



# WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR BLACK GIRLS?



**The Long Island Think Tank for Black Progress  
Open House**



# National Model

Think Tank for African American Progress



The aim of the Think Tank for African American Progress is to:

- | Bring together scholar-activists and African American communities to develop, disseminate, and implement solutions to key community challenges
- | Advance African American progress in the areas of health, education, economic/community development, and technology

# History



- Brothers of the Academy
  
- Leon D. Caldwell, Rhodes College
  
- Think Tank Sites
  - Kansas City, KS
  - Atlanta, GA
  - Memphis (2), TN
  - Long Island, NY
  - Flint, MI
  - Los Angeles, CA



# National Think Tank Goals



- Conduct a series of interdisciplinary research and policy symposia
  - Host convening with diverse community, academic and health stakeholders
- Promote an empowerment model of engagement
  - Build on collaboration between African American scholars, policymakers and community partners
- Produce multiple methods of disseminating the results of the Think Tank
  - Guide and inform collaborative efforts through a strategic plan
  - Influence policy and practices impacting African Americans

# Think Tank Outcome Measures



- A healthy village approach
  - It takes a village to raise a child
  
- Community Mobilization
  - Strategic planning document
  - Community level Advocacy
  - Resource Identification and Development
  
- Family Involvement
  
- Well being of individuals



# Long Island Think Tank For Black Progress





# ***Why Long Island?***



# Long Island: Residential Segregation

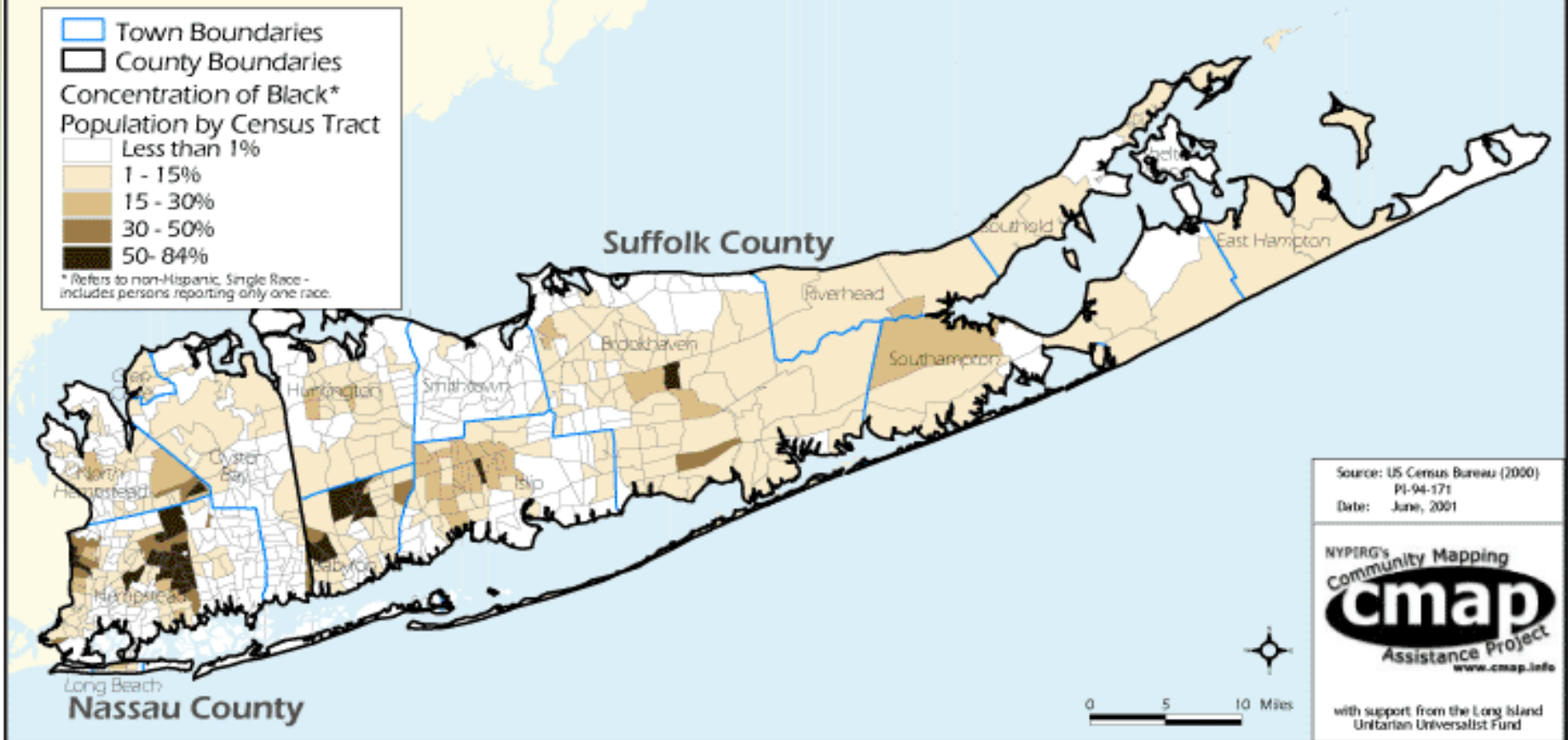
- ❁ 3<sup>rd</sup> most segregated suburban region in the nation
  - ❁ Black White Index of Dissimilarity for Long Island is **74.4**
  - ❁ In 2000, ten census tracts accounted for 60% of Long Island's African American population
  - ❁ Majority of minorities in Long Island live in segregated communities regardless of their income



