

# Advocacy and Collective Action: Policy Change through Partnership and Coalition

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# CareQuest Institute for Oral Health: A Catalyst for Systems Change

OUR FULL  
PORTFOLIO



Through our Areas of Activation and Influence, we bring forth ideas and solutions to create a more accessible, equitable, and integrated health system for everyone.

# Why Collective Action Matters to Policy Change

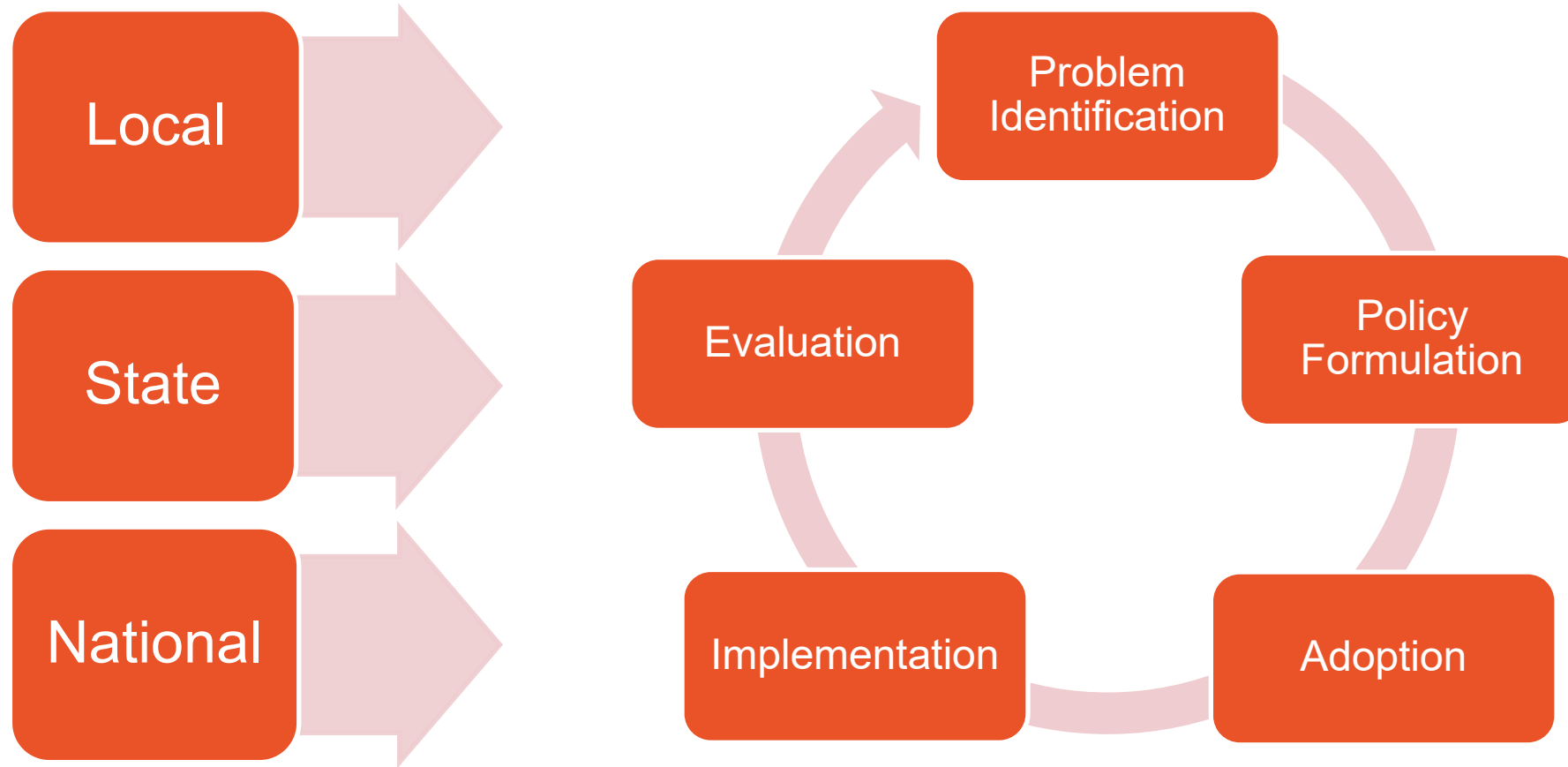
## Policy Change is HARD

- Need to shift power structures and influence institutions
- Requires time/\$/ resources, skills, relationships & more
- No one person or organization can do this alone!

## Collaboration is Key

*“It is about working together in solidarity with people you admire and who share your core values [on an issue], and listening to and learning from people who don’t always think the same as [you] do... adding your own small contribution to the goals of justice and a better world”*

# Policy Opportunities for Collective Action



# Collective Action Opportunities

## Includes (but not limited to):

- Formal Collaboration
  - Coalitions
  - Days of Action
  - Sign Ons
- Coordination/Info Sharing
  - Networks
  - Learning Communities

\*\* join one or start your own!!



