

The case for more gas stations

If data is the fuel for change,
we need a better delivery system

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Innovation in Evidence



The California Policy Lab



We improve the lives of Californians by working with government to generate **evidence that transforms public policy.**

We do this by forming **lasting partnerships between California government and the state's flagship universities** to harness the power of rigorous research and administrative data.

How do we compare?

- Place, not sector
- University, not government
- Quantitative, not qualitative
- Focus on unlocking the power of linked individual-level admin data
- Full spectrum, not just RCTs
- Long-term partnerships, not contracted
- Engaged in the policy process, not separate from it

Policy Areas

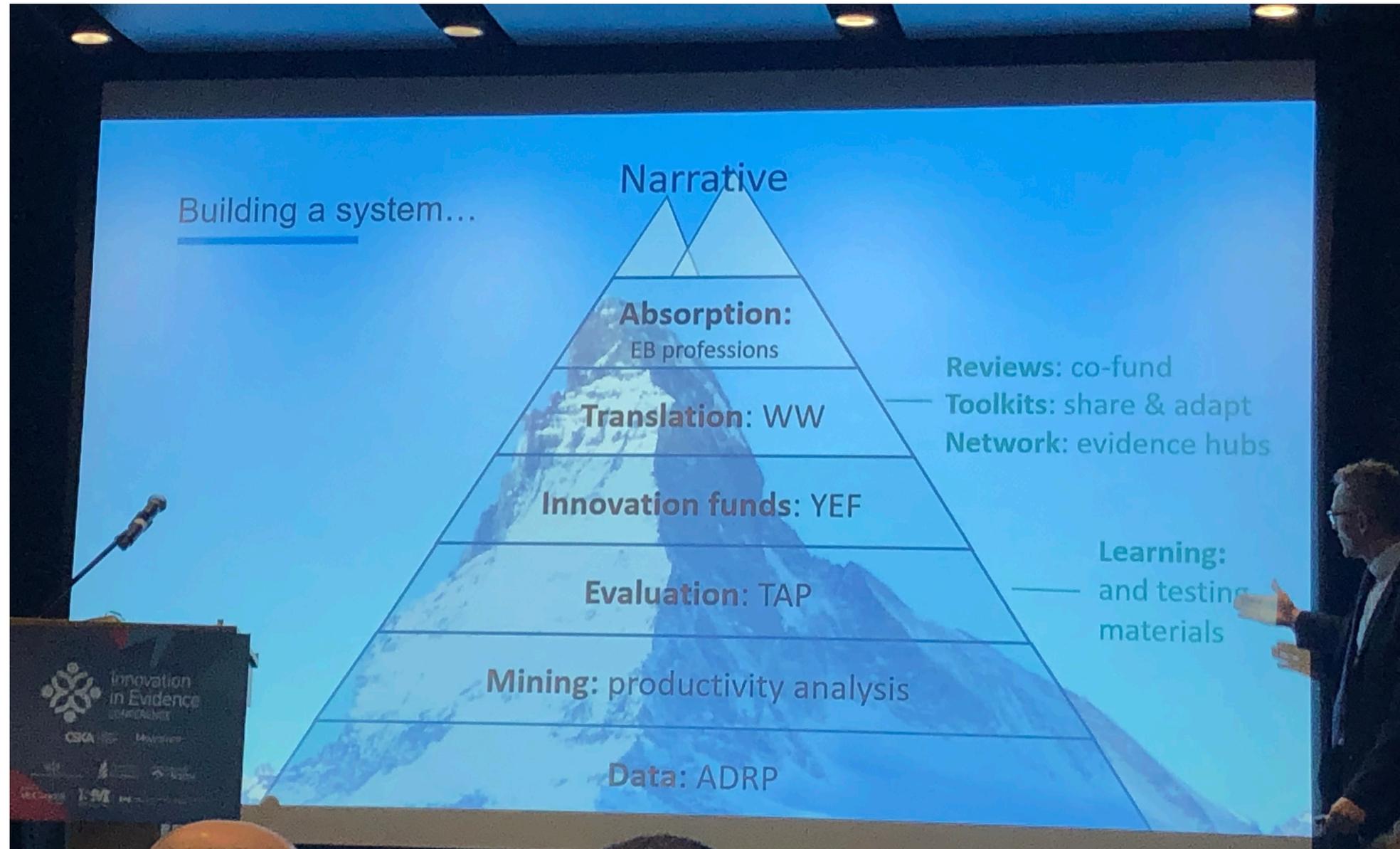
- Criminal justice
- Education
- Homelessness and high needs populations
- Labor and employment
- Social safety net

