

Voices for Health Justice: Theory of change

Version: July 29, 2021

Viewing notes

- For an interactive theory of change (TOC) model, please make sure to download the PDF and open it.
- The green stars are clickable - clicking on one will expand the section to give additional information. To go back to the main TOC model, click on the green star in the pop-up.
- The numbering of outcomes is just to make them easy to reference and is not intended to indicate an order.
- We will revisit this model later in the evaluation period and update it based on what we are learning.
- A [simplified version](#) of the TOC model is on the next page, followed by a more [detailed interactive version](#) of the model.

Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity

ACTIVITIES

EARLY OUTCOMES

INTERMEDIATE-TERM OUTCOMES

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Overall program activities
(TA and support)

Building capacity and partnerships to strengthen organizations and the power ecosystem, which makes state project activities more likely to be successful

Future impacts beyond VHJ

State project activities
(Partnership development and work done by grantees and subgrantees towards state project goals)

Community engagement, base-building, and leadership development

Effective community-led advocacy

**Increased community power
(focused on communities of color)**

Communications, visibility, and narrative change strategies that channel public attention and political will towards priority issues among communities

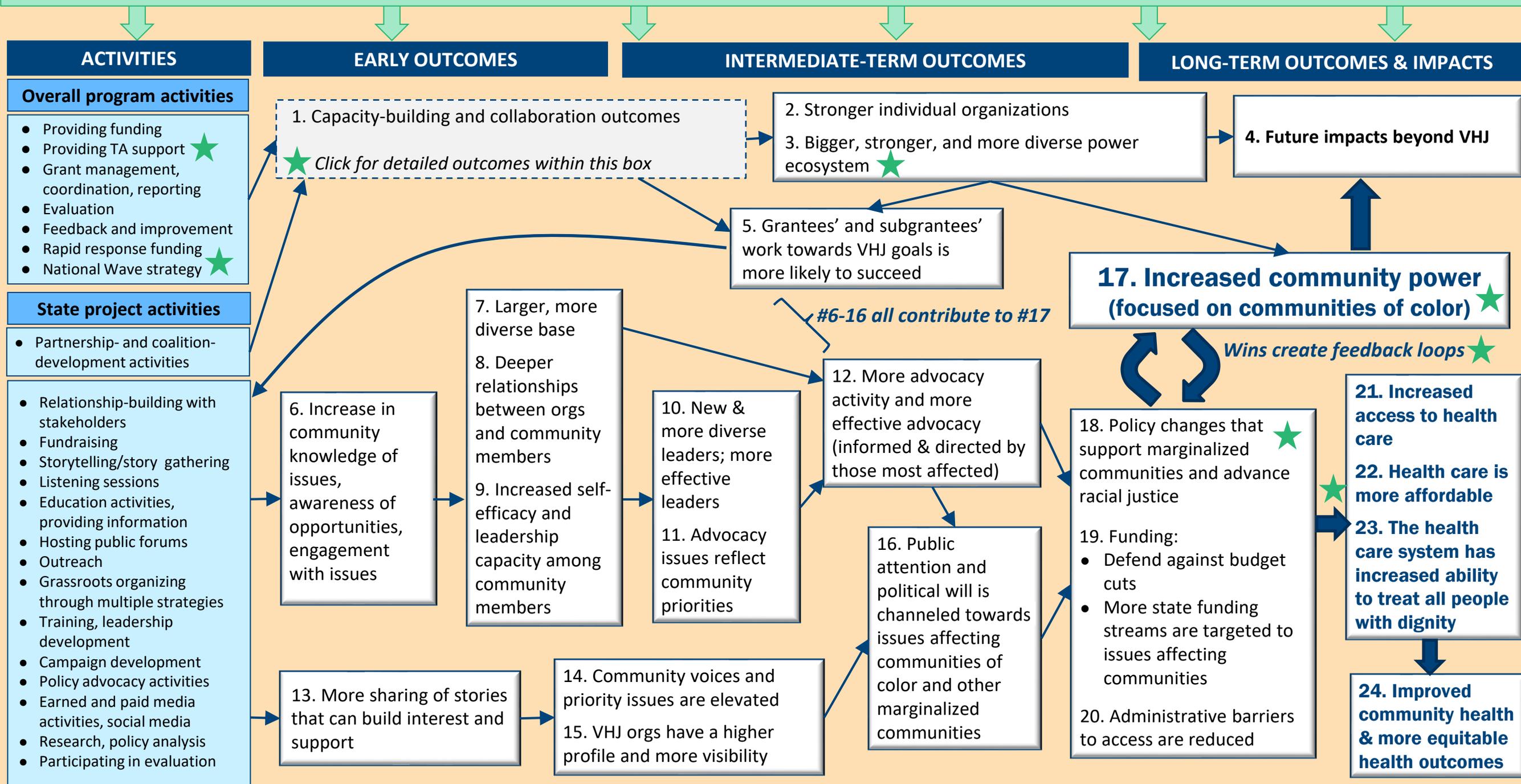
Policy, funding, and administrative changes that support marginalized communities and advance racial justice