# Where do Blacks live on Long Island?



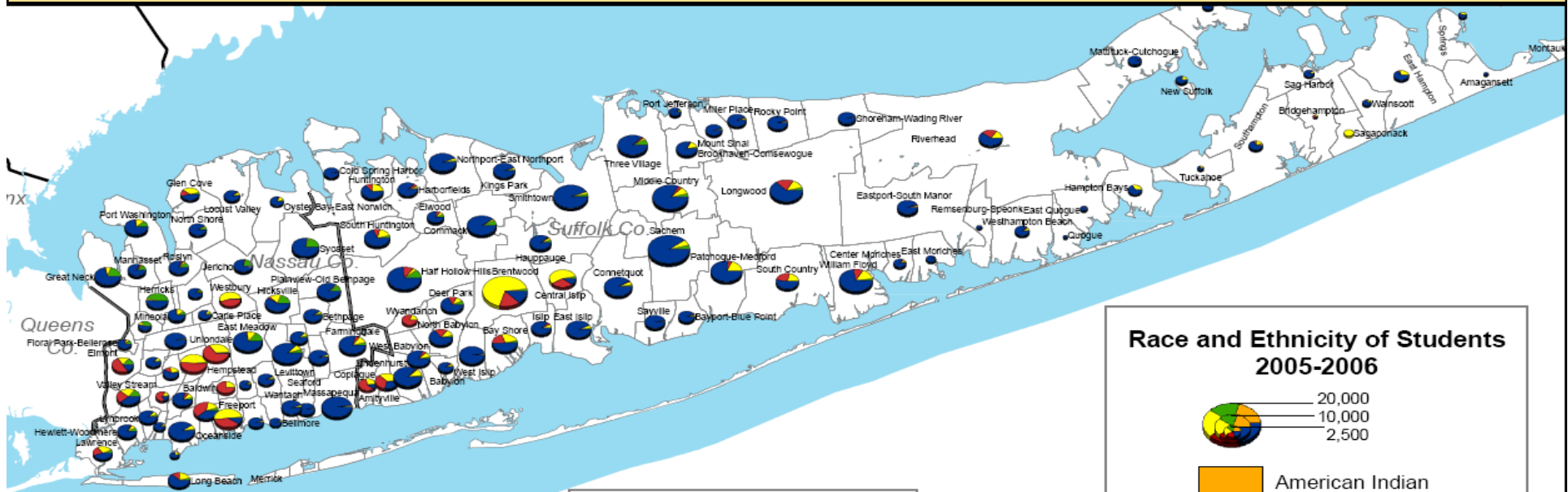
## Black Population Concentration on Long Island (2000)



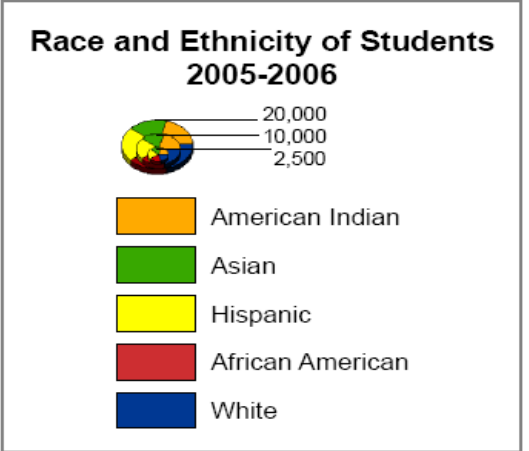
# Race/Ethnicity of Public School Students



