

# access

WOMEN'S HEALTH JUSTICE

## STRATEGIC PLAN 2010 - 2012

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“ It was scary thinking I wouldn’t be able to get my abortion done because I couldn’t afford a motel, then my rides to and from cancelled, but you were there to save the day. My life, rather. I couldn’t be more grateful... ”  
— Tina

## OUR MISSION

**ACCESS** removes barriers to sexual and reproductive health care and builds the power of California women and girls to demand equity and dignity.

## OUR VISION

We **believe** in and trust women—all women.

We **envision** a future where women decide for themselves whether, when and how to have children. A future where women have access to the resources and options they need to realize their sexual and reproductive health decisions.

We **envision** a future where women are treated with dignity and respect in those decisions. A future where people understand the context of women’s decision-making around pregnancy, and where those decisions are free from stigma.

We **envision** a future where women’s voices are clear and strong; where each woman trusts herself, knows her own power and uses it to demand that all women have the social, political, and economic power and resources to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families.

## OUR VALUES

**WOMAN-CENTERED** We will always place the woman and the quality of her life as our highest value. We know women to be full of strength, potential, and possibility.

**NONJUDGMENTAL** We know that women make decisions around pregnancy and reproductive health as a result of many factors—some they can control, many they cannot. We bring unconditional support to each woman and will never judge a woman or the choices she makes.

**JUSTICE** We see the issues of access to reproductive health and reproductive rights as social justice and human rights issues, and work to advance a movement that promotes the health and well-being of women, their families and communities.

**DIGNITY** We call for an end to poverty and discrimination and affirm human dignity and women’s right to self-determination.

**EQUITY** We believe that sexual and reproductive health care must address the root causes of barriers to care experienced by women and girls.

## CALLER STORY

Silvia, 21 years old from Modesto, was seven weeks pregnant and looking for prenatal care. She was unable to find a doctor that would accept her Medi-Cal. We referred her to a local maternal child and adolescent hotline and told her about a program which would allow her to sign up for prenatal care services on-site at a participating clinic.

# WE ARE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IN ACTION

This diagram illustrates *how* we approach our work. Each component of our *Reproductive Justice in Action* model reflects our theory of social change.

