

# Power of We & Birth to Work

## *Building Sustainable Partnership Infrastructures*

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**The**  
**Power** **of** **We**<sup>™</sup>  
**Consortium**



# Power of We Consortium

- A “network of networks” that **brokers relationships, information, and resources** to tackle the community issues that are beyond the capacity of any single organization to address
- See **[www.PowerofWe.org](http://www.PowerofWe.org)** for a detailed description of the Power of We Consortium, its membership, and its goals and activities



# Membership

- **Founding Entities (15)**, e.g. MSU, Capital Area United Way, City of Lansing, Ingham County Health Department, Lansing School District, Department of Human Services, CMH, etc.
- **Faith-Based Partners (~10)**
- **Community-Based Partners (~25)**
- **Community Representatives (~8)**
- **>100 Affiliates**

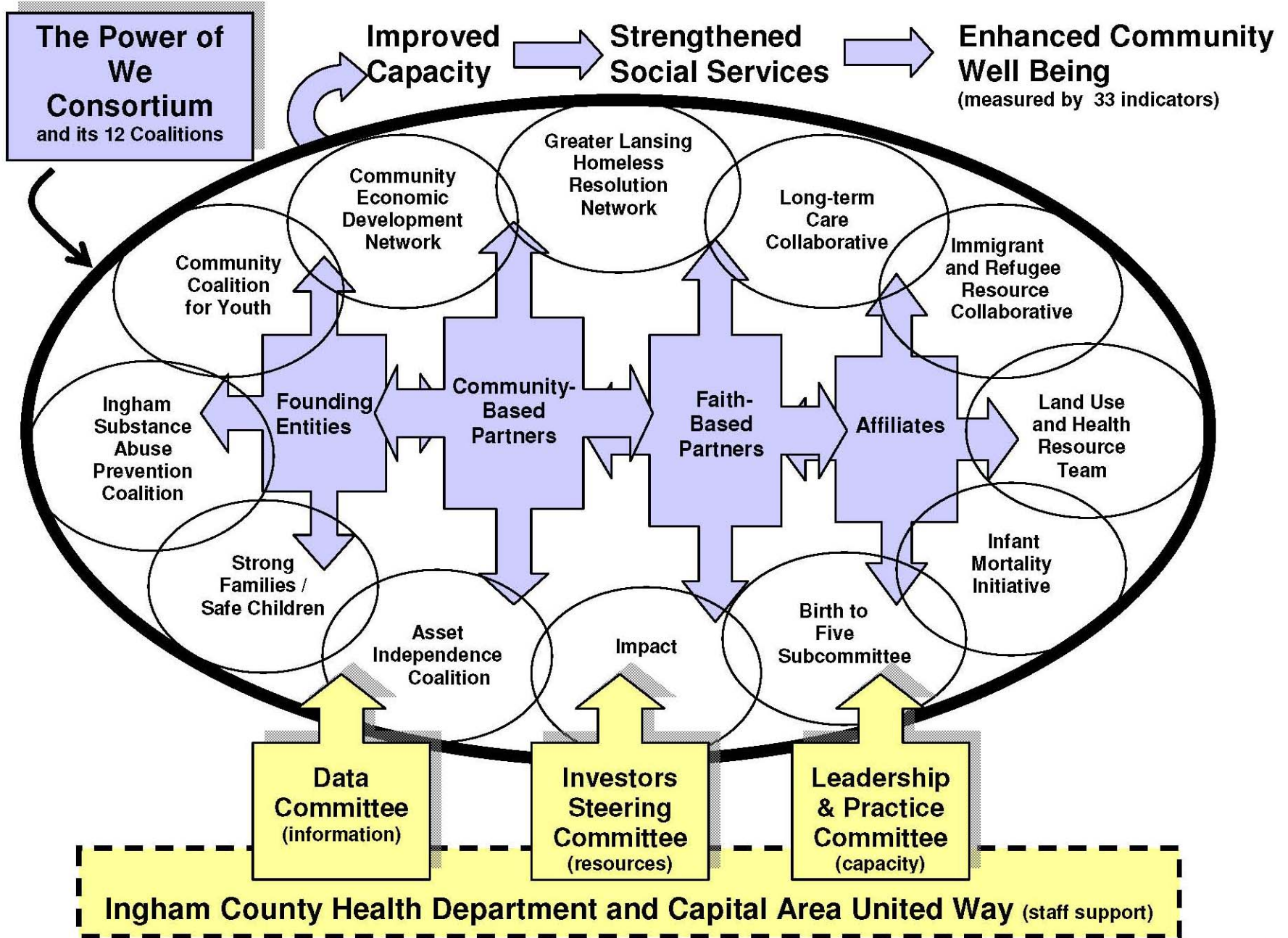


# Goals

- Advance **intellectual and social development**
- Build a dynamic, diverse, and vibrant **economy**
- Promote **physical and mental health**
- Keep homes and communities **safe by strengthening families and neighborhoods**
- **Steward natural resources**
- **Strengthen the sense of community** cohesion by actively engaging residents in the change process



# Power of We Consortium Structure



# Five Community Practices

Developed through participatory research and with the support of the Kellogg Foundation

- Engaging and mobilizing community members
- Facilitating dialogue and creating connections
- Identifying and supporting civic leadership
- Using all of the assets of the community for change
