

Poverty Free Kitchener-Waterloo

Local Framework for Poverty Elimination

**Region of Waterloo 2014 Budget Hearing
December 11th 2013**



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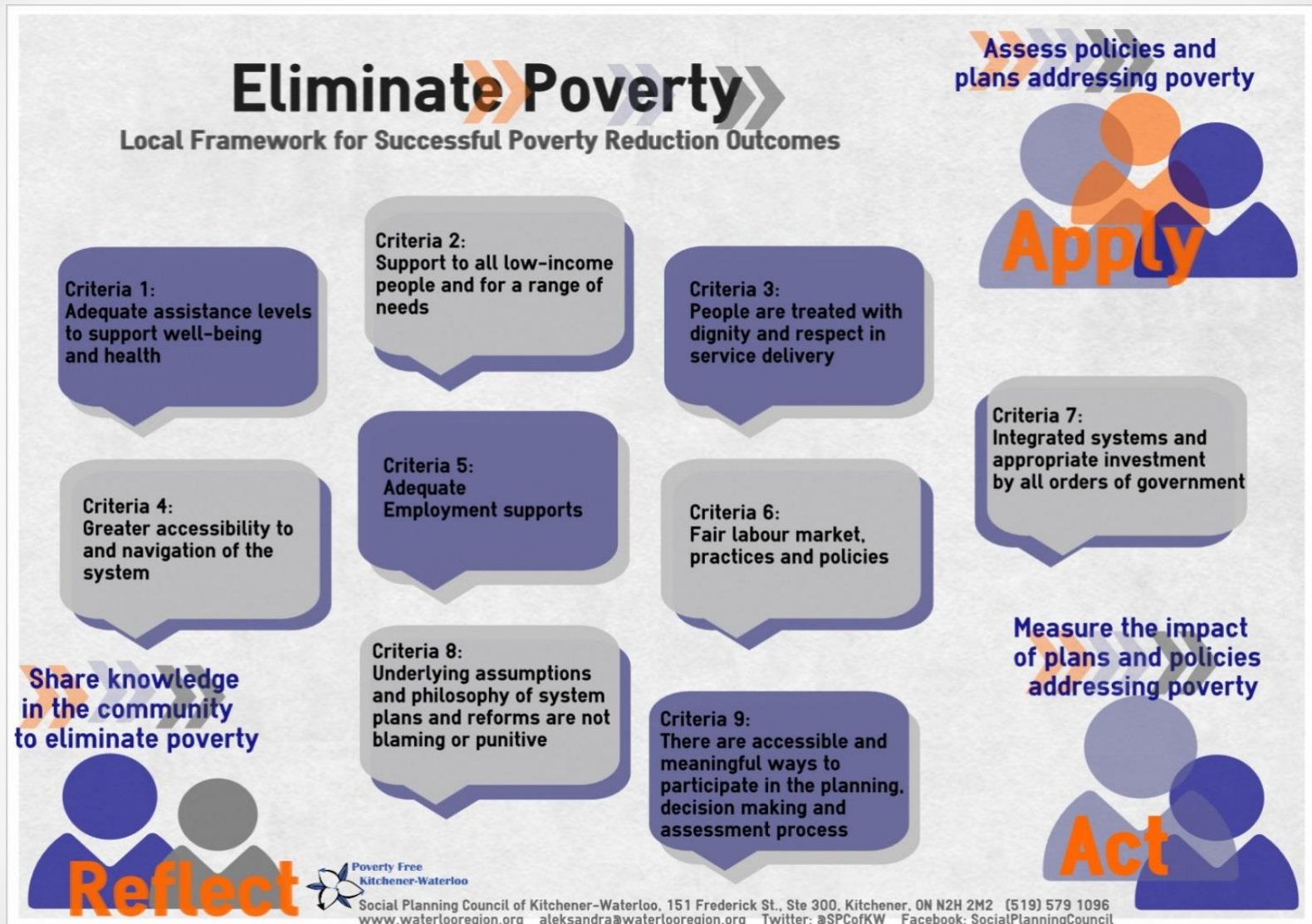