## 1 HEALTHLINE

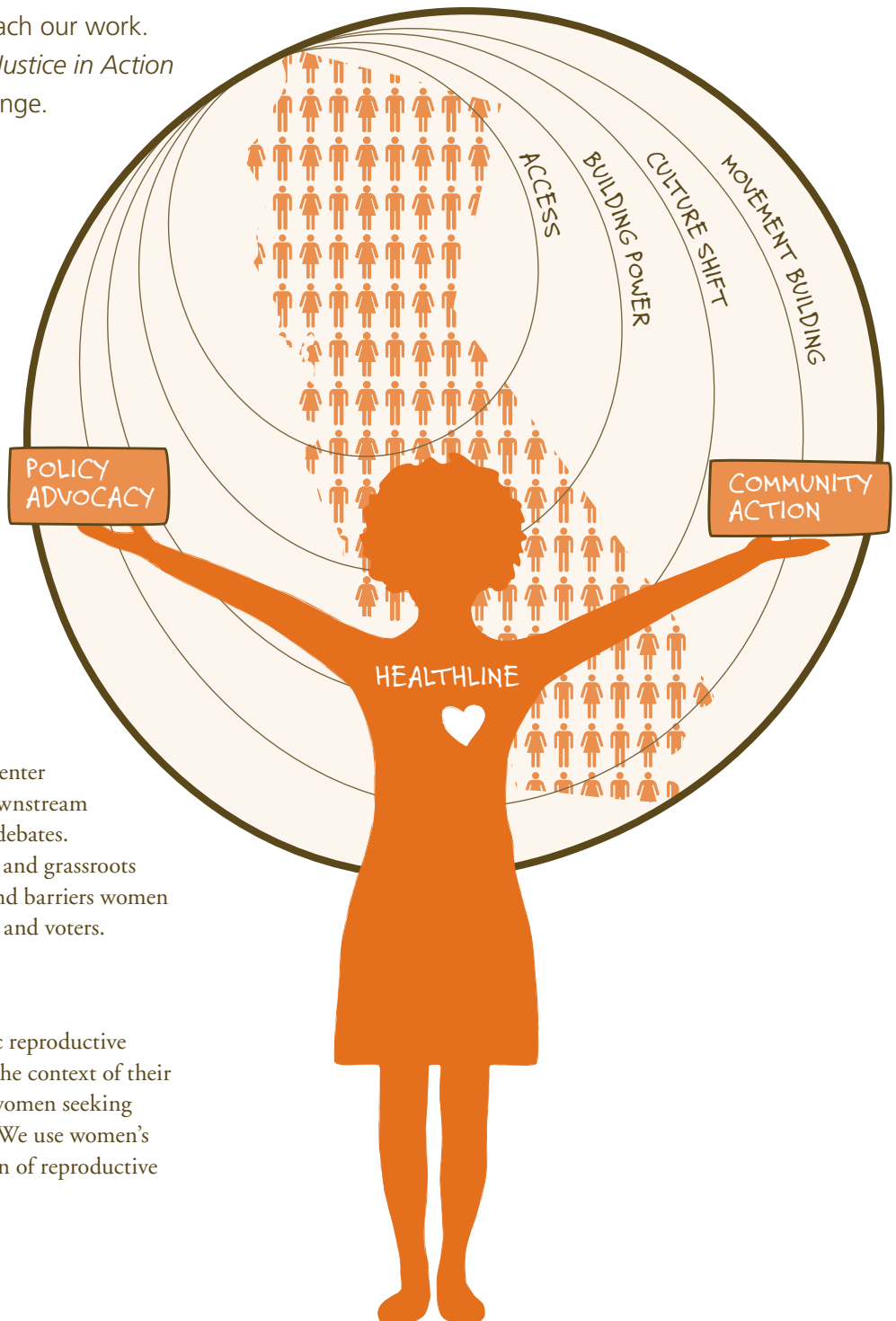
The heart of our work is our bilingual Healthline, which connects women and girls throughout California to information, referrals and advocacy on sexual and reproductive health issues. We help women navigate programs that pay for health care and are experts in offering resources for abortion, adoption and parenting. When women are in need of housing, food or transportation to ensure timely access to abortion care, we connect them to a network of volunteers who can provide this support or to funds when volunteer resources are unavailable.

## 2 POLICY ADVOCACY

Because we keep women's experiences at the center of our work, we utilize both upstream and downstream approaches within our movement and policy debates. We conduct administrative, legislative, media and grassroots advocacy, relaying the everyday experiences and barriers women and girls face to administrators, policymakers and voters.

## 3 COMMUNITY ACTION

We believe that in order to create an authentic reproductive justice movement that truly views women in the context of their lives, we must build community support for women seeking reproductive health care, including abortion. We use women's stories to educate and train the next generation of reproductive justice leaders.