Improved access, affordability, and treatment by the health care system

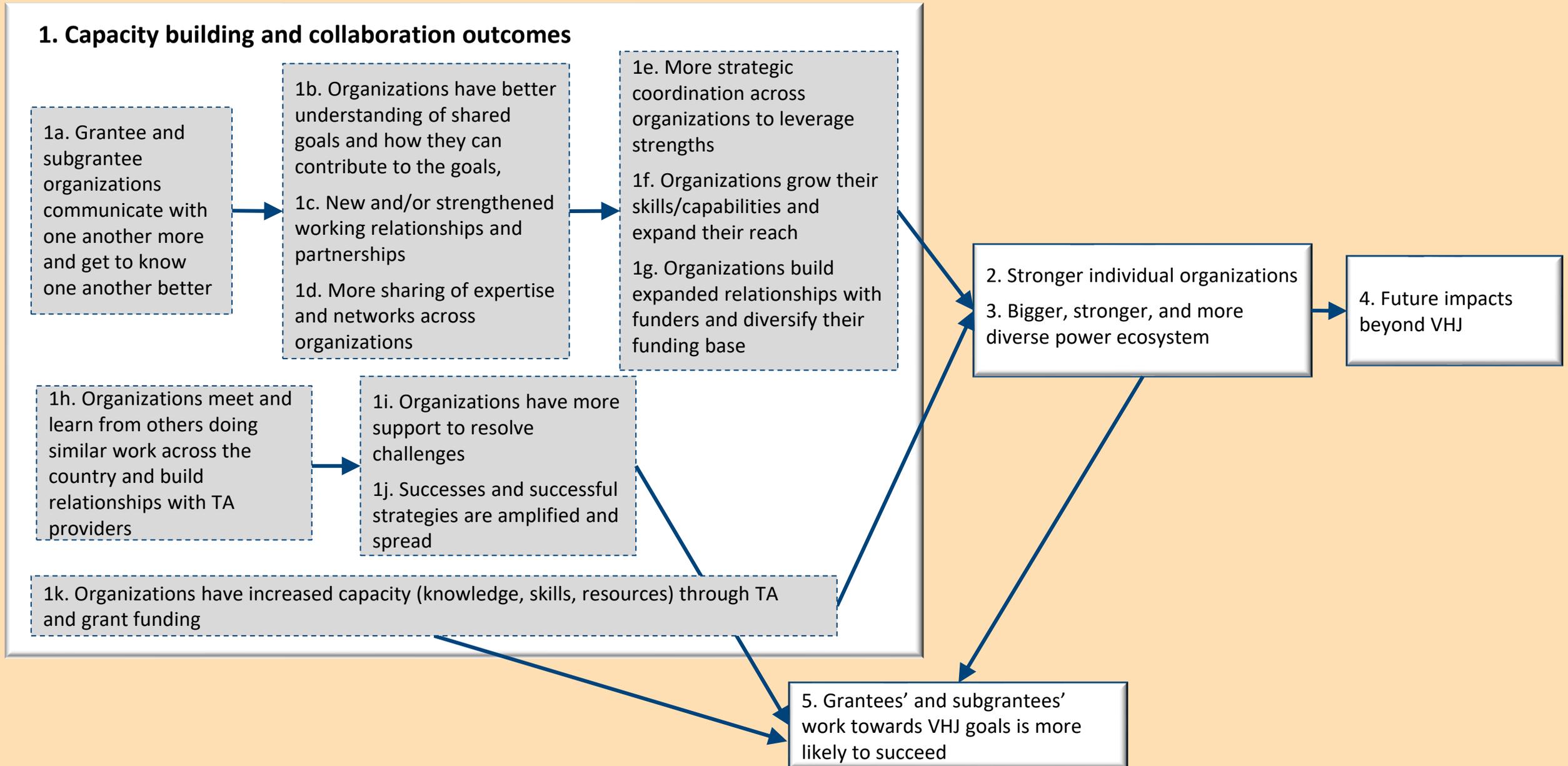
Improved community health & more equitable health outcomes for communities of color and other marginalized communities