- Sharing and using data and information to support and monitor progress



# Key Accomplishments

- Provided access to healthcare for over 50% of the formerly uninsured in Ingham County
- Built and sustained a neighborhood-based system of community centers and community development initiatives that support grassroots change
- Engaged and mobilized residents in support of early childhood and youth development, reducing poverty, preventing substance abuse, and ending homelessness
- Assisted many faith-based and community organizations to build their own capacity



# Community Data Committee

- **Charge:** To develop and monitor indicators of well-being, to produce periodic reports to the community, and to promote data democratization
- **Underwritten by:** Capital Area United Way and Ingham County Health Department with support from the Kellogg Foundation

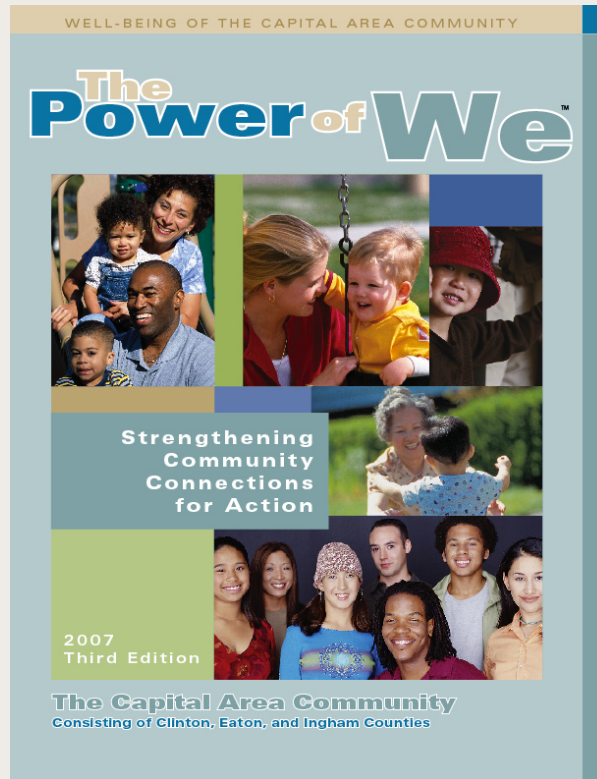


# There are a Number of Indicators for Each of the 6 Areas

Intellectual  
and Social  
Development

Health

Environment



Economy

Safety

Community  
Life



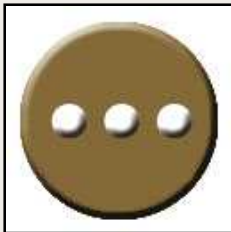
# One of 4 Symbols is Used to Show the Status of Each Indicator



= Moving in the Right Direction



= Moving in the Wrong Direction



= No Change



= Too Early to Know the Trend



# Investors Steering Committee

- **Charge:** To coordinate and leverage local investments in community practices and strategic improvement initiatives for the purpose of achieving positive changes in the 33 indicators of community well-being
- **Membership:** MSU, City of Lansing, Ingham County, United Way, local foundations, and health and human service agencies