Our Commitment

- Engage our community at a grass roots level
 - Contribute to public education
 - Advise and lobby at all orders of government
- Work to disseminate information to help people navigate support systems
- Monitor the implementation of the poverty reduction strategies and plans



Local Framework for Successful Poverty Reduction Outcomes





Integrated Systems



Region of Waterloo is doing a great job

- Providing the best possible service delivery
- Advocating before the Provincial Government
- Combining funding from different levels of government



1. Discretionary Benefits



Q 3

Health care for all
dental, eyes, rehab, mental
health

Housing 1st Strategy:



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- Investment is needed in housing and homelessness-related programs



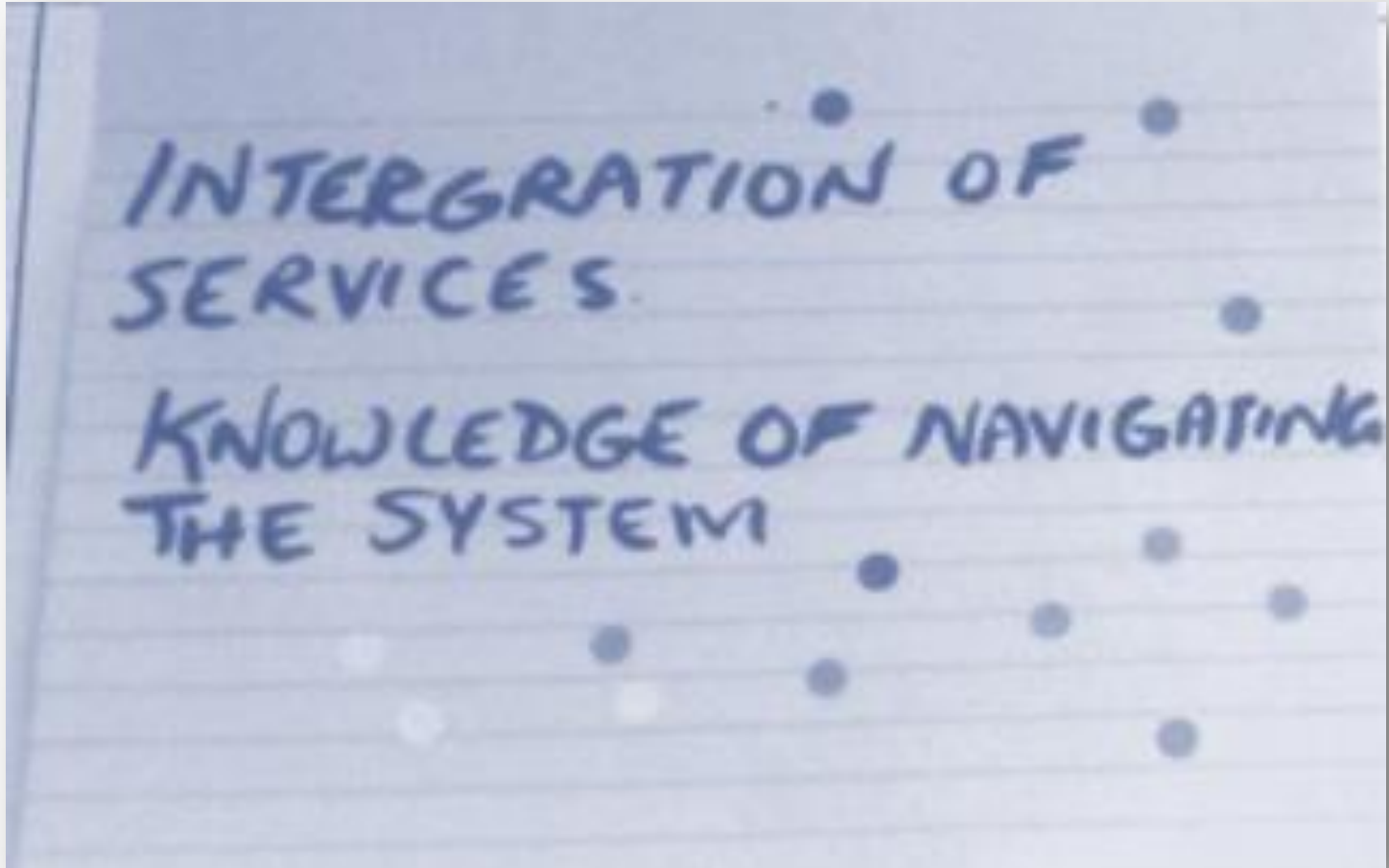
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- Amounts for discretionary benefits must be increased or kept at last year's level
 - Investment is needed in housing and homelessness-related programs
- The list of funded discretionary benefits must be expanded