****NOTE**** This is a simplified version of the theory of change model. Click on the star or proceed to the next page to view the full detailed version ★

Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity



Expansion of capacity-building and collaboration outcomes (Box #1 on main model)



Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity

ACTIVITIES

EARLY OUTCOMES

INTERMEDIATE-TERM OUTCOMES

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

Overall program activities

- Providing funding
- **Providing TA support** ★
- Grant management, coordination, reporting
- Evaluation
- Feedback and improvement
- Rapid response funding
- National Wave strategy ★

State project activities

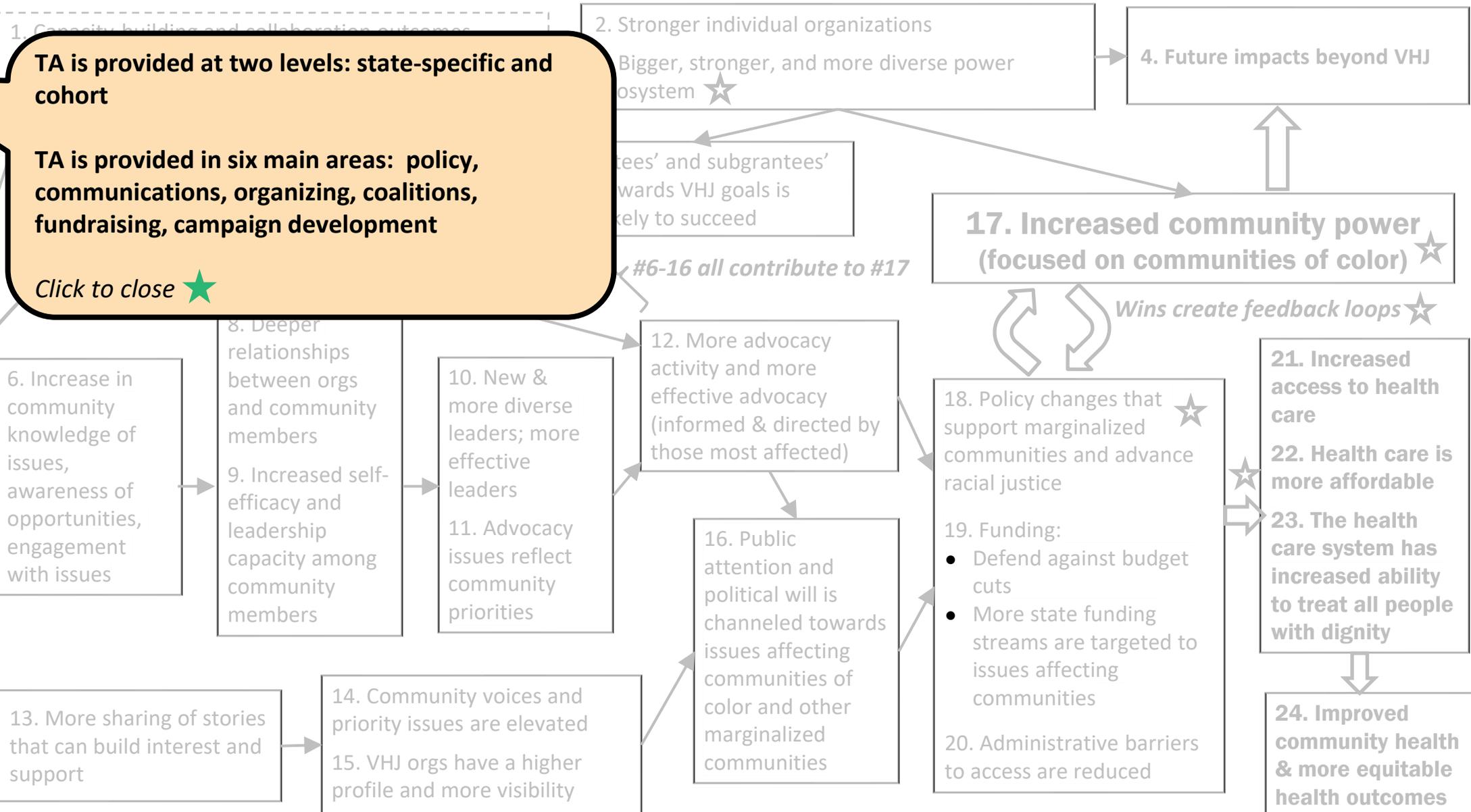
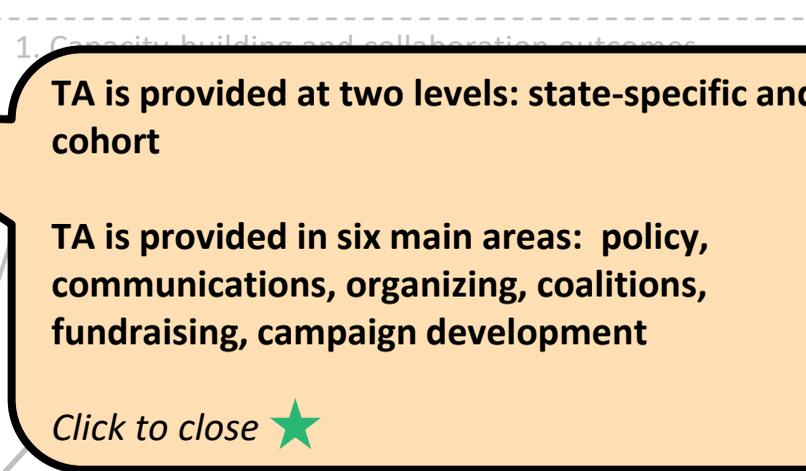
- Partnership- and coalition-development activities

- Relationship-building with stakeholders
- Fundraising
- Storytelling/story gathering
- Listening sessions
- Education activities, providing information
- Hosting public forums
- Outreach
- Grassroots organizing through multiple strategies
- Training, leadership development
- Campaign development
- Policy advocacy activities
- Earned and paid media activities, social media
- Research, policy analysis
- Participating in evaluation

TA is provided at two levels: state-specific and cohort

TA is provided in six main areas: policy, communications, organizing, coalitions, fundraising, campaign development

Click to close ★



Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity

ACTIVITIES

Overall program activities

- Providing funding
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- **Rapid response funding** ★
- **National Wave strategy** ★

State project activities

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EARLY C...

1. Capacity-b...

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6. Increase in community knowledge of issues, awareness of opportunities, engagement with issues

13. More sharing of stories that can build interest and support

14. Community voices and priority issues are elevated
15. VHI orgs have a higher profile and more visibility

capacity among community members

issues reflect community priorities

attention and political will is channeled towards issues affecting communities of color and other marginalized communities

- Defend against budget cuts
 - More state funding streams are targeted to issues affecting communities
20. Administrative barriers to access are reduced

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

4. Future impacts beyond VHI

based community power (on communities of color) ★

Wins create feedback loops ★

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d advance

- 21. Increased access to health care
- 22. Health care is more affordable
- 23. The health care system has increased ability to treat all people with dignity

