

POLICY: WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

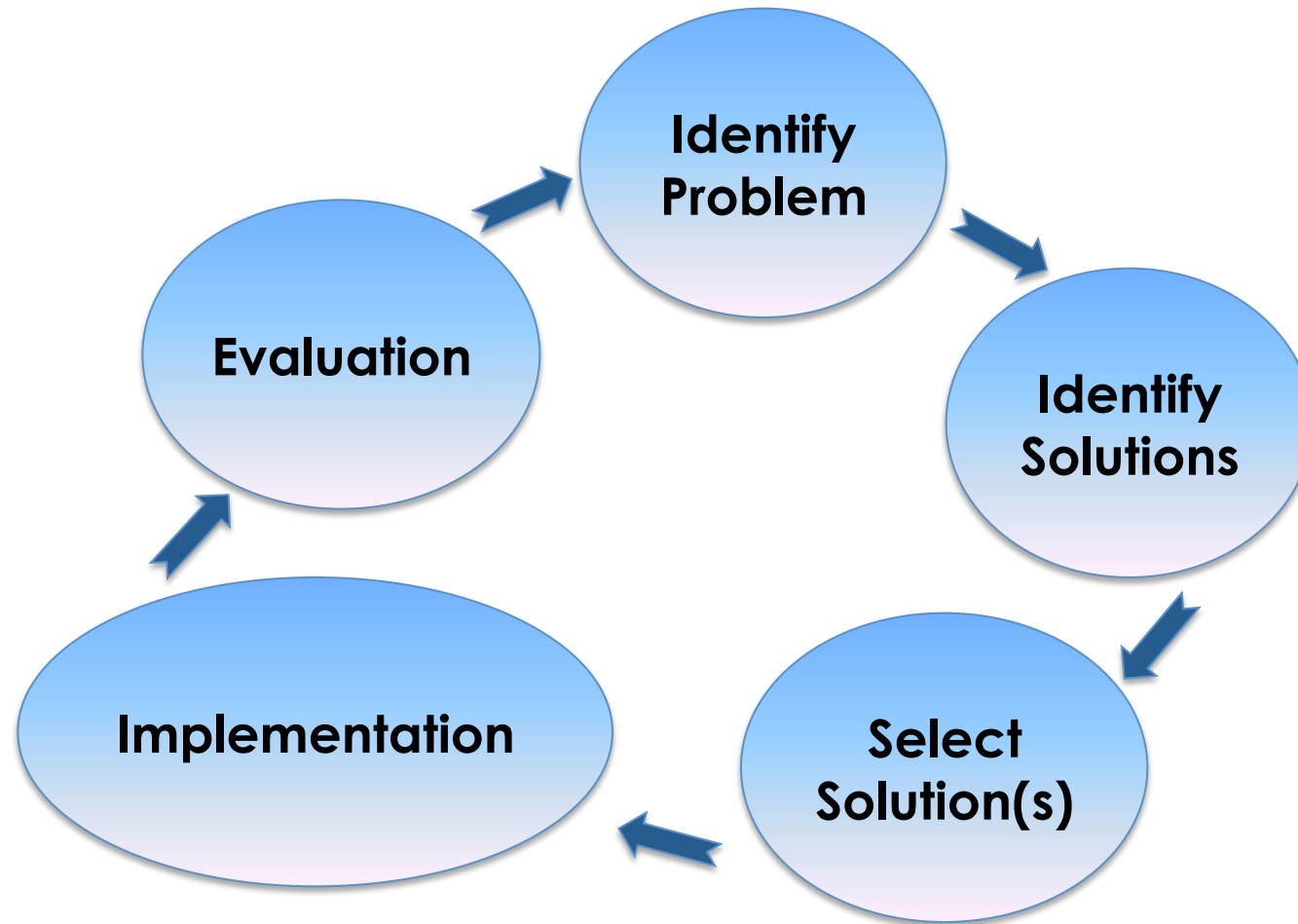
The Policy Process
&
Integrating Service & Advocacy

WHAT IS ADVOCACY?