2. System Navigation





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Current Service Eligibility is not Transparent

- Investment is needed for improving communication regarding eligibility criteria



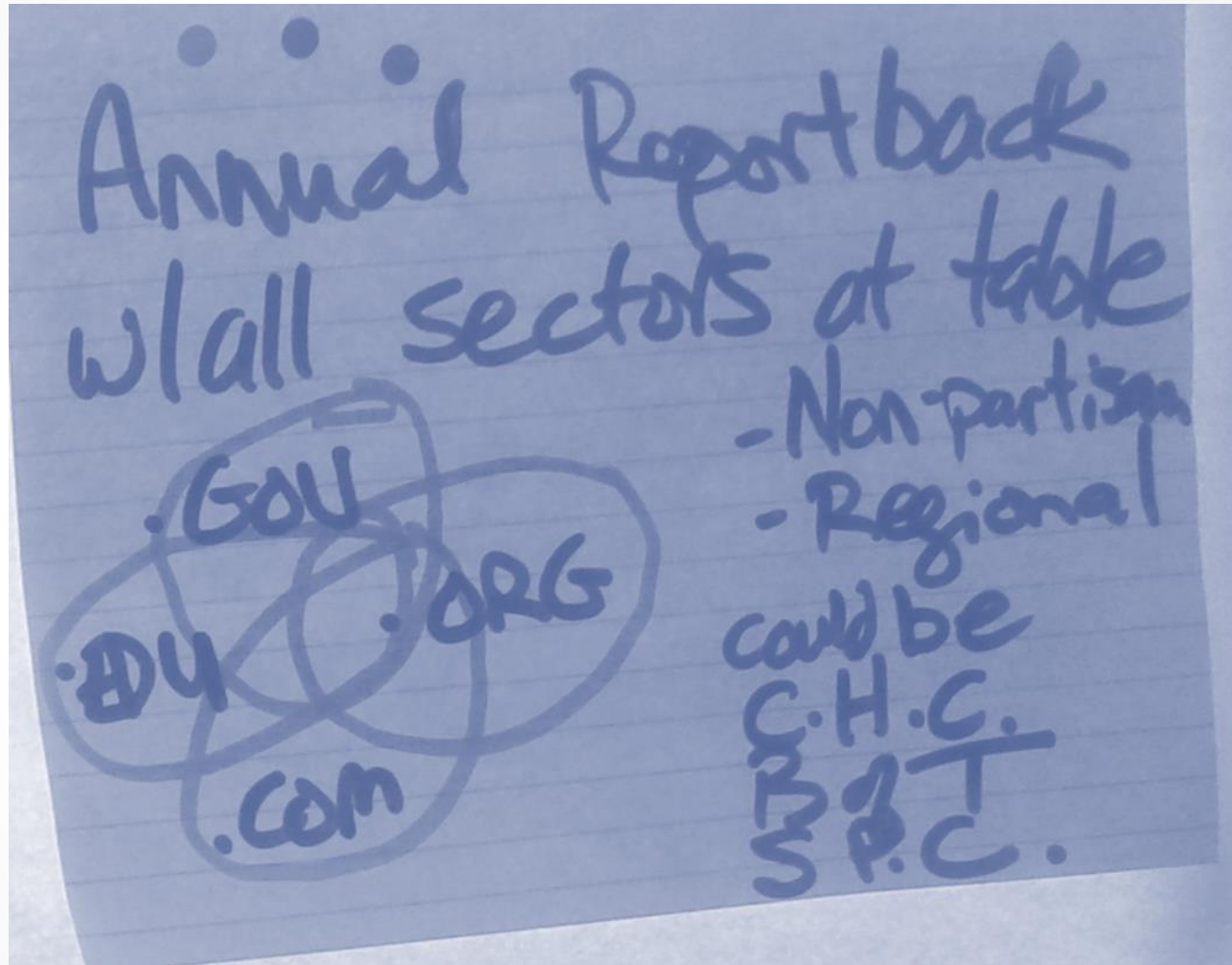
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- Investment is needed for improving communication regarding eligibility criteria
- Funding is needed for community groups doing individual advocacy



