



# Overcoming Barriers to Program Participation

2023 OFA National TANF Directors' Meeting: A Blueprint for the Future  
of TANF and Economic Mobility

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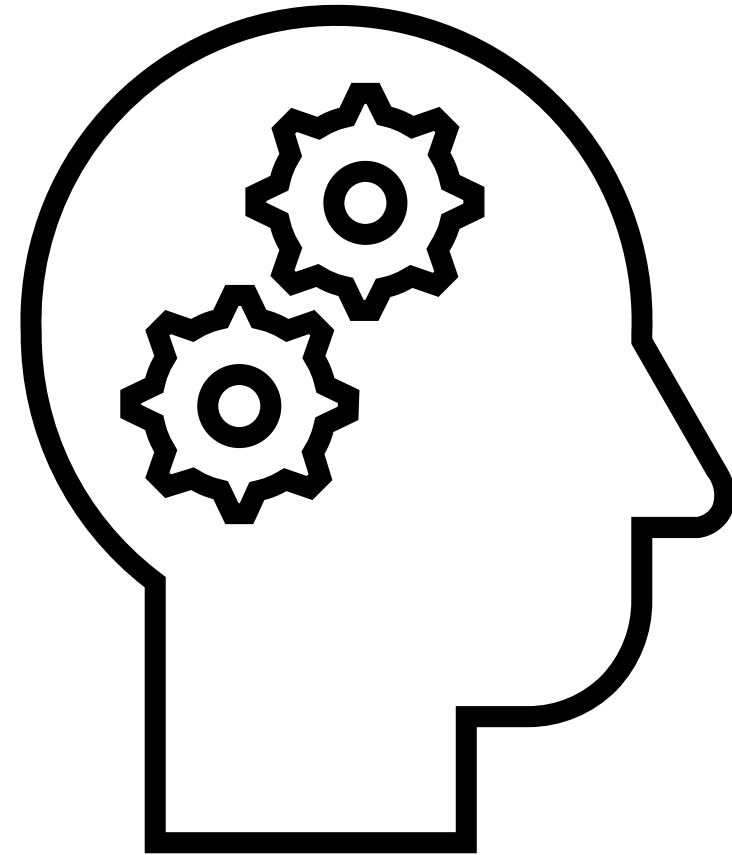
08/31/2023



# Setting the Stage

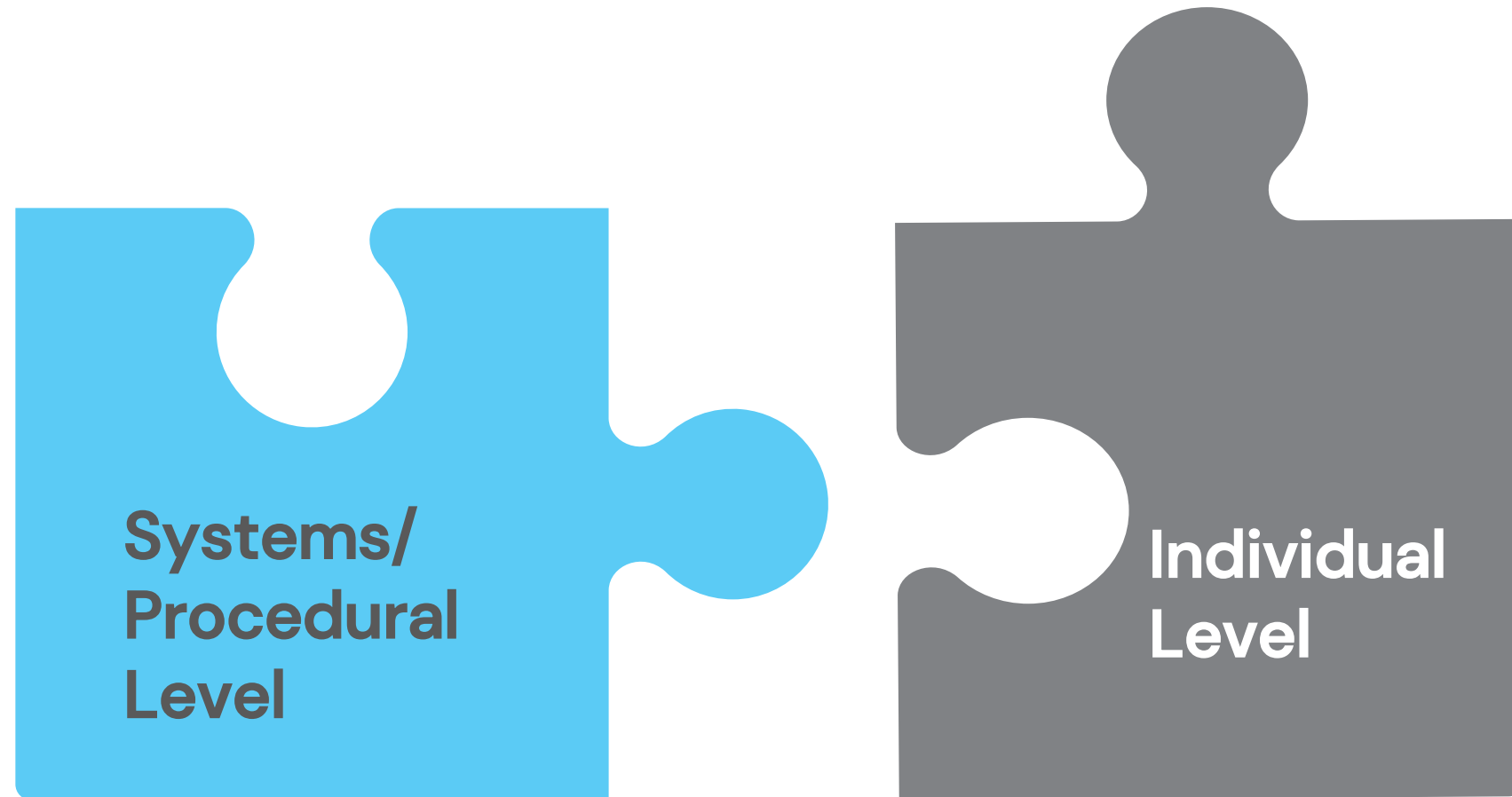
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- What are some barriers to economic success and family stability that your customers experience?
- What are some examples of co-occurring barriers?