- The act of requesting, supporting, or recommending
 - Raising awareness
 - **Educating**
 - Facilitating
- Note: Advocacy is different from lobbying*



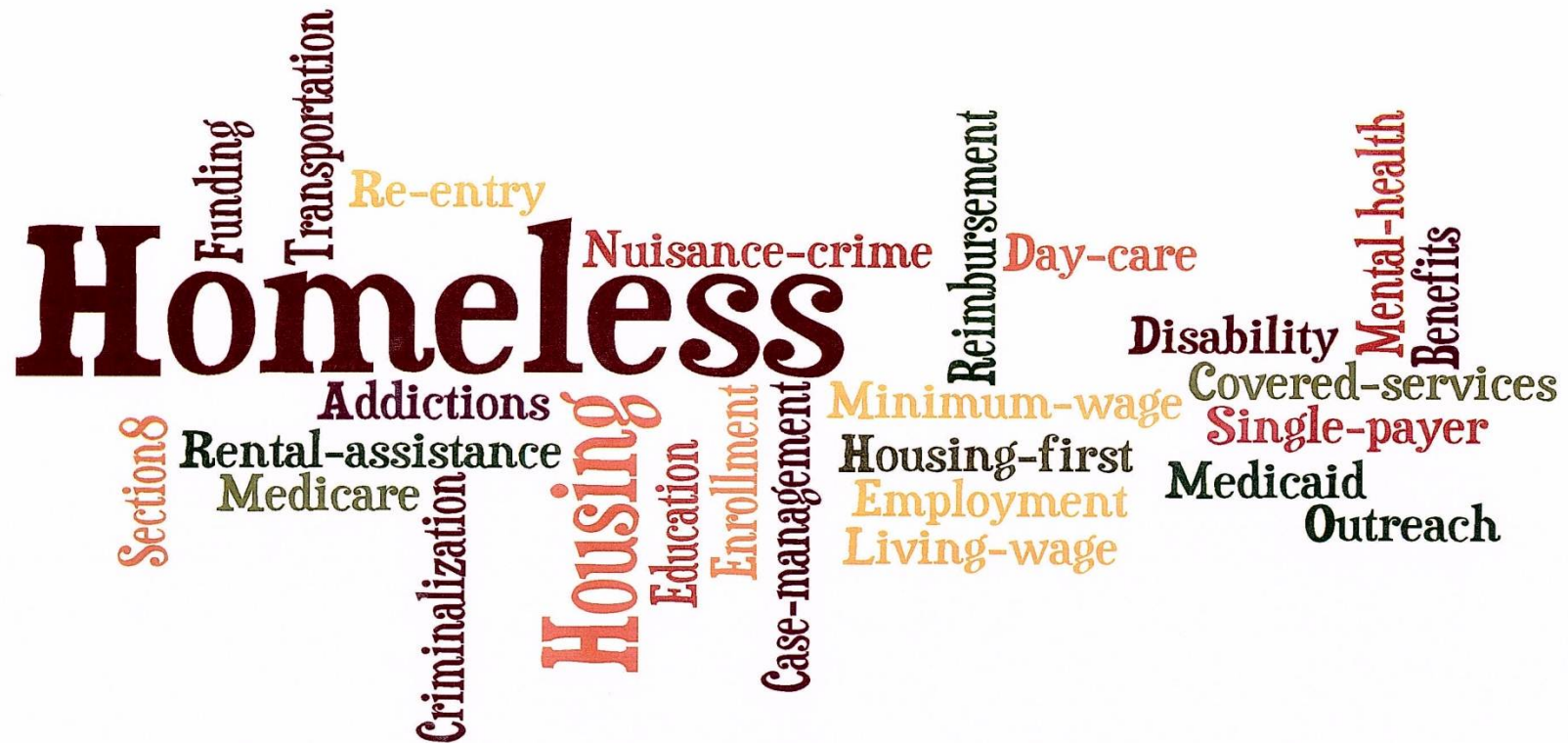
THE POLICY MAKING PROCESS



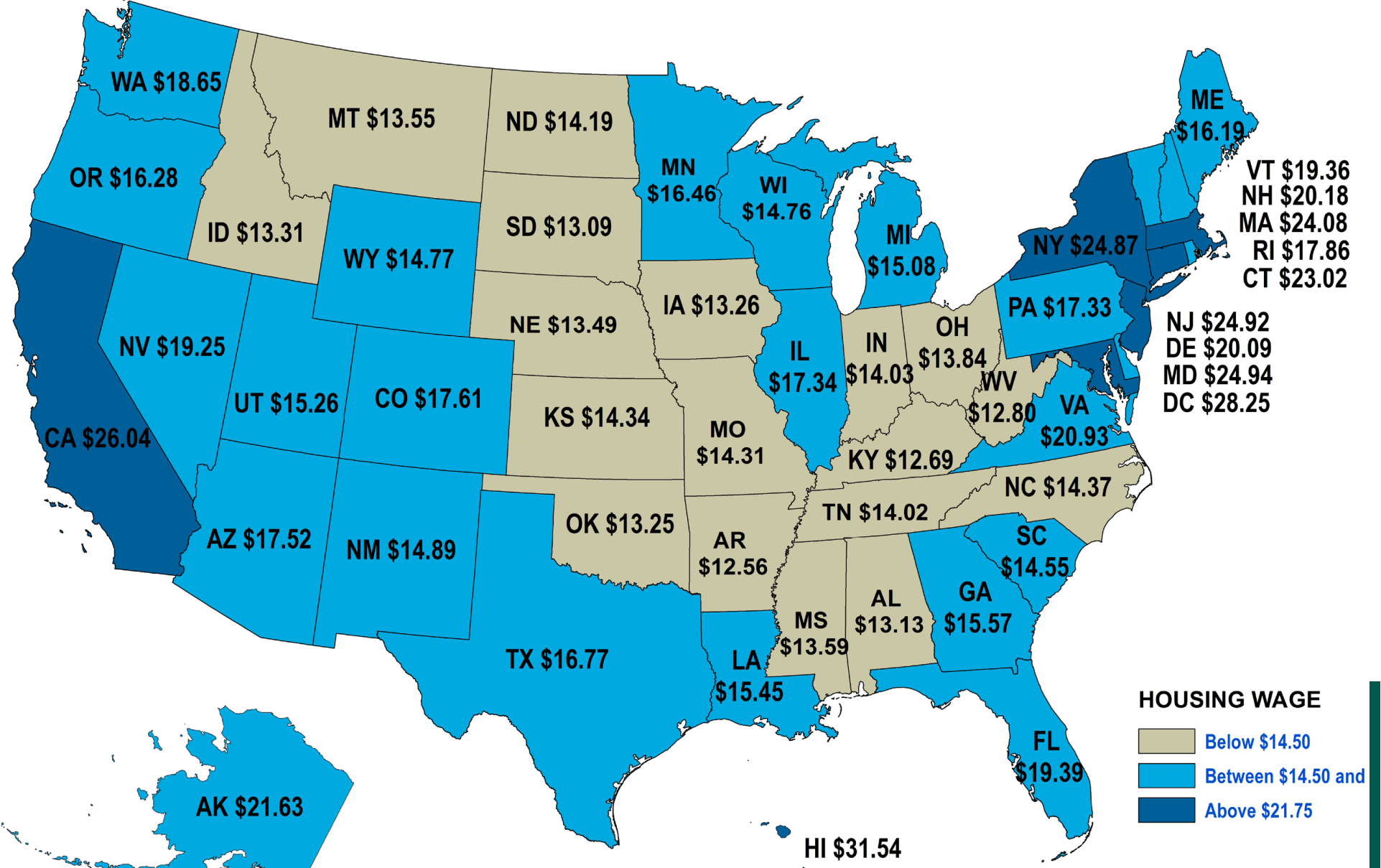
POLICY STARTS LOCAL

- Prohibition
- Slavery
- Voting laws
- Single payer
- Minimum wage
- Marriage (race/gender)
- Equal pay
- Gun laws
- Nuisance crimes
- Abortion
- Capital punishment
- Labor laws
- Immigration
- Housing eligibility
- Covered health services
- Drug laws
- Criminal sentencing
- Tax law