# Examples of Coordinated and Leveraged Investment - Community Infrastructure

- **Neighborhood Revitalization:** Investing in neighborhood centers and their action plans for neighborhood revitalization
- **Nonprofit Sector:** Supporting faith-based and community organizations in building their own capacities through training, technical assistance, and grants
- **VISTA Members:** Organizing multi-year financing arrangements with the Corporation for National and Community Service in support of a pool of VISTA members that are placed throughout the community



# Examples of Coordinated and Leveraged Investment - Community Infrastructure

- **Health Coverage for the Uninsured:** Outreach by community health workers financed through multiple sources of funding and carried out through braided contracts with community-based organizations
- **Early Childhood Development:** Development of a community system of care and supports for parents with young children
- **Youth Development:** A philanthropic venture led by the Community Foundation to mobilize, coordinate, and leverage public and private resources towards improved outcomes for at-risk youth



# Leadership and Practice Committee

- **Charge:** To capitalize on the power of connections to use community assets to address community and faith-based organizations' challenges
- **Membership:** MSU extension, United Way, City of Lansing, various community and faith-based organizations, etc.



# Examples of Supports Provided to Nonprofit Organizations

- Networking events and opportunities
- Technical assistance, training and grants in organization capacity building
- Monthly e-bulletin of capacity building resources
- VISTA members; AmeriCorps is pending
- Resource speakers and connections
- Leadership development opportunities



# Sources of Grant Funding – Past and Current

- Kellogg Foundation (“Community Voices” – 9 years via Ingham County Health Dept.)
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (via the Ingham County Health Dept.)
- DHHS – “Compassion Capital Fund”
- Corporation for National and Community Services



# The University



# Michigan State University Mission

- strives to **discover** practical uses for **theoretical knowledge** and to speed the **diffusion of information** to residents of the state, the nation, and the world...
- is committed to emphasizing the **applications of information**; and **contributing to the understanding and the solution of significant societal problems...**



# MSU Approach to Community Engagement

- **Becoming embedded in communities**  
Working in long-standing partnerships
- **Stressing asset-based solutions**  
Focusing on asset-based solutions
- **Building community capacity**  
Building capacity within families, businesses, and communities
- **Creating collaborative networks**  
Building networks among communities and organizations that lead to sustainable [regional] collaborations

