

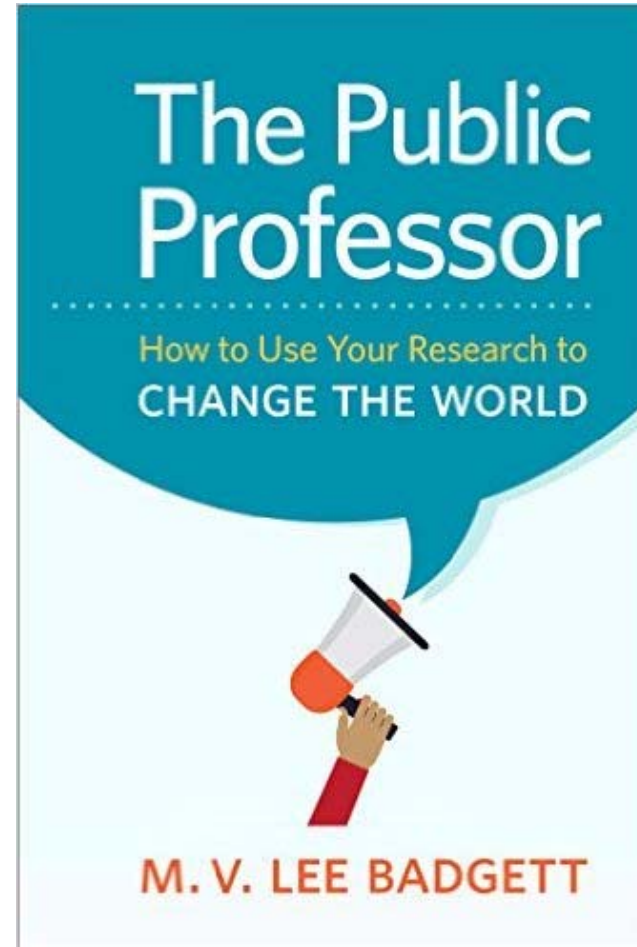
Using your research in the policy process

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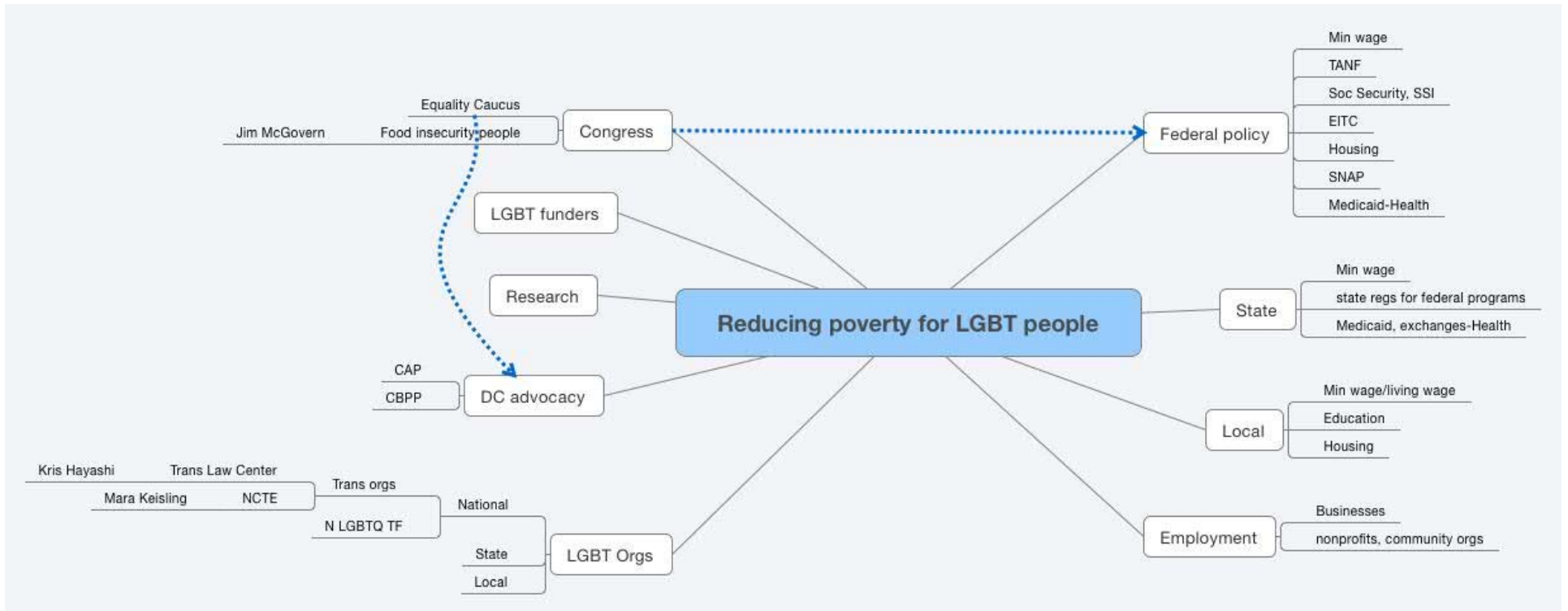
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The Basics

1. See the big picture
 - Understand the debate
 - Learn rules of the game
2. Build a strong network
3. Communicate with different audiences



Be Proactive!



Get started:

Set up a meeting with a policymaker

- Meet them: local meetings, fundraisers, district office time.
- Make an appointment at their office.
- Use your network.

Be ready

- Know your goals for the meeting:
 - Networking?
 - Offers of help?
 - Learning about what's happening?
- Practice a brief pitch—why is your research important? Why should they care?
- Dress appropriately
- Bring your business cards

A game plan

- Why you're here: make your pitch
- Pause..... Let them ask questions.
- Have some of your own questions ready:
 - Do you expect issue X to come up soon?
 - Has there been any thought to changing policy Y?
 - Is this kind of research helpful in deciding on Y?
- Suggest some “next steps” if it's been a productive meeting.
- Thank them.

Follow-up

- Thank you note: repeat your offer of help or mention what you've already done
- Do anything you promised to do!

**Build relationships
to make change**