ADVOCACY ISSUE BREADTH



COST OF HOUSING



HOUSING

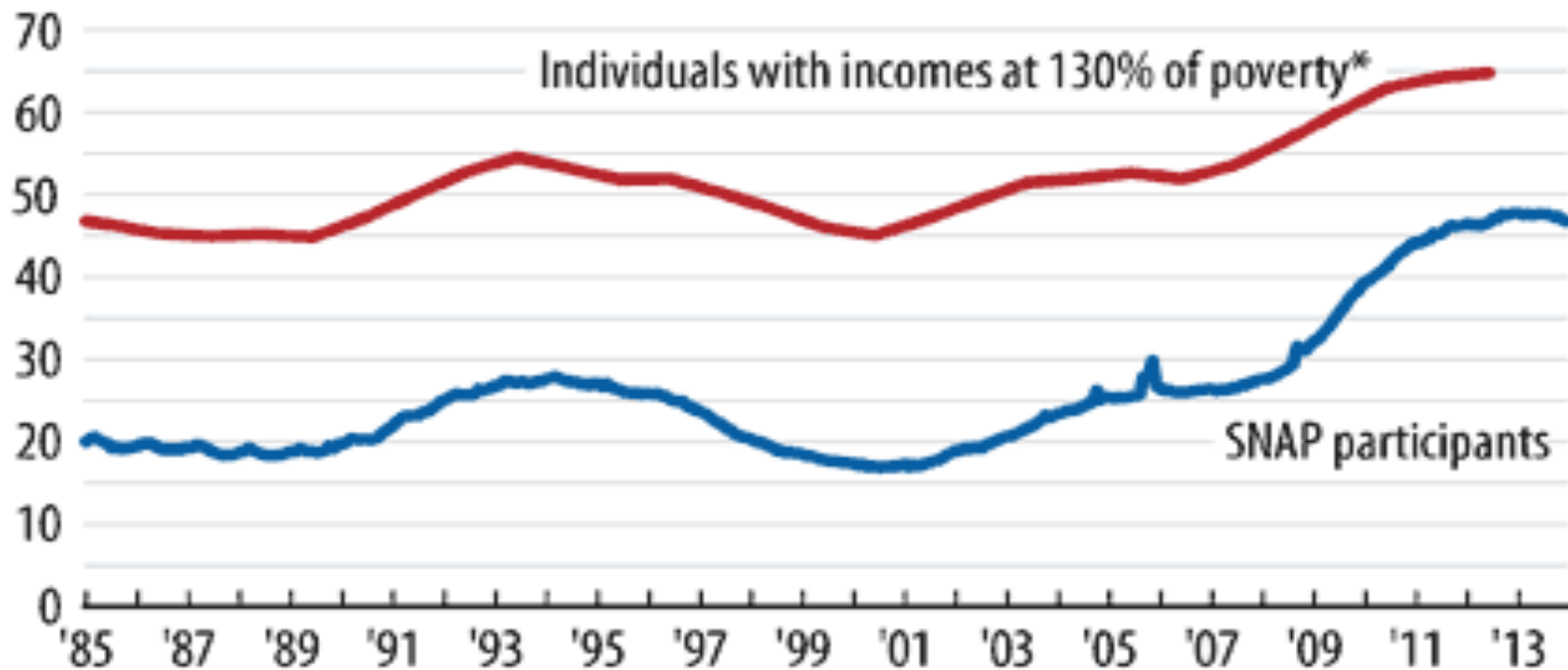
- Funding (fed/state/local)
 - Rental Assistance
 - National Housing Trust Fund
- Priorities for housing
- Exclusions for public housing
 - Prior criminal history
 - Unpaid utility or past rent
 - Poor credit
- Discrimination based on legal income
 - Section 8, disability, etc.
- Shielding of criminal records from landlords



FOOD

SNAP Caseloads Closely Track Changes in Poverty

In millions, through December 2013



*Poverty numbers are annual estimates and not yet available after 2012.

Spikes in SNAP participants are from disaster benefits (i.e., after hurricanes).

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture (SNAP Program Participants); U.S. Census Bureau (annual estimates of individuals in poverty)

FOOD

- SNAP/food stamps
- Women, Infants, Children (WIC)
- Free/reduced school breakfast/lunch
- Food deserts
- Distribution policies
- Food pantries
- Community gardens