3. Information Gathering





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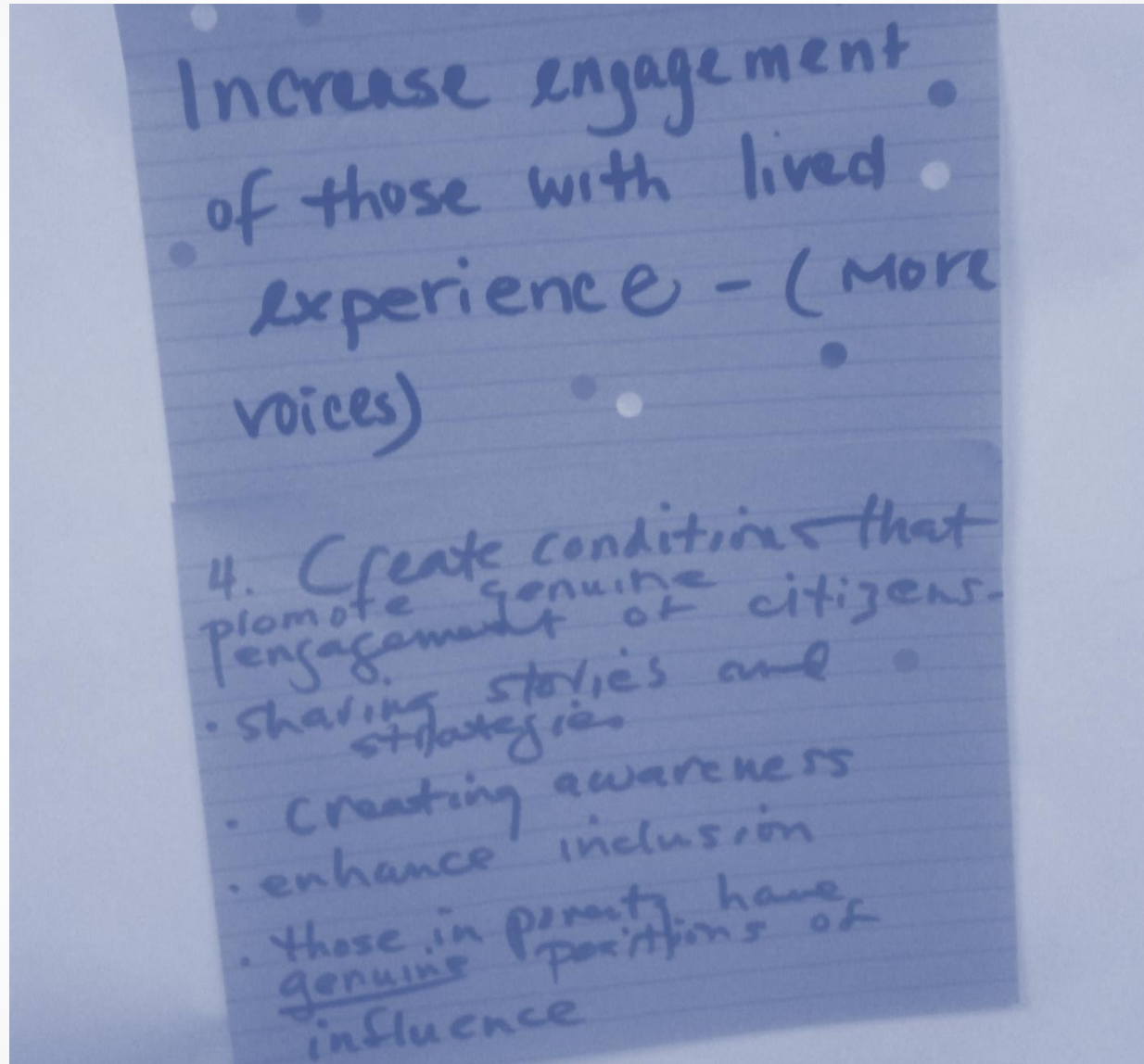
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- Understanding “need” in the community and the current “use” of services
- Collecting information about approved and non approved requests for benefits
- Investing in a collective impact information sharing with community organizations