Partners

- State
 - Tax board
 - Employment agency
 - Higher education
 - Social services
- Several counties and cities
 - Criminal justice
 - Health
 - Homelessness



California is the world's **5th largest** economy. We have **40 million** residents and annually spend **\$350+ billion** in social programs.



Vertically integrated

Place-based

The EBP theory of change



Supply

- Policy Experimentation
- Good Data
- Research Expertise

Relevant Evidence ✓

Demand

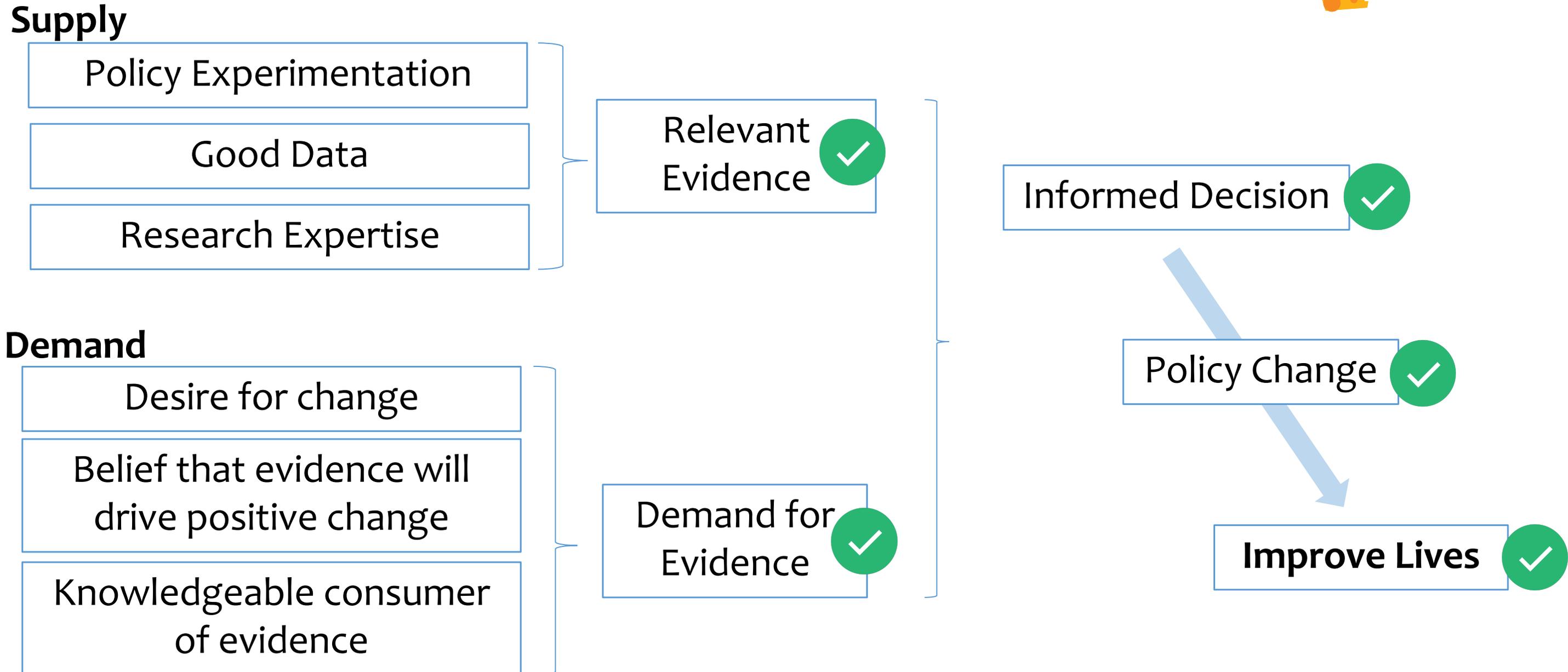
- Desire for change
- Belief that evidence will drive positive change
- Knowledgeable consumer of evidence