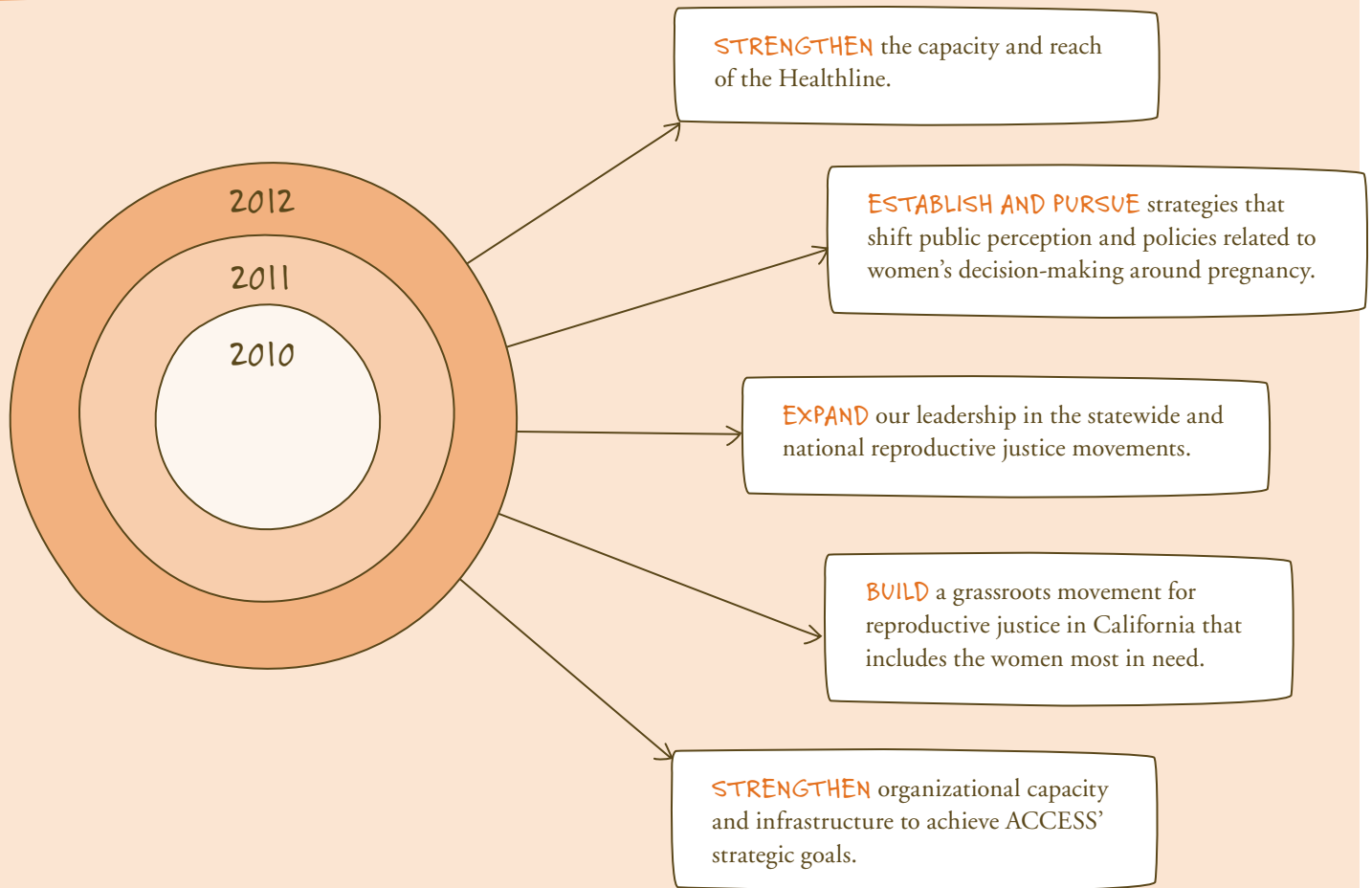


## OUR HISTORY

ACCESS is part of a long history of activism for women's health, beginning with the founding in 1974 of its predecessor, the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women. Past Coalition efforts included landmark work on DES exposure, IUD regulation, workplace

safety, and sterilization abuse. The vision for ACCESS, founded in 1993, was not only to provide information and practical support on all aspects of reproductive health, but to build a community actively working to meet the real needs of women.

# STRATEGIC GOALS



## OUR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE IMPACTS...

### ACCESS

Women and girls have the support, information and resources to determine whether, when, or how to have children.

### BUILDING POWER

Women and girls have the respect, space, confidence, and resources to advocate for themselves and their families within institutions of power.

### CULTURE SHIFT

Communities understand and trust women to make their own decisions about sexual and reproductive health.

Abortion is destigmatized, and women who are considering or seeking abortions are visible and vocal.

### MOVEMENT-BUILDING

Women's experiences inform the strategies of the reproductive justice movement, and communities throughout the state are active in it.