4. Accessible Budget Consultations





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Current Public Input Hearings are not Inclusive

- Being more intentional gathering feedback from community members and groups



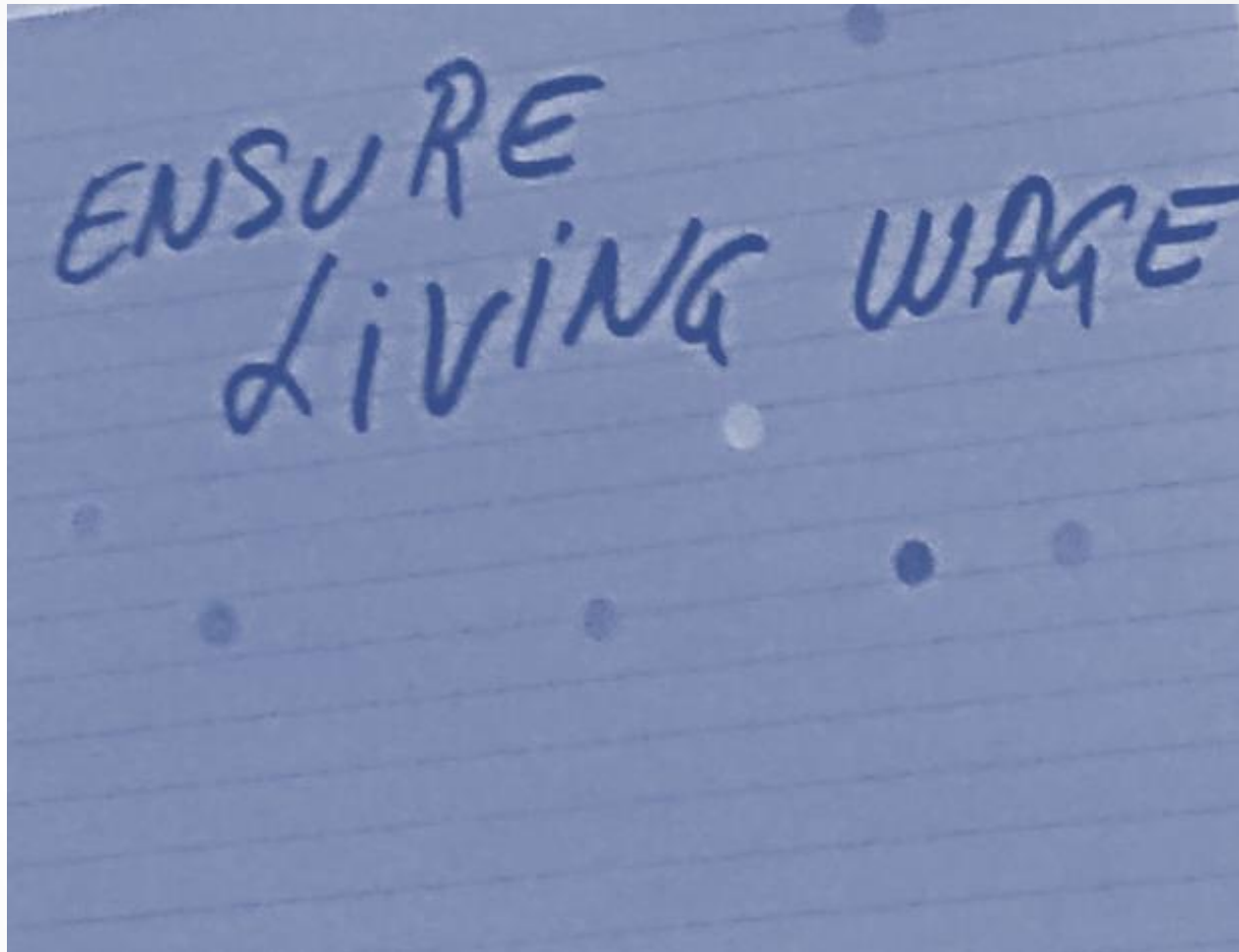
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- Providing more accessible materials to gather input