The majority of Long Island's students of color are concentrated in 13 of its 127 school districts and attend "high-poverty" schools with inadequate resources



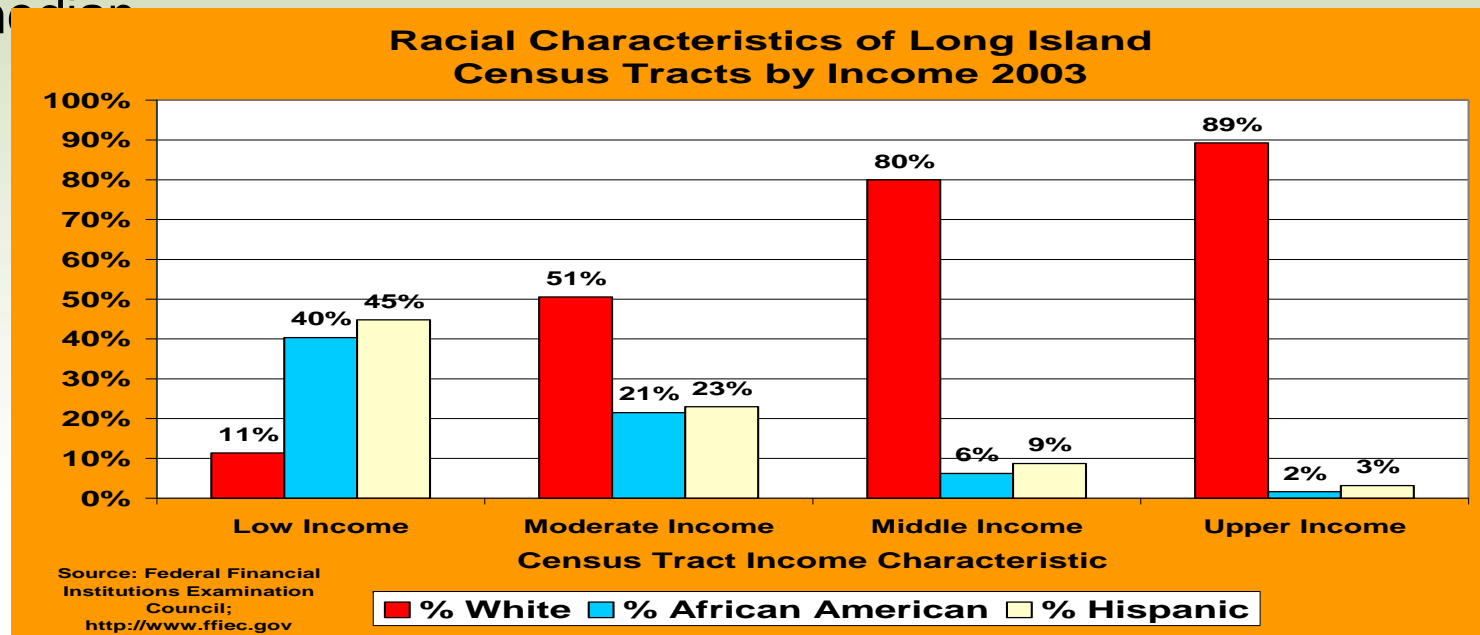
71% of African American students would have to change schools to reach integration



# Race, Space & Income



- Analysis of Long Island census tracts by income indicate that African American residents are concentrated in low and moderate income census tracts
- The lowest income census tracts in Long Island are 40% African American
  - Low income tracts have median income less than 50% of the county median



# Residential Segregation



- Neighborhoods are separated by race
  - One of many causes of the disparities in health between whites and blacks
- Differences in the social and physical environment that affects health outcomes
  - Socioeconomic status
  - Housing
  - Social capital
  - Access to and quality of goods and services
  - Access to and quality of medical care
- Segregation is often more than just the physical isolation of people
  - Higher poverty rates
  - Lower incomes,
  - Poorer schools,
  - Older housing stock and lower homeownership rates

# Why Black Girls?



## ■ Obesity

- Black girls (ages 6-11) has the highest rate among age group at 22.2 percent
- Black adolescent females (ages 12-19) also the highest among their age group at 26.6 percent. (CDC, 2008)