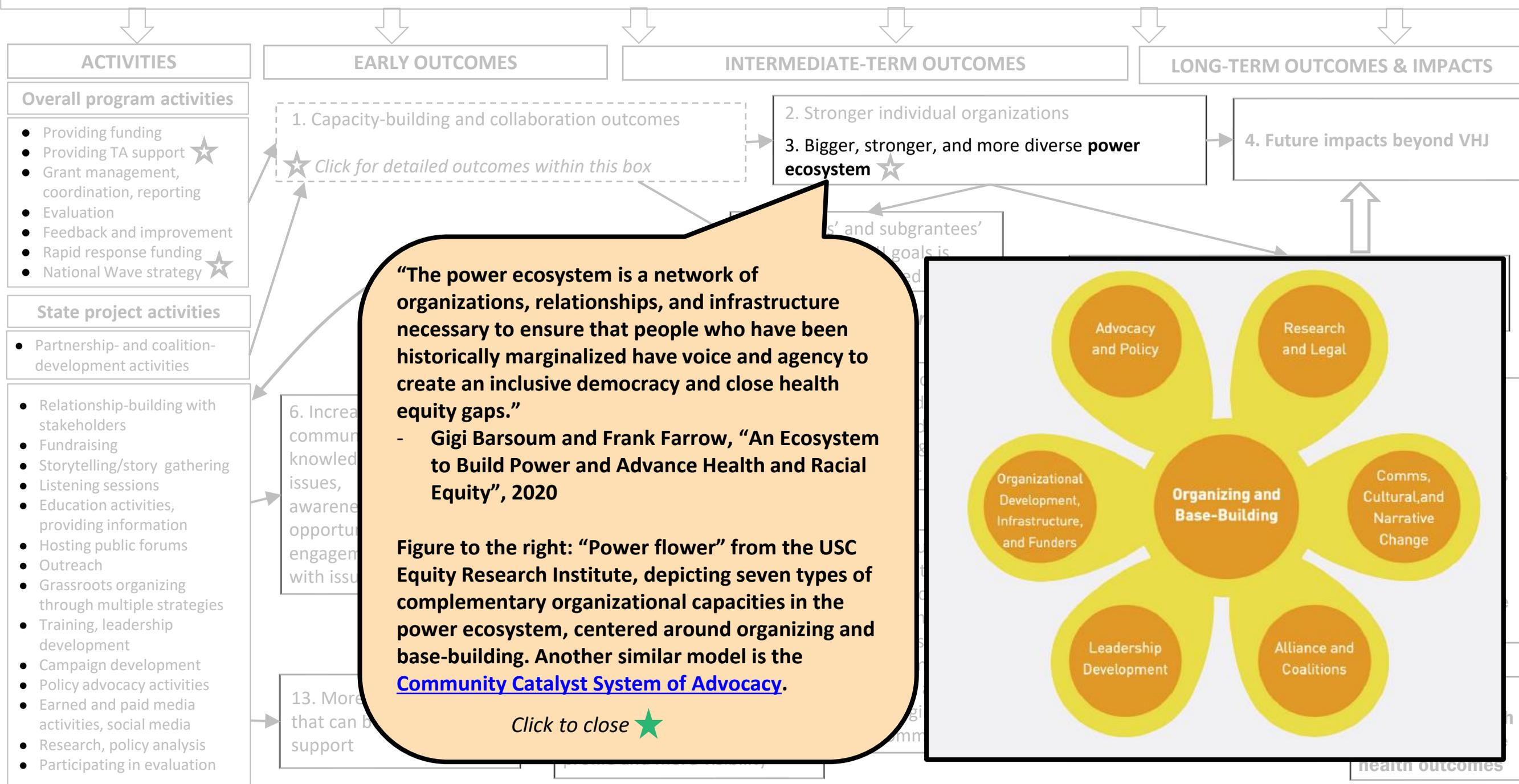
24. Improved community health & more equitable health outcomes

Rapid response funding
Given the dynamic nature of politics and health policy change, the VHI Steering Committee makes rapid response grants to advocacy partners to support strategic and timely work that advances VHI's overall goals of increasing access to health care, making health care more affordable, and increasing the ability of the healthcare system to treat all people with dignity. Rapid response grants are intended to respond to a discrete policy, organizing, or campaign opportunity and can be awarded to organizations and states outside of those included in the core VHI project grants.

