it takes locally to make change
- What it takes to improve communities' capacity to make sustainable improvements
- What education, skills, resources are needed to shift the systems

Local Learning informed State Learning

10-Year Process of learning

- Program
- See capacity issues
- Focus on neighborhoods
- Expansion of leadership
- Revamp definition of "services"
- Partnership with CDC – ACE lens for community change