

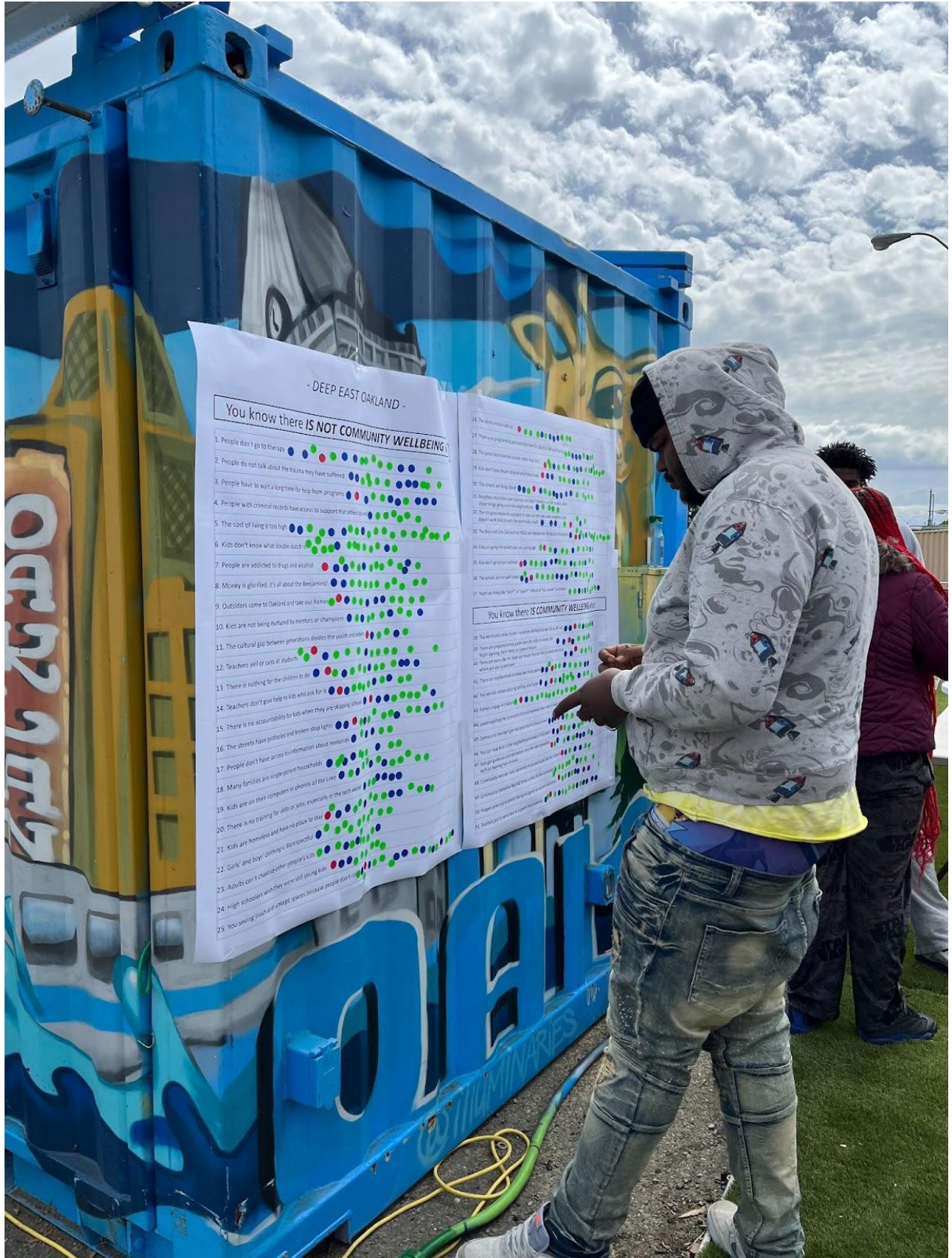
California 100 Leads Community-Driven Policy-making

Earlier this month, in community centers, high school cafeterias, and parks across Oakland, over 100 members of the San Antonio, East Oakland, Acorn, and Hoover Foster neighborhoods gathered to vote on the Everyday Indicators of community safety and wellbeing. “You don’t see people hanging out on their porches ” had many votes as an indicator of a lack of community wellbeing, as did “people outside the neighborhood dump their garbage on our streets”, and “the parks have homeless people instead of kids”.