# What is a Coalition?

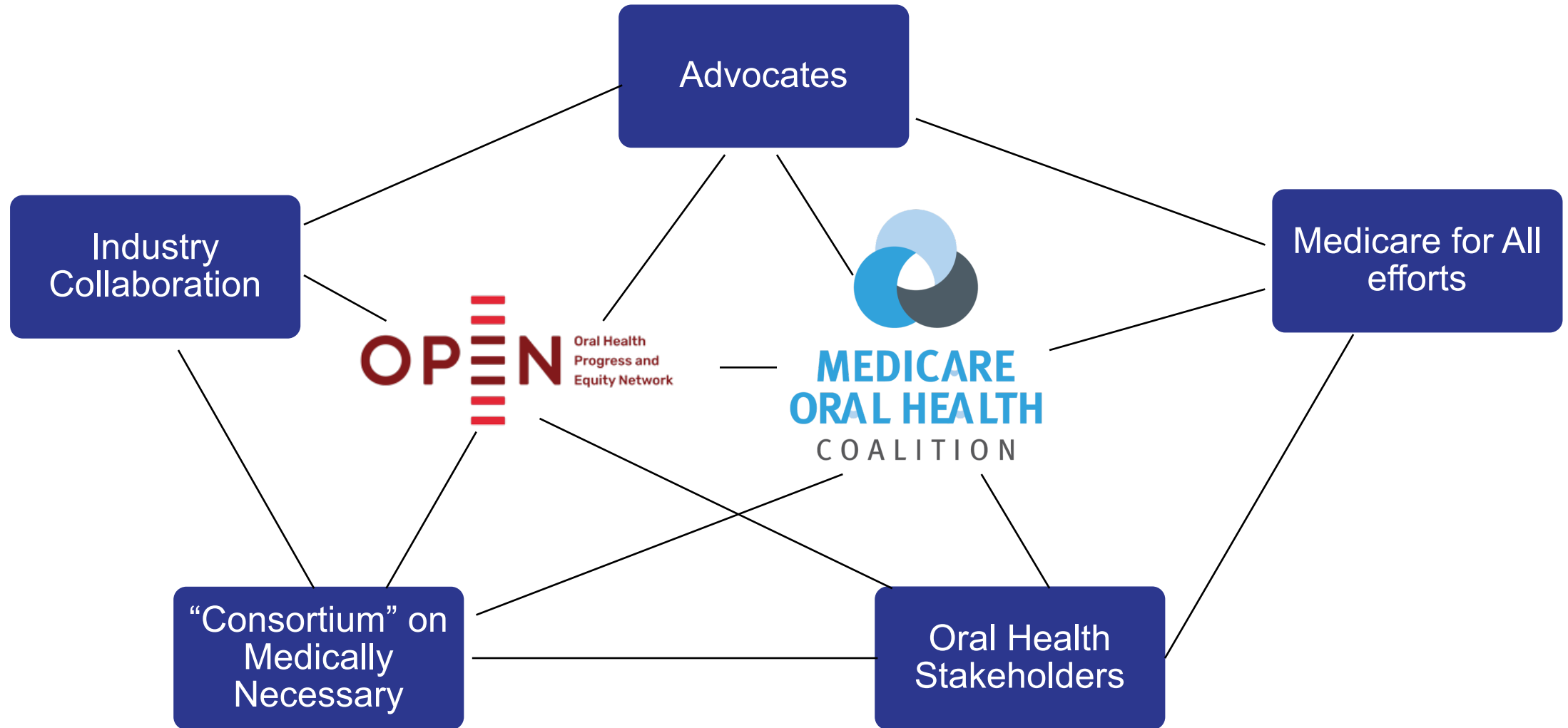
## Coalitions are:

- “groups of actors who share beliefs and *coordinate their action*”
- “groups of organizations that come together *to achieve a common policy goal*”
- “group of like-minded organizations or individuals who will *unite with you to create a shared policy change*”

## Considerations

- Who is (not) represented?
- Who has what relationships?
- Who has what skill sets?
- Who has what resources?
- What can we share? What can we learn from each other?

# Example: Medicare Oral Health Efforts



# Impact of Collective Action on Medicare Oral Health

## Health Measures Land at Top of Voters' List for Social Spending Bill

The share of U.S. voters who said the following measures are among their top five priorities for the Build Back Better plan, with health provisions highlighted:



- **2019-** legislation including Medicare dental passes House for first time ever
- **2020-** Medicare dental benefit included in a Presidential transition plan for first time ever
- **2021-** Medicare dental nearly included in Inflation Reduction Act
- **2021-** Biden Administration clarifies Medicare “medically necessary” dental coverage
- **2022-2024-** “medically necessary” coverage improved and expanded
- **2024 and beyond...** its up to us!