## ■ Sexual Health

- Nearly half of black teenage girls (14-19) have at least one of the four most common STI. A rate that is two and a half times as high as that for their white peers (CDC, 2008)
- The rate of new infections among black females ages 13 to 29 is 11 times higher than young white females counterparts (CDC, 2010)

# Why Black Girls?



## ■ Mental Health

- Black girls experience potentially stressful life events that require them to function numerous roles: academic achiever, caretaker, and significant contributor to the household
  - Increased psychological distress that over time result in an increased vulnerability to mental health problems (Doswell et al. 1998).
  - Normalized trauma

## ■ Social determinants

- Among 10 to 24 year-olds, homicide is the leading cause of death for African Americans
- Black girls are less likely to obtain a college degree when compared to their white counterparts & earn lower salaries when in comparable occupations (U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census 2003).
- Poverty level among Black children is nearly triple that of



## The Think Tank for African American Progress-Long Island

### What is the future for Black Girls?

- Support and train new leaders through the ***Black Girls Youth Empowerment Summit***
- Organize the unique communities on Long Island to become social change agents at the ***Solution Focused Think Tank***
- Address identified needs, improve the health and economic conditions of African American communities with ***Strategy Briefs***



# Phase 1: Community Planning

- Suffolk County Minority Health Action Coalition
- The Center for Public Health & Health Policy Research (CPHHPR) at Stony Brook University
- Community Leaders and partnership
  - Executive Leadership
  - FRAC –Fundraising and Advertising Committee
  - Program Committee
  - Black Girls Leadership and Empowerment Summit





# Phase 2: April 22, 2010

## Youth Summit Stony Brook University

- **50** Black Middle school girls (ages 11-15) from Suffolk and Nassau counties
- A series of activities and discussions around health and community
  - Yoga
  - Music
  - Step show
  - Nutritional Education
- Moderators include undergraduate, graduate students,



# Phase 3:

## Solutions Roundtable

April 23, 2010  
New York

- Developed from a Call for solutions
- Presenters discuss community challenges and develop solutions based upon their research, community-based work, or programs with demonstrated efficacy
- Participants of the Solutions Roundtable worked towards outlining and prioritizing the central issues
  - Moderated discussions

## Phase 4:

# Strategic Planning

April 24, 2010

Islandia New York


- The Strategic Planning sessions build on the work started during the Solutions Roundtables
- Participants collaborated to develop strategies to implement evidence-based program and policy-relevant solutions for young Black girls on Long Island
- Identify action items, timelines, marketing strategies, and assign the appropriate individuals for each action item.

## Phase 5: Strategy Brief



- The Strategy Brief is a programmatic and policy-relevant document that outlines a set of strategies for the identified challenges and problems within the community
- Lays out the current conditions, identifies unmet needs, locates community resources, and proposes a strategic plan for implementation
- Establishes benchmarks for success, reassessment, and evaluation

## **Phase 6: Implementation**



### **Dissemination, Implementation and Evaluation**

- Execute a plan to disseminate the Strategy Brief to practitioners, policymakers, and key stakeholders.
  - LITTBP Working Groups
- Assess the impact of the Brief by observing which strategies have been implemented and which are having the desired outcomes.



# Long Island Think Tank for Black Progress



# Mission

The Long Island Think Tank for Black Progress (LITTBP) is an organization dedicated to developing solutions and alternatives to the social, health, political and economic ills confronting the Black communities on Long Island



# LITTBP Aims

To develop a culturally appropriate region specific strategic plan to implement community driven solutions for policy and practice to plan for the future of Black girls in the following areas of :

- **Obesity**
- **Mental Health**
- **Sexual Health**
- **Violence**

**Empower Black communities so that they can secure  
*a healthy future* for Black girls and their families**



# Goals

- Identify risk and protective factors that influence the health and well-being of middle school Black girls.
- Utilize the information gathered from the convening participants, working groups and literature to guide and inform our efforts
- Develop a strategic action plan with and for young black girls
  - Conduct activities in collaboration with community, faith and social organizations
  - Increase educational opportunities and provide leadership skills
  - Enhance knowledge, self image and confidence