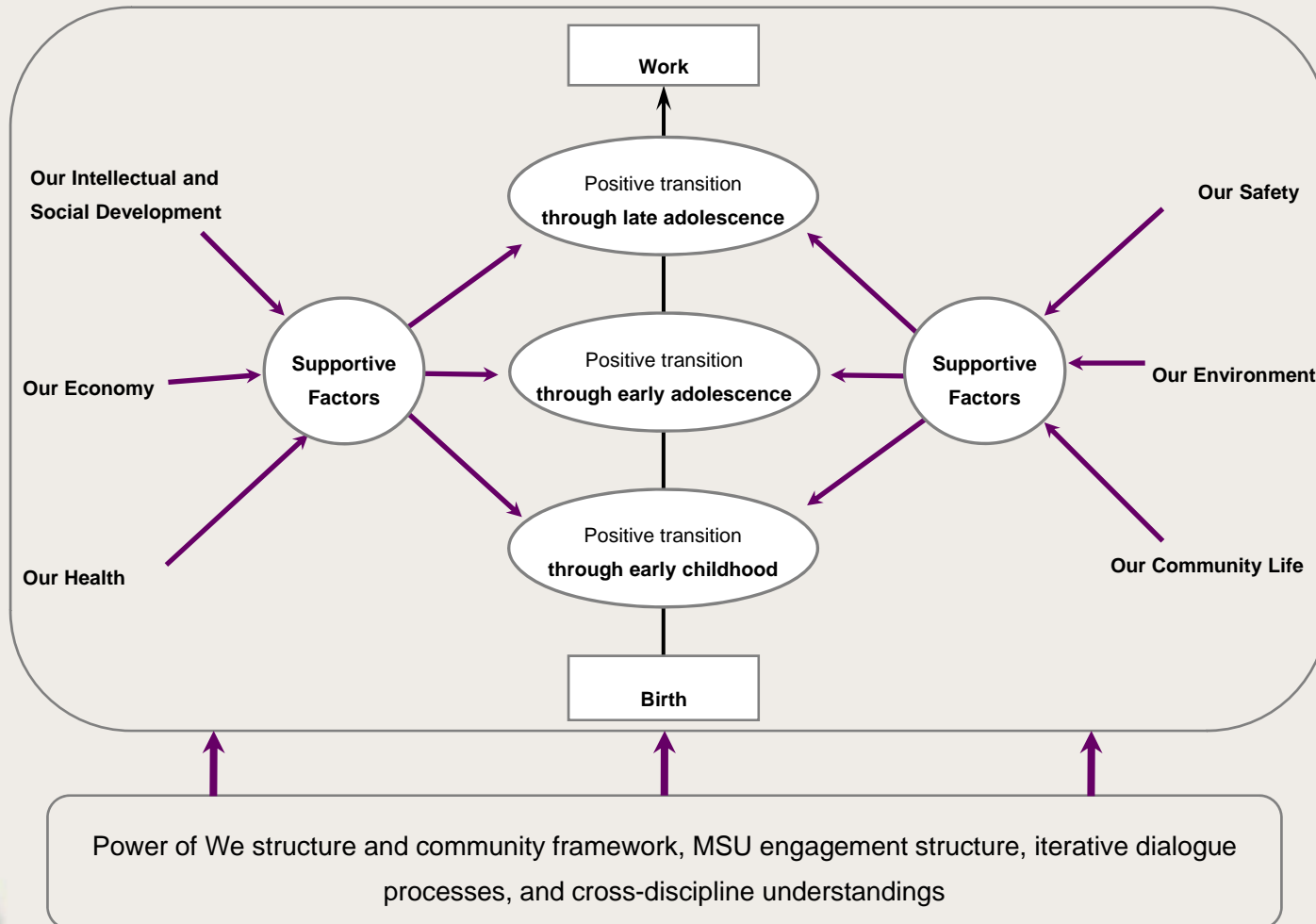


# **Birth-to-Work Initiative**