National Wave strategy
The VHI Steering Committee supports the National Wave, a communications strategy that aims to elevate health equity and advocacy priorities that emerge from the VHI state projects into both state- and national-level media outlets.

Click to close ★

Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity



“The power ecosystem is a network of organizations, relationships, and infrastructure necessary to ensure that people who have been historically marginalized have voice and agency to create an inclusive democracy and close health equity gaps.”

- Gigi Barsoum and Frank Farrow, **“An Ecosystem to Build Power and Advance Health and Racial Equity”**, 2020

Figure to the right: “Power flower” from the USC Equity Research Institute, depicting seven types of complementary organizational capacities in the power ecosystem, centered around organizing and base-building. Another similar model is the [Community Catalyst System of Advocacy](#).

Click to close ★

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EARLY OUTCOMES

1. Capacity-building and collaboration outcomes

★ Click for detailed outcomes within this box

6. Increase in community knowledge of issues, awareness of opportunities, engagement with issues

13. More sharing that can build into support

INTERMEDIATE-TERM OUTCOMES

2. Stronger individual organizations

3. Bigger, stronger, and more diverse power ecosystem ★

5. Grantees' and subgrantees' work towards VHJ goals is more likely to succeed

Community power means:

- Community members are invited and welcomed into spaces where they have historically been excluded, including policy-making spaces and other decision-making arenas
- Community members have leadership roles
- Policies are intentionally designed – design is led by or done in collaboration with the people impacted
- Community members are valued and compensated for their time, insight, and energy
- Community members have more agency and can make informed choices about if/how to participate
- People being impacted are centered and can demand and create positive change

Click to close ★

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

4. Future impacts beyond VHJ

17. Increased community power (focused on communities of color) ★

Wins create feedback loops ★

18. Policy changes that support marginalized communities and advance racial justice ★

19. Funding:

- Defend against budget cuts
- More state funding streams are targeted to issues affecting communities