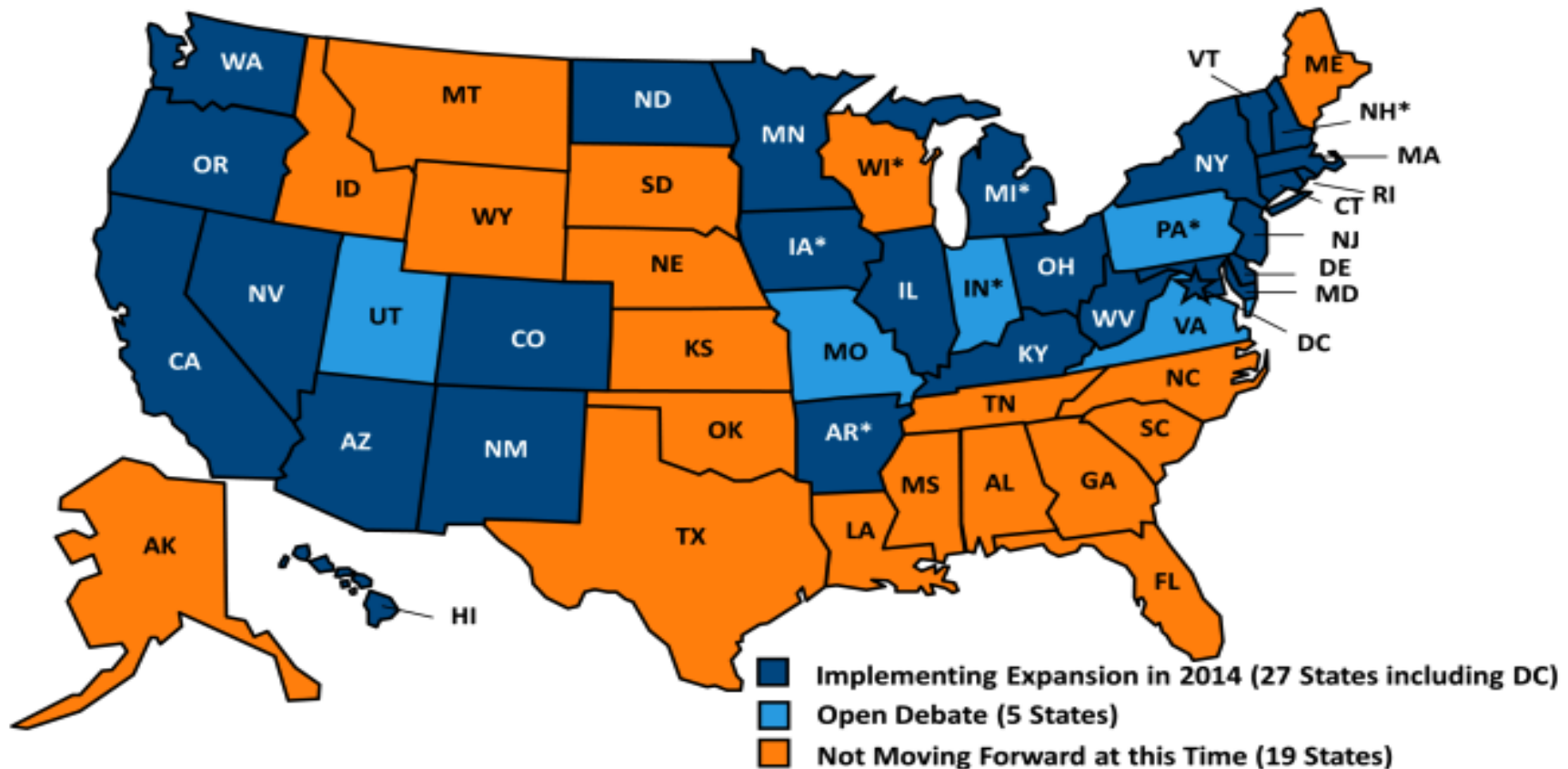
INCOME: MINIMUM WAGE

- Incremental Presidential action, but Congressional inaction
- 18 cities/states looking at changes to over \$10/hour
- April 15th: Oklahoma Governor signed law banning increases to wages/benefits (other states in process/considering)
- Social media: #raisethewage, #minimumwage
- Fast food strikes (SEIU unions) = \$15/hour



HEALTH CARE

Current Status of State Medicaid Expansion Decisions, 2014



NOTES: Data are as of March 26, 2014. *AR and IA have approved waivers for Medicaid expansion. MI has an approved waiver for expansion and plans to implement in Apr. 2014. IN and PA have pending waivers for alternative Medicaid expansions. WI amended its Medicaid state plan and existing waiver to cover adults up to 100% FPL, but did not adopt the expansion. NH has passed legislation approving the Medicaid expansion in Mar. 2014; the legislation calls for the expansion to begin July 2014.

SOURCES: States implementing in 2014 and not moving forward at this time are based on data from CMS [here](#). States noted as "Open Debate" are based on KCMU analysis of State of the State Addresses, recent public statements made by the Governor, issuance of waiver proposals or passage of a Medicaid expansion bill in at least one chamber of the legislature.

ADVOCACY OUTLETS



OTHER OUTLETS

- Talk with family & friends
- Use your own networks
- Engage your faith community, neighborhood association, etc.
- Offer K-12 class discussions
- Guest lecture at colleges & professional schools
- Be active in your professional association
- Tweet, blog, Facebook, op-ed, letters to editor
- Call/email your representatives



HCH'ERS ARE GREAT

ONE-TO-ONE ADVOCATES

ADVOCACY

- Find a treatment bed
- Help with housing application
- Expunge criminal charge
- Secure a pro bono specialty appointment

MACRO ADVOCACY

- Expand treatment capacity
- Identify more housing vouchers, affordable units
- Change drug/nuisance laws
- Advocate for Medicaid expansion (or additional benefits)

TWO NUMBERS: PUT 'EM IN

- Congressional switchboard:

877-210-5351



- White House comment line:

202-456-1111

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

**Add your local representatives
to your phone too**

TAKE-AWAY POINTS

- Health **disparities result from conscious policy decisions**
- Policy **change is possible**, but it takes concerted effort and is usually incremental
- **Service providers have credibility**, experience, ready data and stories that easily transfer to policy environment for macro-level change
- Many issues & venues are available and policymakers are **eager for your input**.