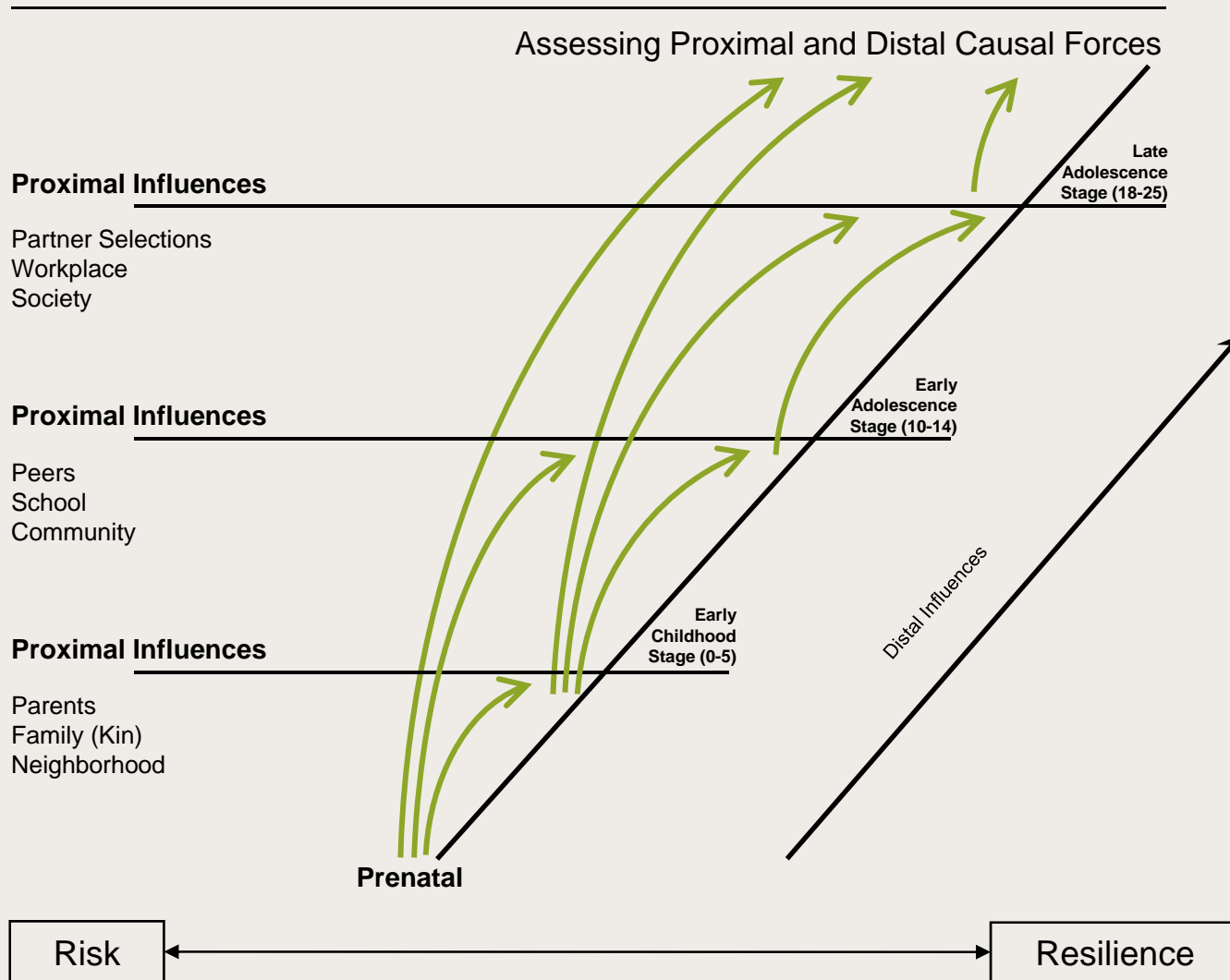
**Power of We Consortium  
and Michigan State University**