This novel approach to community-based policy making is a partnership between the Possibility Lab, [California 100](#), and [Everyday Peace Indicators](#) seeking to answer the question: how would we design and assess Oakland’s public safety reform if the concept of “safety” was truly being defined by communities themselves? In communities that have been over researched and underserved, the goal is to develop indicators that directly reflect residents’ experiences with which to evaluate the results of policy changes and inform needs assessments. This is where the philosophy of bottom-up policymaking becomes hands-on practice and implementation. The California 100 Innovation Projects are dedicated to establishing this new normal in public policy: collaborative research that includes underheard communities in the creation of policies that affect their lives.

“It’s important for the city and county to know that we lived here a long time, and our concerns are heard. Community wellbeing and community safety is a big plus for everybody. Just this last weekend, we saw so much death in our community. There is so much trauma going on that we gotta focus on keeping our wellbeing.” -Annette Miller, community organizer and focus group facilitator

Tapping into the highly localized expertise in these neighborhoods, California 100 researchers partnered to collaborate and co-facilitate with several organizations from the [Oakland Frontline Healers](#) collaborative, including [Adamika Village](#), [SAVE Oakland](#), and [BOSS](#), as well as with [TRYBE](#), a community based organization that serves youth in the San Antonio neighborhood. Four communities across Oakland held multiple focus groups tasked with creating a list of Everyday Indicators of community safety and wellbeing, followed by neighborhood-specific Town Halls to vote on which of these indicators were most relevant to their lives.



- DEEP EAST OAKLAND -

You know there IS NOT COMMUNITY WELLBEING

1. People don't go to the cops
2. People do not talk about the trauma they have suffered
3. People have to wait a long time for help from program
4. People with criminal records have access to support that others do not
5. The cost of living is too high
6. Kids don't know what double Dutch is
7. People are addicted to drugs and alcohol
8. Money is glorified, it's all about the Benjamin's
9. Outcasts come to Oakland and take our homes
10. Kids are not being nurtured by mentors or champions
11. The cultural gap between generations divides the youth and older
12. Teachers yell or scold at students
13. There is nothing for the children to do
14. Teachers don't give help to kids who ask for it
15. There is no accountability for kids when they are skipping school
16. The streets have potholes and broken stop lights
17. People don't have access to information about resources
18. Many families are single parent households
19. Kids are on their computers or phones all the time
20. There is no training for skills or jobs, especially in the tech world
21. Kids are homeless and have nowhere to stay
22. Girls' and boys' clothing is disrespected
23. Adults can't challenge other people's kids
24. High schoolers walk they never still young kids
25. You see drug deals all over the place because people have to

You know there IS COMMUNITY WELLBEING

26. The streets are clean
27. There are programs and resources available for all
28. The police have been successful in reducing crime
29. Kids don't have to wait a long time for help from program
30. The school system has been successful in educating all
31. People with criminal records have access to support that others do not
32. The cost of living is reasonable
33. The city government is successful in providing services for all
34. Kids are being nurtured by mentors and champions
35. Kids don't get into trouble
36. The streets are safe
37. Money is not glorified
38. The city government is successful in providing services for all
39. Kids are being nurtured by mentors and champions
40. Teachers are successful in educating all
41. There is something for the children to do
42. Teachers give help to kids who ask for it
43. There is accountability for kids when they are skipping school
44. The streets are safe and well-maintained
45. People have access to information about resources
46. Most families are two-parent households
47. Kids are not on their computers or phones all the time
48. There is training for skills and jobs
49. Kids are not homeless and have somewhere to stay
50. Girls' and boys' clothing is respected
51. Adults can challenge other people's kids
52. High schoolers walk they never still young kids
53. You see drug deals all over the place because people have to





Some of the Everyday Indicators of Community Wellbeing included: “Teachers put in extra time supporting their students”, “People can join each other’s events, like cookouts and BBQs”, and “The park is clean”. These Everyday Indicators can become the metrics by which to craft a rigorous plan to identify, pilot, and evaluate reforms, ensuring that policy changes are authentically matching local priorities – in this case, the desire to create more safe and just communities.

The Everyday Indicators (EI) process is a conceptual approach and field-tested methodology for generating participatory, community-centered indicators that draw on community members’ experience of everyday life. Rather than imposing categories, meanings, and pre-defined choices as conceptualized by researchers or policymakers, EI’s methodology allows the construction of meaning to emerge from community members themselves in the context of their lived experience. At the same time, the EI process helps translate the “insider’s perspective” into quantitative indicators.