5. Employment Practices





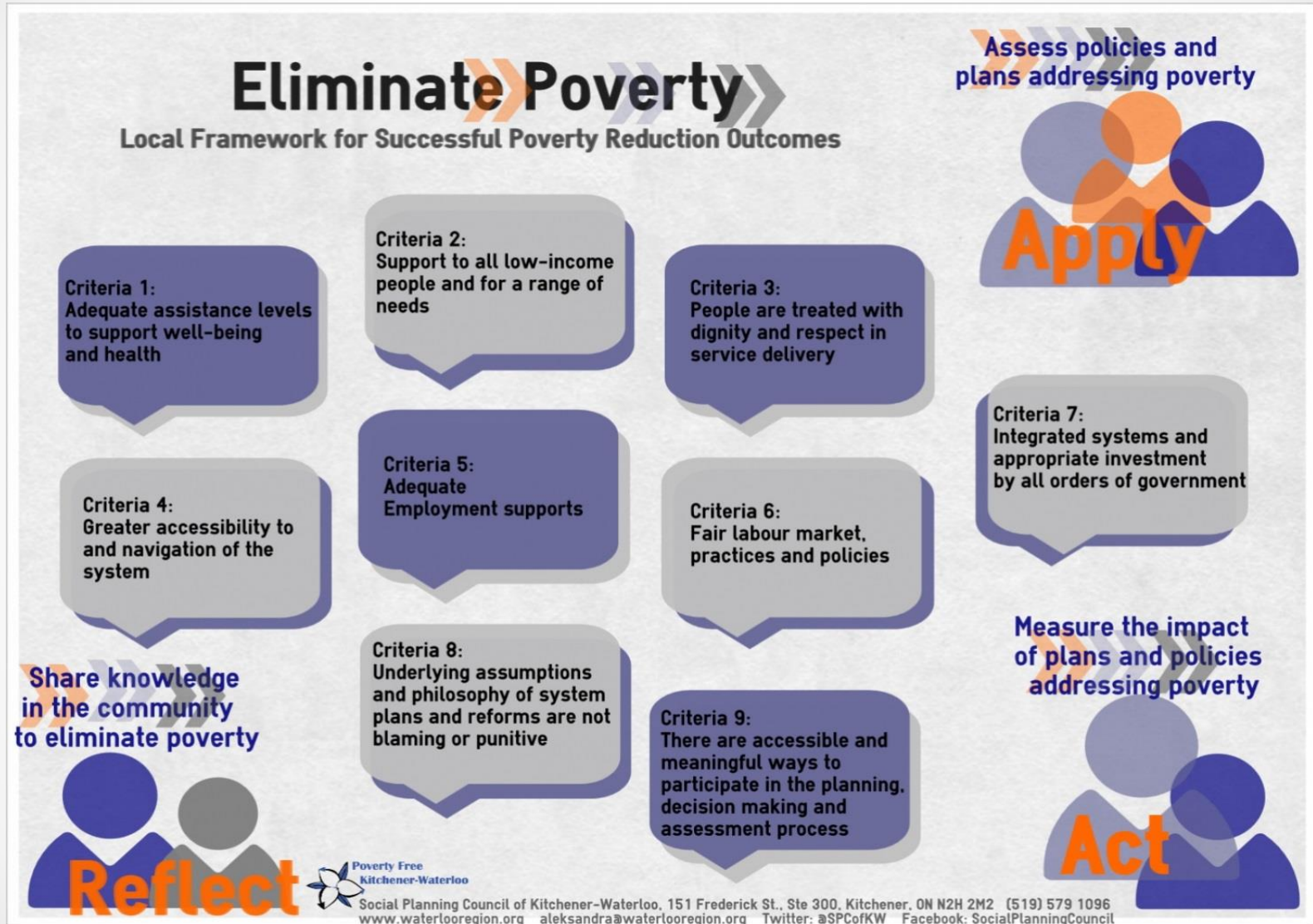
5. Employment Practices

Employing people transitioning from social services





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