



Community Action Network

Working together to build a
community of equity and
opportunity





CAN Vision

Our richly diverse community will be healthy, safe, educated, just and compassionate where all people work together to achieve their full potential and celebrate their lives.





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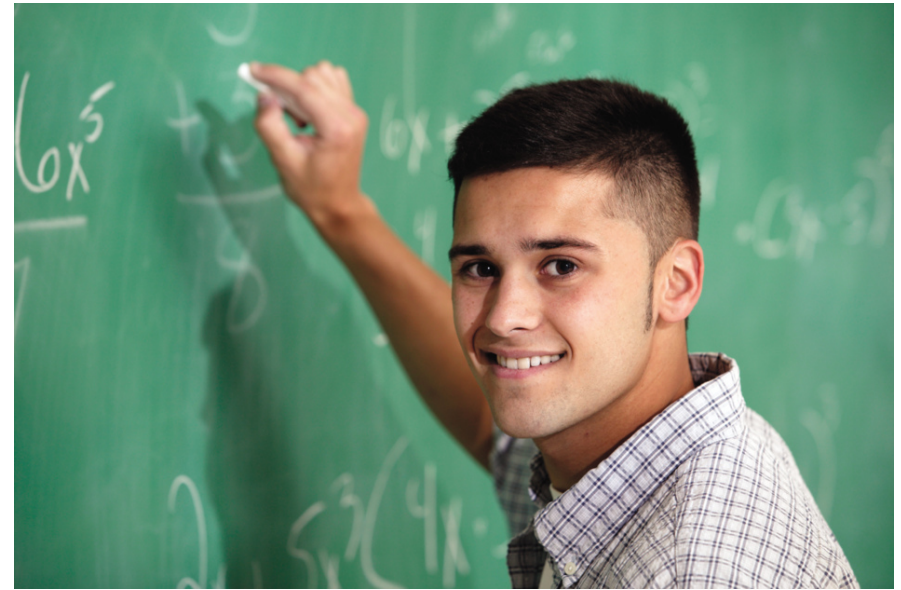
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CAN's History

- Original partners: Austin ISD, City of Austin, Travis County and ATCMHMR
- 1996, three Council structure was created, staff and new partners were added
- Original role was to create a “Master Plan” and monitor its implementation and success



Today - 19 CAN Partners

- Austin Area Human Services Association
- Austin Area Interreligious Ministries
- Austin Area Research Organization
- Austin Community College
- Austin Independent School District
- Austin Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center
- Capital Metro
- City of Austin
- Community Justice Council
- Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce
- Indigent Care Collaboration
- Seton Family of Hospitals
- St. David's Community Health Foundation
- St. Edward's University
- Travis County
- Travis County Healthcare District
- United Way Capital Area
- University of Texas at Austin
- Workforce Solutions- Capital Area



CAN's Role Today

Today CAN serves as a:

- Neutral Convener
- Connector
- Information Provider

that helps our community to optimize its resources to close the opportunity gap.



Inform

- Televised forums on community issues – 11 forums
- Data on community conditions – March 2008 Report
- Issue Area Group FAQs – 5 projected by year end
- CANews, a weekly e-mail newsletter – 17 issues
- Website & CAN supported websites include plans, activities, research, indicators – 13 websites

Connect/Convene Stakeholders at Many Levels Monthly

Learning

Working

Thriving

Connecting/Leading



Connect Across Issues – 14 CAN Issue Area Groups (IAGs)