Demand for Evidence ✓

Informed Decision ✓

Policy Change ✓

Improve Lives ✓



The EBP theory of change

Supply

❌ Policy Experimentation

❌ Good Data

Research Expert

Relevant Evidence ❌

Informed Decision

Demand

❌ Desire for change

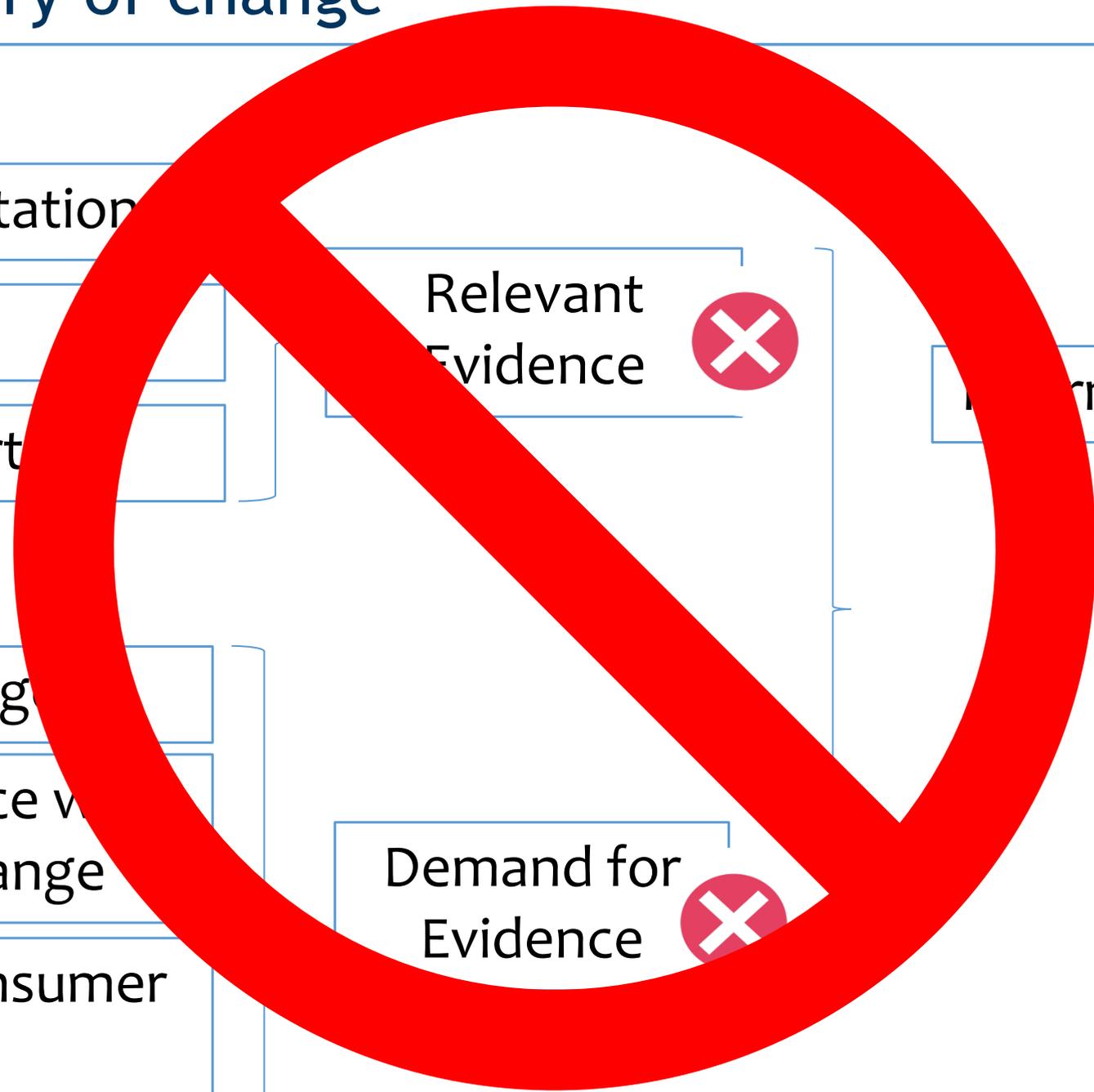
Belief that evidence will drive positive change