# Resources



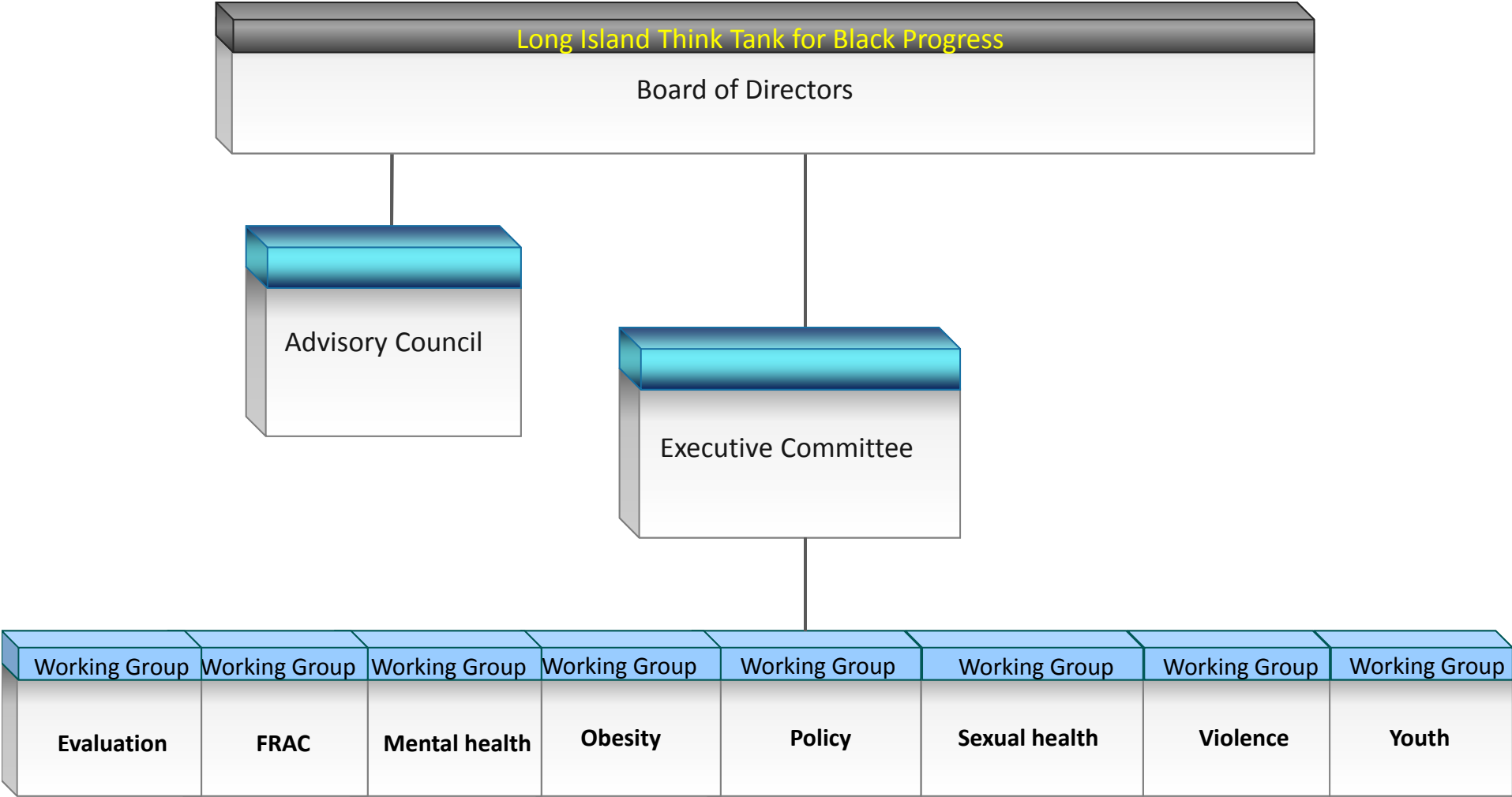
- Long Island Community Foundation
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- Verizon
- National Council of Negro Women – Suffolk Section
- National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Suffolk Chapter
- Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Nu Phi Zeta Chapter – Suffolk County
- Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.,- Suffolk County Alumnae Chapter.

# Structure



- **Board**
- **Executive Committee**
  - Advise, provide guidance and expertise to the Board
  - Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Working Groups
- **Advisory Council**
  - Provide technical assistance and guidance
- **Working Groups**
  - Assist with development of LITTBP strategy brief
  - Develop an action plan to support focus and goals of each working group

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# How can you help?



- Join a Working Group
- Assist with the Strategy Brief
- Participate in strategic planning, resource allocation and identification of community stakeholders that will prove beneficial to the mission, vision and goals of the LITTBP



# Next Steps