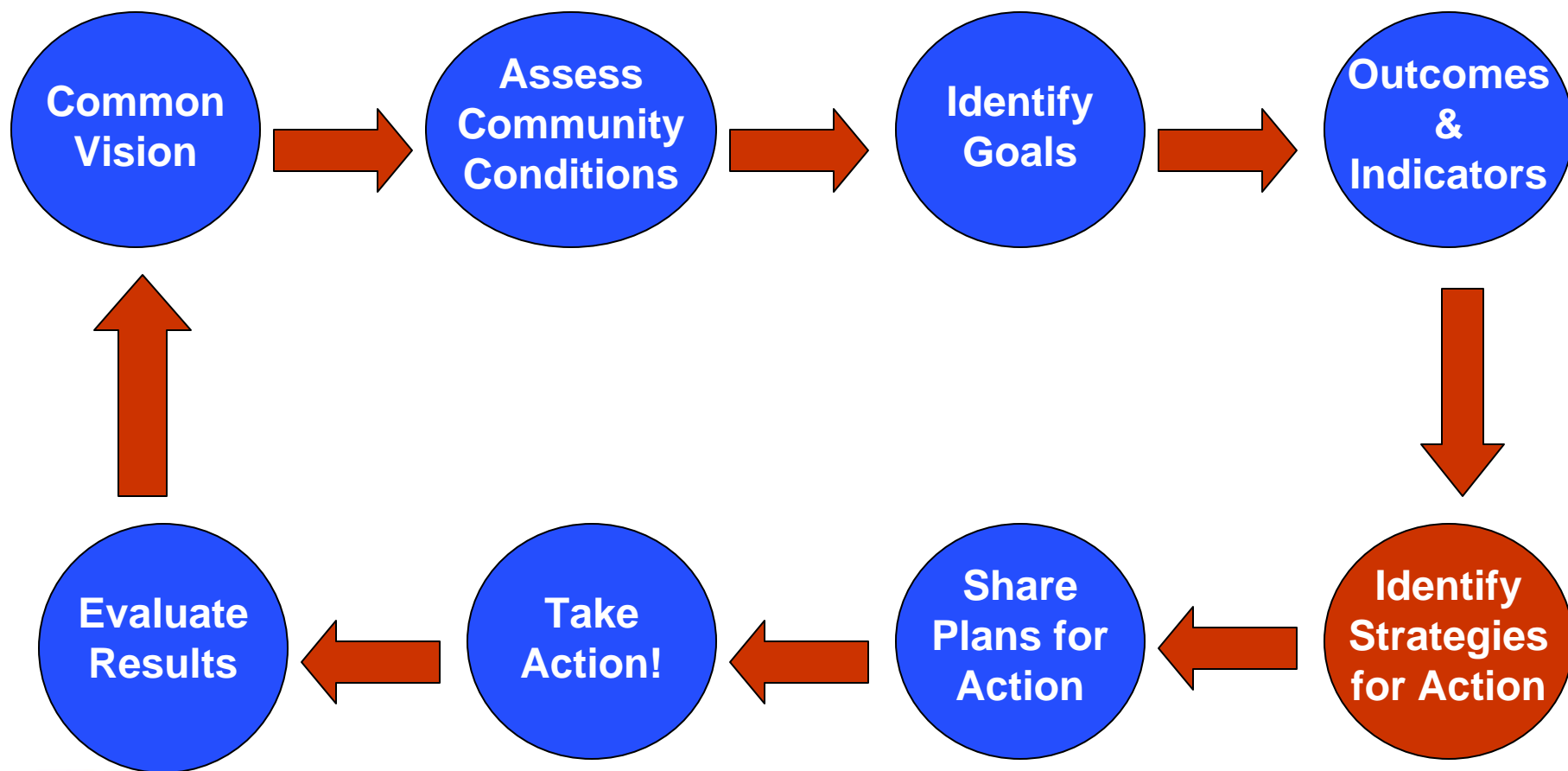
- Aging Service Council
- Austin/Travis County Victims Services Task Force
- Basic Needs Coalition
- Behavioral Health Planning Partnership (PP)
- Central Texas After-School Network
- Child & Youth Mental Health PP
- Developmental Disabilities PP
- Ending Community Homelessness Coalition
- Early Education & Care/Success by 6
- HousingWorks
- Literacy Coalition of Central Texas
- Ready by 21
- Re-Entry Roundtable
- Regional Transit Coordination Committee



CAN Mission

To achieve sustainable social, health, educational and economic **outcomes** through engaging the community in a planning and implementation **process** that coordinates and optimizes public, private, individual actions and **resources.**

A Process for Community Planning





Progress Made – Summary of Key Focus Areas

1. Clarifying process for bringing forth recs
2. Consideration of info. needed for determining what action to take (strategic context)
3. Presentations to Resource Council w/ recs
4. Presentations to Community Council w/ recs
5. Enhanced research & information sharing to support planning (website, CANews)
6. Assisted IAGs with research & planning

Recommendations to Close Gaps Presented to RC

LEARNING

- Early Education & Care
- P – 16
- Literacy / Basic Skills

WORKING

- Economic Well-being
- Jobs with Livable Wages
- Workforce Development

Also... Aging • Children & Youth
Homeless • Immigrants • Victims
Persons with Disabilities
Re- entry Population

THRIVING

- Self-Sufficiency
 - Affordable cost of living
 - Housing
 - Transportation
 - Basic Needs
- Health / Behavioral Health
- Public Safety