20. Administrative barriers to access are reduced

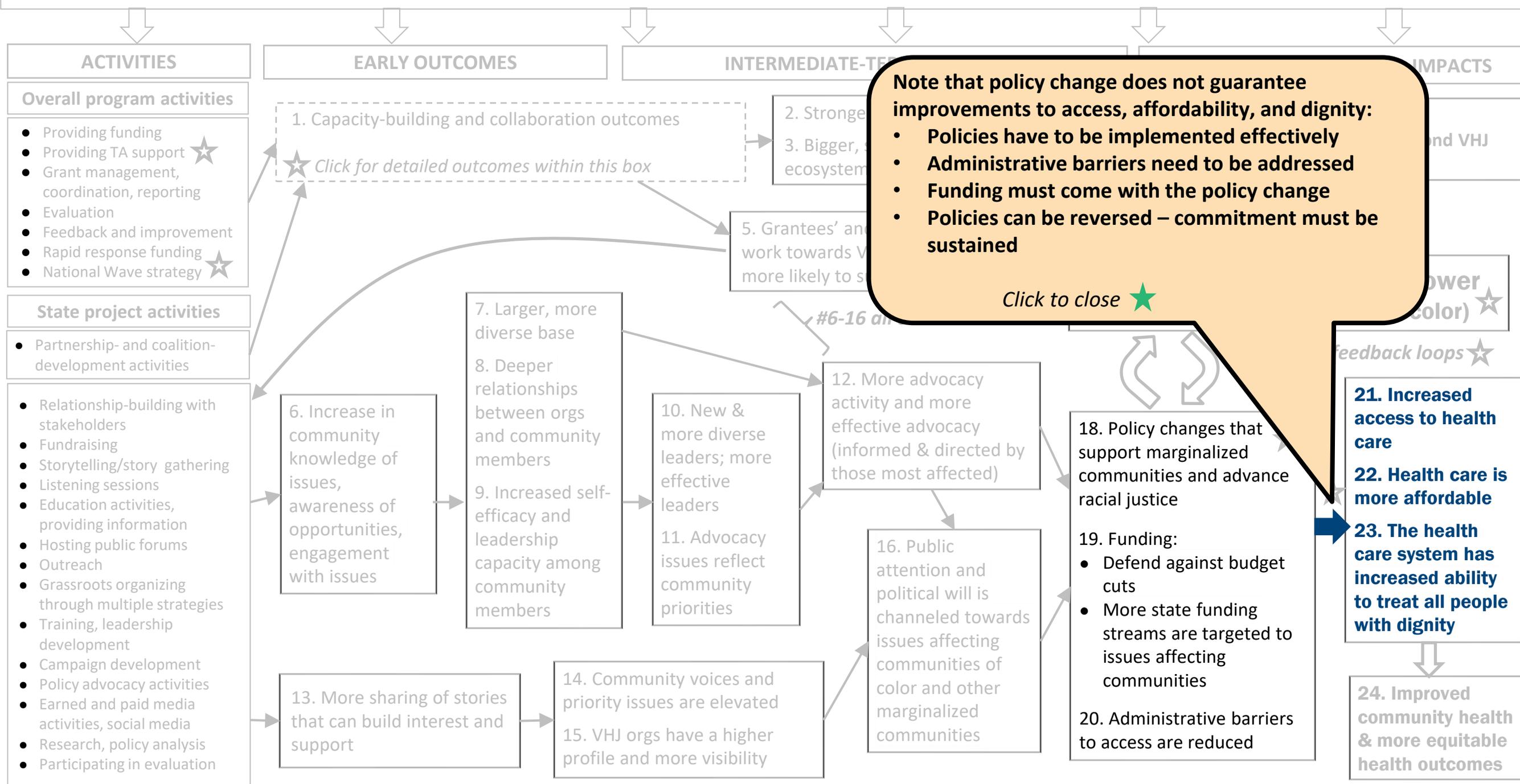
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23. The health care system has increased ability to treat all people with dignity

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1. Capacity-building and collaboration outcomes

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LONG-TERM OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

4. Future impacts beyond VHJ

Policy wins and other positive outcomes can create positive feedback loops that expand power. For example:

- Getting more people interested and added to the base
- Increasing an organization's visibility and perceived legitimacy
- Attracting new partners, collaborators, or funders

However, losses or negative outcomes could have the opposite effect

Click to close ★

6. Increased community knowledge, issues, awareness, opportunities, engagement with issues

13. More sharing of stories that can build interest and support

14. Community voices and priority issues are elevated

15. VHJ orgs have a higher profile and more visibility

and subgrantees' goals is exceed

to #17

and more advocacy (led & directed by most affected)

6. Public attention and political will is channeled towards issues affecting communities of color and other marginalized communities