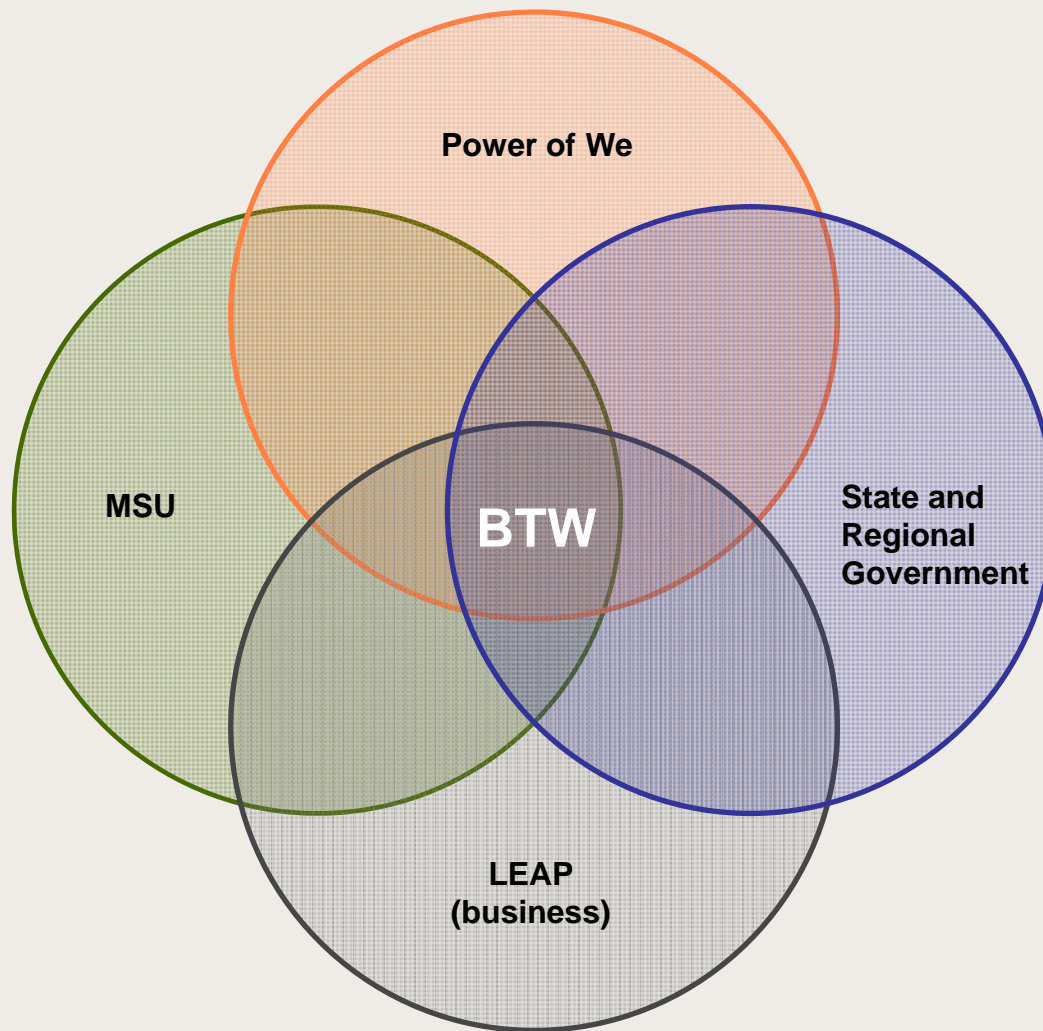


# Systemic Perspective on Birth-to-Work Developmental Pathway