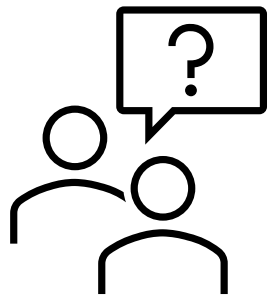
# Complexity of Barrier Identification and Mitigation

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# But...what if we did?

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- What if we talked about burdens that were exacerbated or even created by the very system being tasked with helping?
- What if, at the same time that we're working toward customer-directed and strengths-based journeys at the individual level, look at where systems can have a more strengths-based approach?
- What if instead of the system "can't" we figured out how it might?

# A system of identification and mitigation

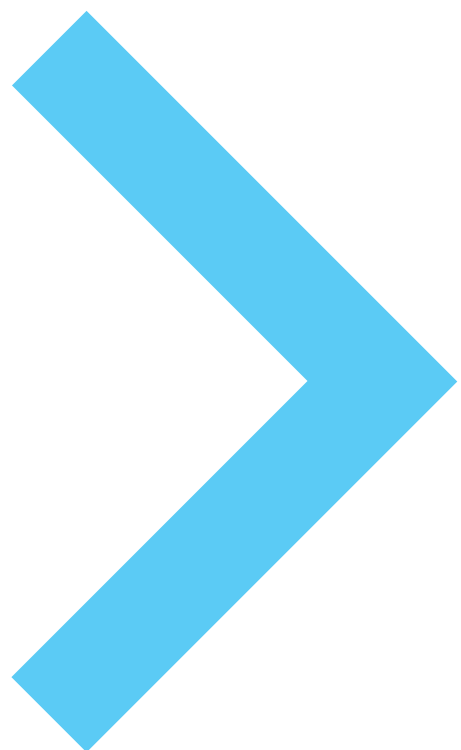
Identification	Mitigation				
		System	Individual		
	System	System-identified System-mitigated	1	System-identified Individual-mitigated	2
	Individual	Individual-identified System-mitigated	3	Individual-identified Individual-mitigated	4



# Food for Thought

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- How do policies and procedures support or challenge economic mobility for customers?
- How are we currently describing and identifying barriers?
- Are the policies and procedures we use inclusive and fair? Do they help or harm? What about the words we use?
- How can our systems adapt to reduce programmatic barriers and support customers?



**Thank you!**



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