❌ Knowledgeable consumer of evidence

Demand for Evidence ❌

Policy Change ❌

Improve Lives ❌



What does it take to turn data into policy change?

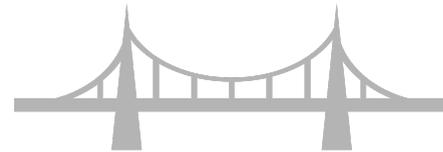


1. Lower barriers to entry
2. Focus on humans, not variables
3. Engage in the policy process, don't avoid it

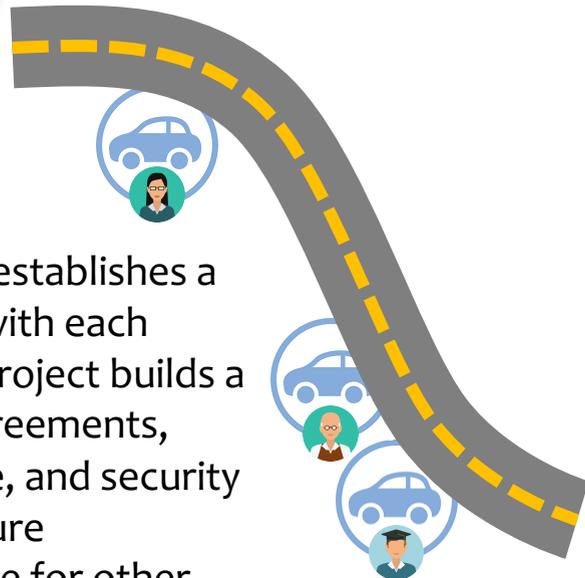
Lower barriers to entry: infrastructure to streamline project setup



2 Bridges: Most data held by different agencies is difficult to link together for specific projects. CPL’s legal infrastructure makes it easy to create “bridges” between agencies that want to link data to improve the lives of Californians.



1 Roads: When CPL establishes a new relationship with each partner, the first project builds a “road” of legal agreements, data infrastructure, and security protocols that future researchers can use for other projects.



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3 Road signs: CPL documents and curates the data we use, shares code and historical intelligence, and shares the process for accessing certain data.



4 Secure Garages: CPL’s Data Hub is an ultra-secure computing cluster that is powerful and accessible for researchers while also having a fully auditable environment for government partners.



In sum, don't destroy value!

