

Achieving Meaningful Population Health Outcomes: A Workshop on Spread and Scale

The Silberman School of Social Work

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Evidence of Disproportionate Exposures

- 1987 United Church of Christ "Toxic Waste & Race" study
 - 3 of 5 black and Hispanic Americans live in communities with one or more uncontrolled waste sites
 - Race the single most important variable (more than income or property value) determining proximity to toxic waste site
 - The percentage of the local population that was of color increased with an increase in commercial waste sites.
- Update of report "Toxic Waste & Race at Twenty"
 - Racial and socioeconomic disparities still exist
 - Host communities for commercial hazardous waste facilities are predominantly communities of color
 - Unequal protections for communities hosting facilities

The Environmental Justice Movement

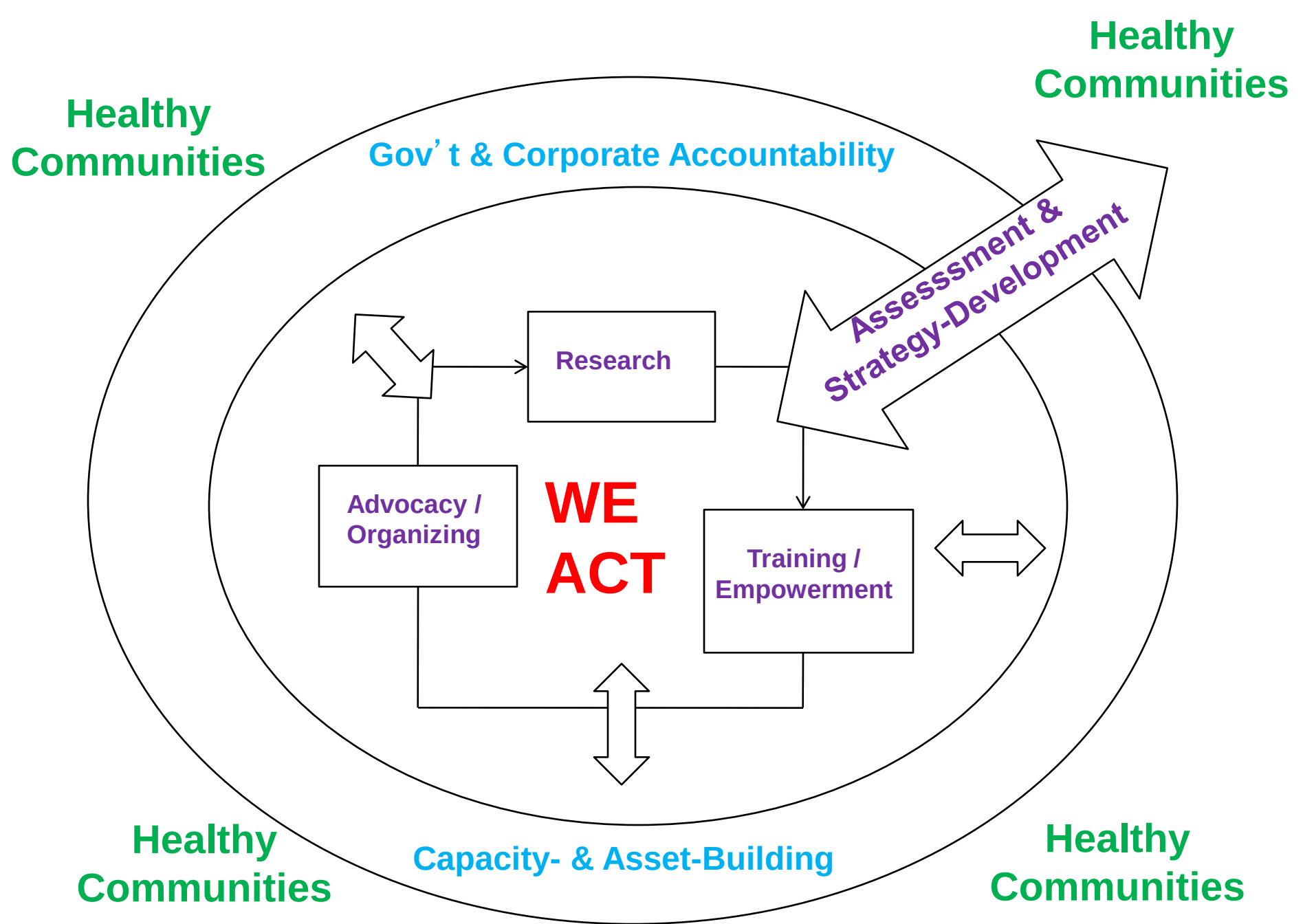
- The Environment as People: Environment is where we live, work, play, and learn
- Convergence of civil rights, environmentalism, and public health
- MULTICULTURAL & MULTIETHNIC
- Grassroots
- Increasing links to global struggles
- Focused on social justice and pollution prevention

Environmental Justice: Critical Issues

- Cumulative and Multiple Exposures
- Utilitarian Approaches to Environmental Protection
 - E.g. Siting most hazardous waste dumps in minority communities if the overall welfare of these communities is then improved
- Poor and unhealthy land use decisions & planning
- Exclusion from decision-making process
- Accountability and Transparency of public institutions
 - Procedural equity

Mission

- WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a Northern Manhattan community-based organization whose mission is to build healthy communities by assuring that people of color and/or low-income participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices.



Scale and Spread

- Ideas & Policies
 - Environmental Justice
 - Civil rights and environmentalism
 - 1982 Warren County
 - Executive Order 12898
 - 1994
 - Climate Justice and Fenceline Communities
 - 2014



For More Information

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WE ACT for EJ



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Justice Now!

"Don't let MTA diesel depots
destroy our health."