17. Increased community power (focused on communities of color) ★



Wins create feedback loops ★

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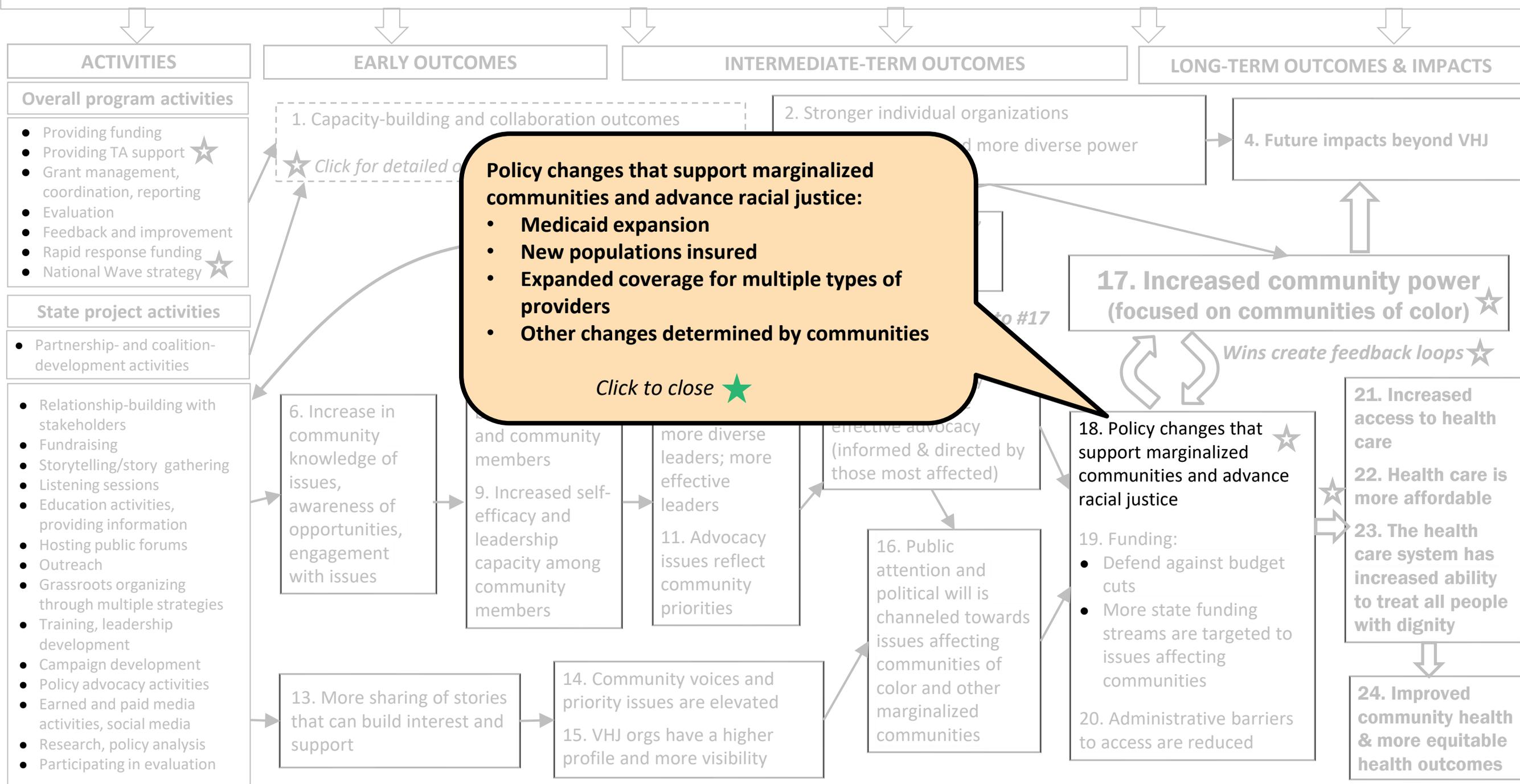
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Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity



★ Program focus: Historically marginalized communities, communities of color

Contextual factors (political, societal, funding, internal staffing/leadership) that open and close windows of opportunity

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EARLY OUTCOMES

1. Capacity-building and coalition development

★ Click for detailed outcomes

6. Increase in community knowledge of issues, awareness of opportunities, engagement with issues

13. More sharing of stories that can build interest and support

7. Leadership development and diverse leadership
8. Deeper relationships between orgs and community members
9. Increased self-efficacy and leadership capacity among community members

10. New & more diverse leaders; more effective leaders
11. Advocacy issues reflect community priorities

14. Community voices and priority issues are elevated
15. VHJ orgs have a higher profile and more visibility

12. More advocacy activity and more effective advocacy (informed & directed by those most affected)

16. Public attention and political will is channeled towards issues affecting communities of color and other marginalized communities

17. Increased community power (focused on communities of color) ★

Wins create feedback loops ★

18. Policy changes that support marginalized communities and advance racial justice ★

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24. Improved community health & more equitable health outcomes

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES & IMPACTS

3. Increased community power and diverse power

4. Future impacts beyond VHJ

VHJ has an overall focus on engaging with communities of color to advance racial justice in health. Specific projects are working with the following communities:
Black communities, Hispanic communities, people with low to moderate incomes, immigrant communities, refugee communities, asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants, young people, older adults, women, adults with disabilities, LGBTQ+ communities

Click to close ★