# Definitions

### Problem:

A statement of something that is wrong that needs fixing (i.e. kids can't read at grade level)

#### Solution:

A clear description of the identified policy, practice, procedure or budget improvement that will resolve the defined problem

## **Cutting an Issue:**

Selecting a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) proposal the organization can submit to an authority to move toward the solution

## **Steering Committee:**

5-7 leaders who coordinate the work of a research committee and steer the research process to uncover a winnable solution to the community problem

### **Research Committee:**

A group of leaders who participate in research meetings to understand a chosen problem, identify a solution, and propose an issue for action

# Justice Together's Research Guide

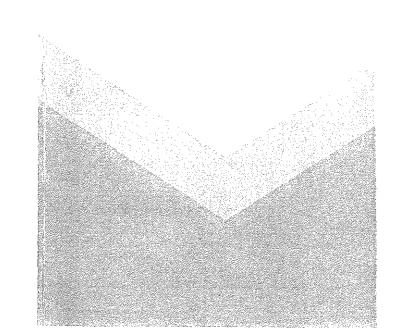
How to move from a problem to an issue.

# **Contact Us**

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# Expectations for a Research Committee Member:

- Attend monthly research committee meetings, where we strategize and make decisions together
- Attend as many research interviews with subject matter experts or study sessions as you like. There is no expectation that you attend all of these meetings.
- If you attend a research interview, you commit to attend a brief preparatory meeting directly before and a brief evaluation following the interview.
- As we announce future research interview meetings, we will ask you to RSVP each time, in order to allow us to plan accordingly.

# 3 Major Areas of Research

# I. Understanding the Problem

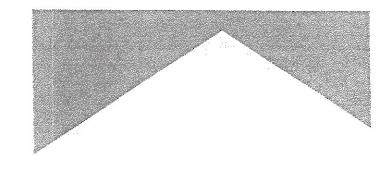
## December - January

- What is happening?
- To whom?
- How can the problem be measured?
- When did it start? What are the trends?
- What are some of the causes?

# II. Identifying the Solutions

### February - March

- What has been attempted locally to solve the problem?
  - What were the results?
  - Why was it cut or underfunded?
- What are the "best practices" out there?
- What have other places done to solve the problem?
  - Are the results replicable?
  - What would it cost?
- What will it take to win this?



# III. Power Analysis

### April

- Official(s)/Decision Maker(s)
  - Who has the ability to implement these solutions?
  - What are their selfinterests?
- · Allies
  - Which individuals/groups will be supportive of our issue?
  - Willing allies related to the issue
  - Unwilling allies related to the decision maker
- Opposition
  - Who benefits from the status quo?
  - Do they make money off of the current situation? How much?
- Our Organization
  - Do we have enough power (relative to the decision maker) to win?