Focus on humans, not variables

- Translators and guides
 - But scale?
- Responsive and connected
- Harm reduction



Engage in the policy process, don't avoid it



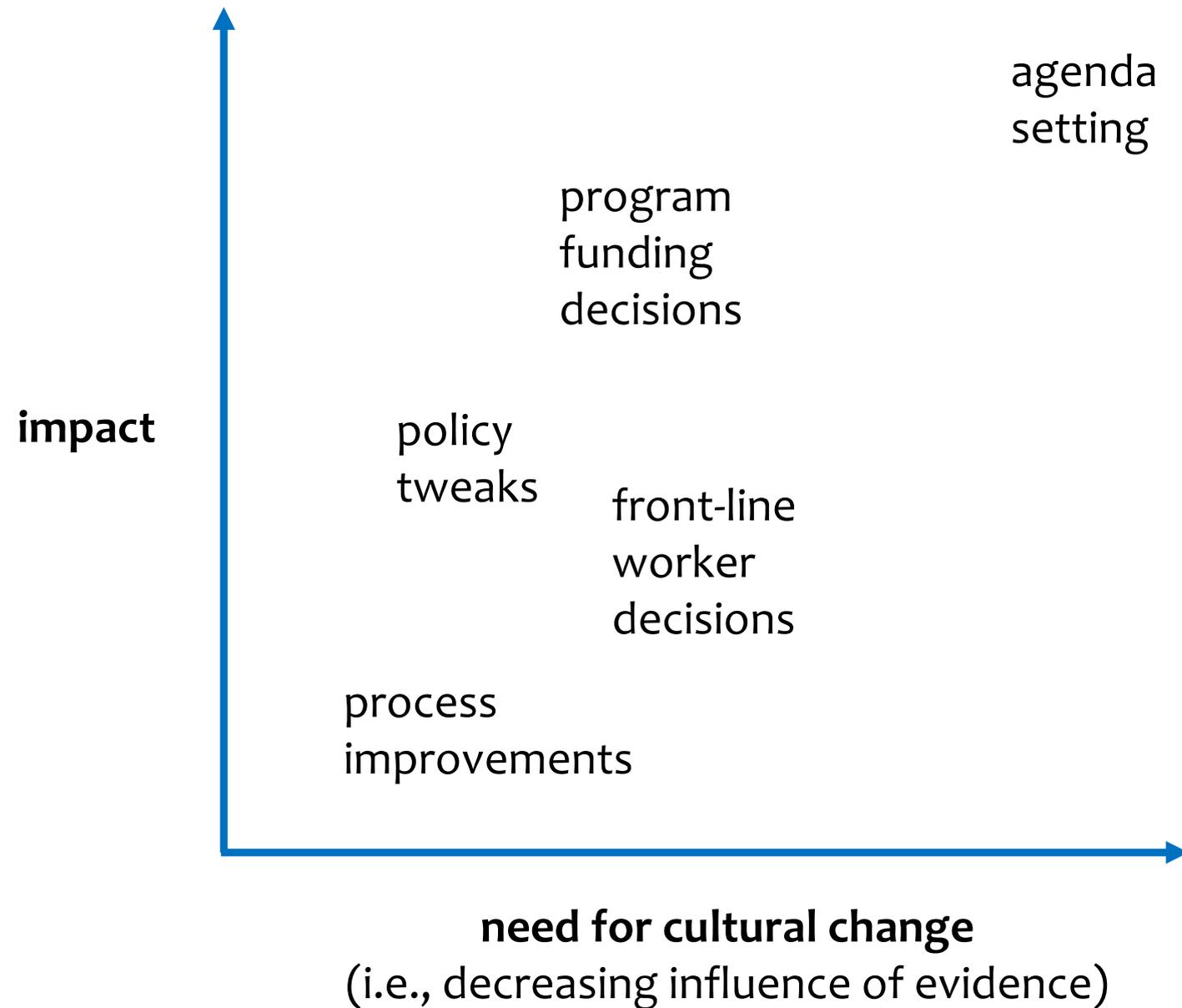
- Test what matters
- Engage and create
- Prospective, predictive
- The last mile
- Improving lives – stories
- Culture change

Recap: What does it take to turn data into policy change?



1. Lower barriers to entry
2. Focus on humans, not variables
3. Engage in the policy process, don't avoid it

Parting thought - which decisions are we targeting?



Note: the placements on this graph are illustrative only, and highly variable.

How to learn more about CPL



Contact me at evan@capolicylab.org



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