CONNECTING / LEADING

- Diverse / Inclusive Community
- Civic Engagement
- Leading

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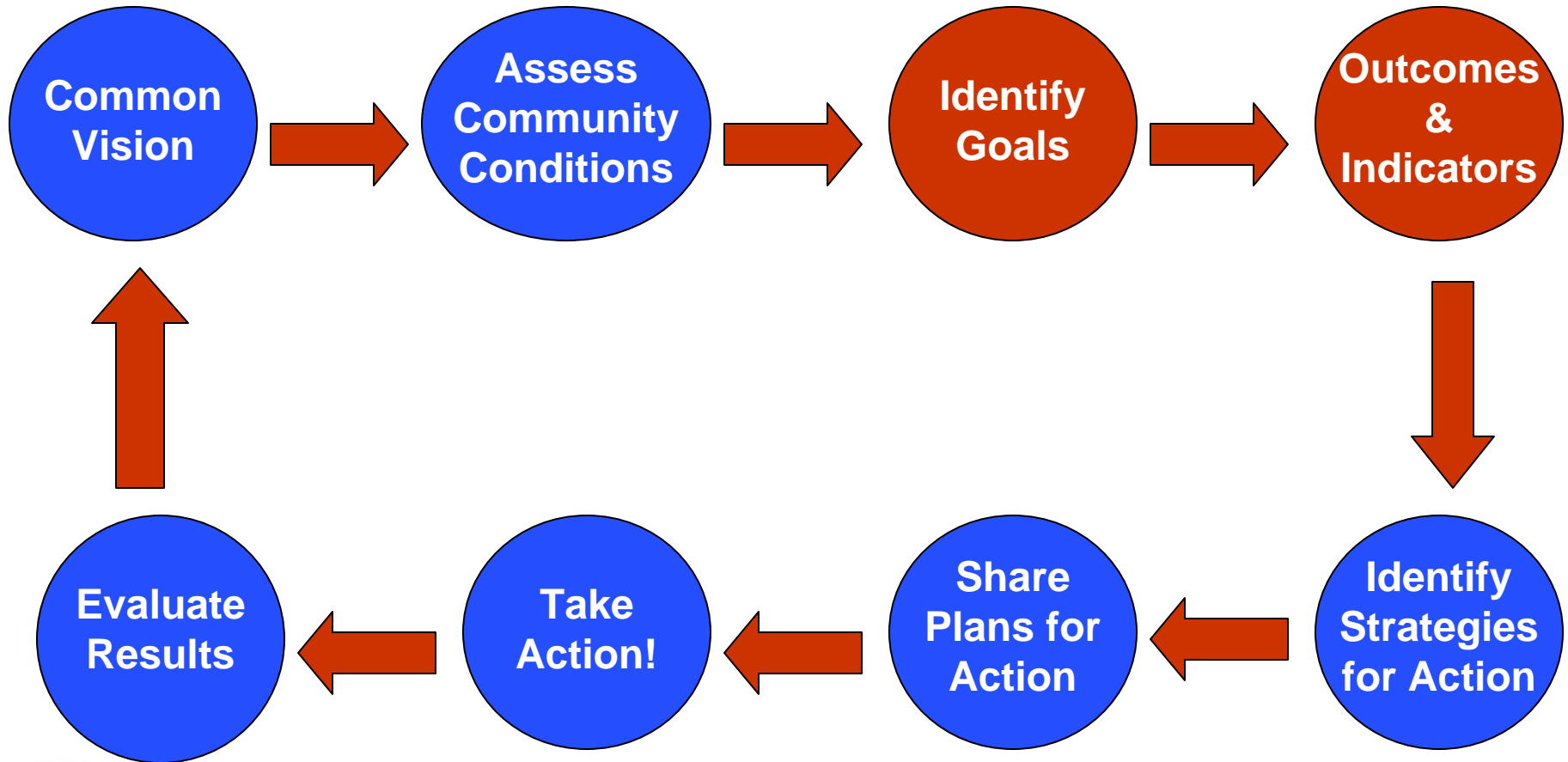
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Strategic Context: Information Needed for Decision-making

- Existing services, supports, gaps
- Examples of promising actions
- Ingredients of effectiveness
- Indicators of progress
- Research-based rationale & evidence
- Interests of leaders and decision-makers
- Aspirations of partners and stakeholders
- Assets and available resources
- Problems folks are seeking & willing to solve

Need Strategic Context for Decision-making





Need Strategic Context

We have to know where folks
are willing to go before we
decide how to get there.



CAN's Role in Mobilizing Action

We help **set the table(s)** for dialogue so that folks can determine **where** they want to go collectively and **how** they plan to get there.



CAN's Benefit to the Community

- Enhance **awareness** of community issues, plans for taking action, actions taken
- **Mobilize action** & collaboration
- Inform the planning work of many organizations
- **Strengthen partnerships** among key stakeholders
- Address **cross-cutting issues**
- Identify **shared goals** & desired outcomes
- Share info. on **progress** made to address issues
- **Maximize resources**