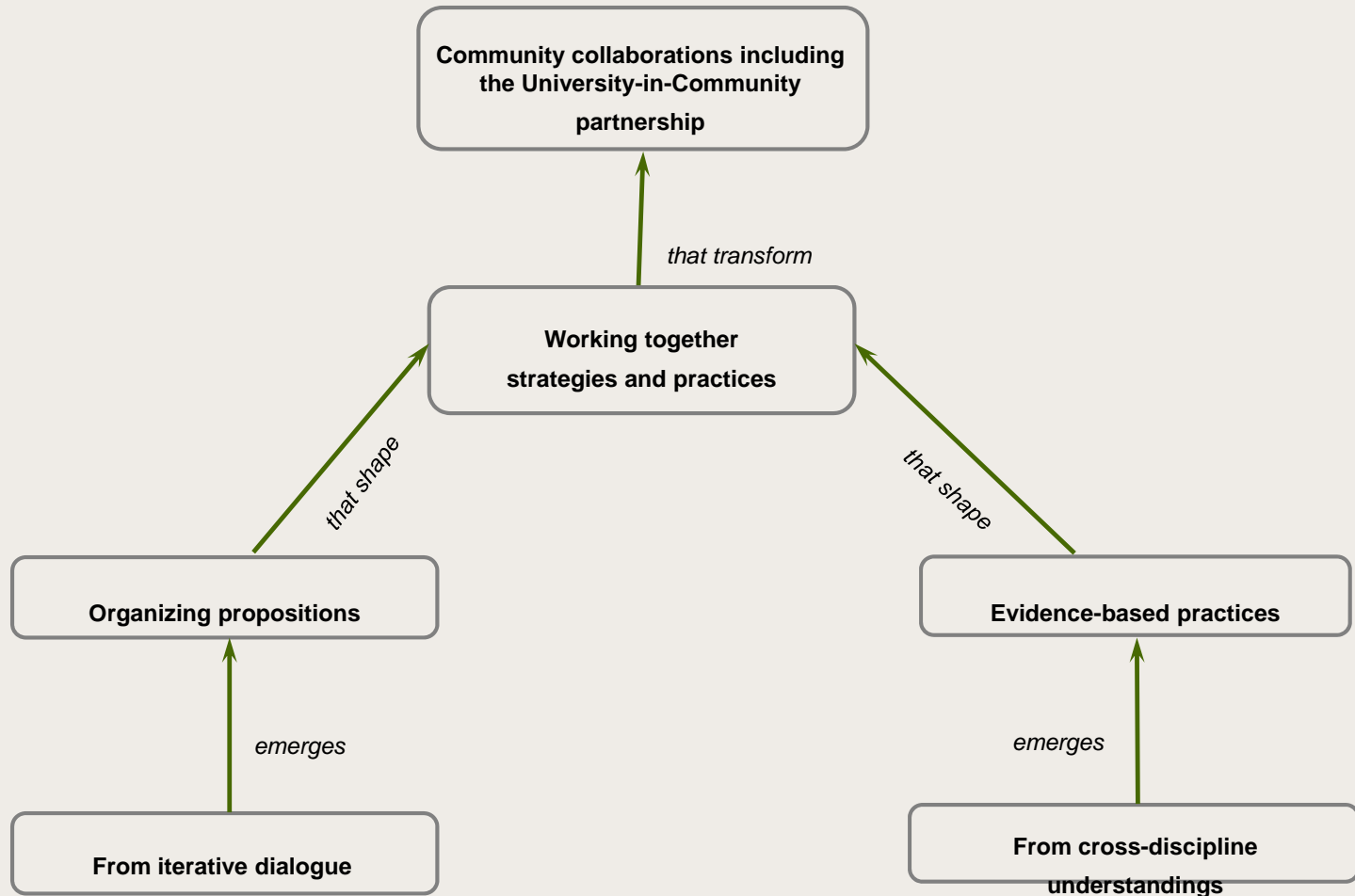


# Transitional State, Relationship Impacts

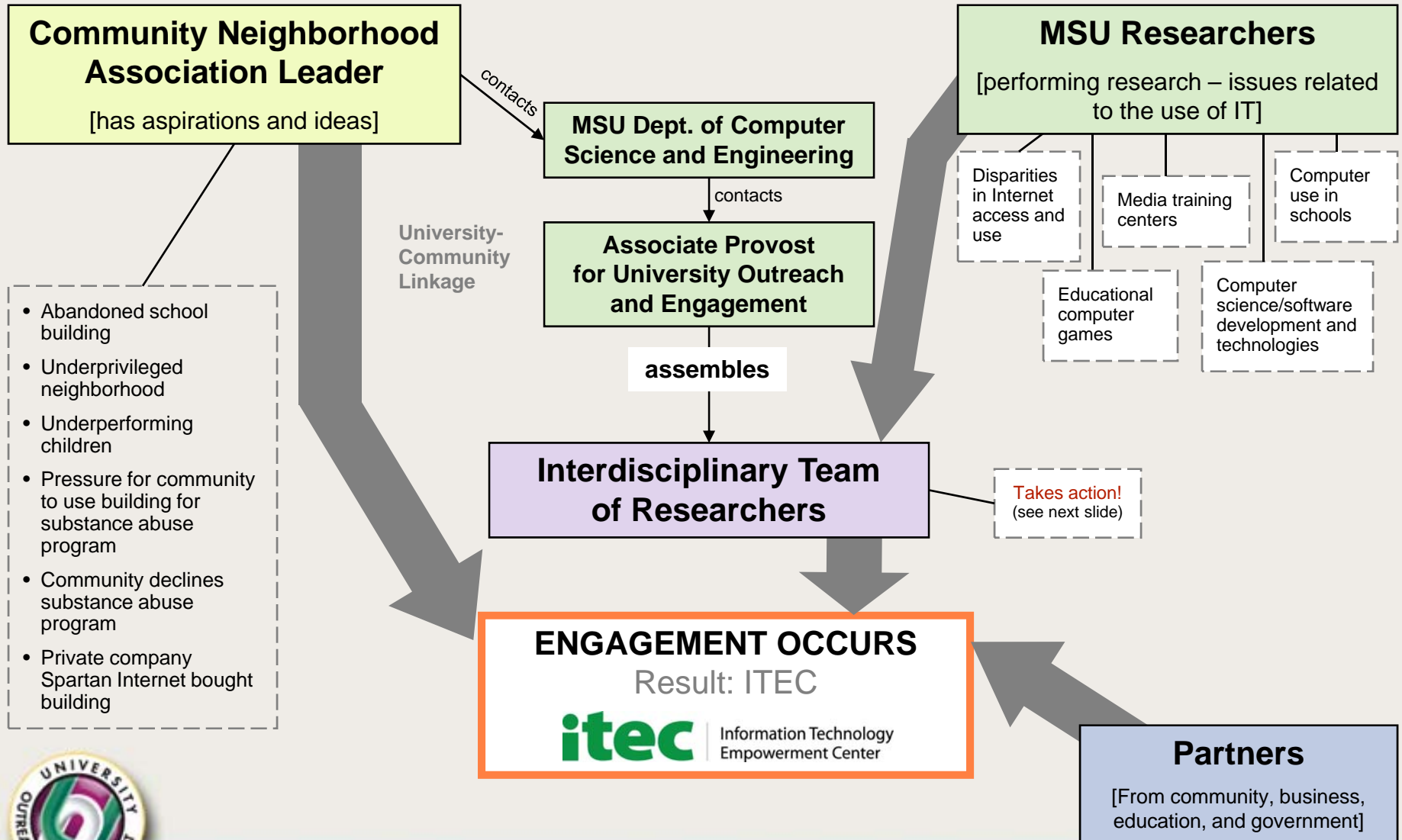




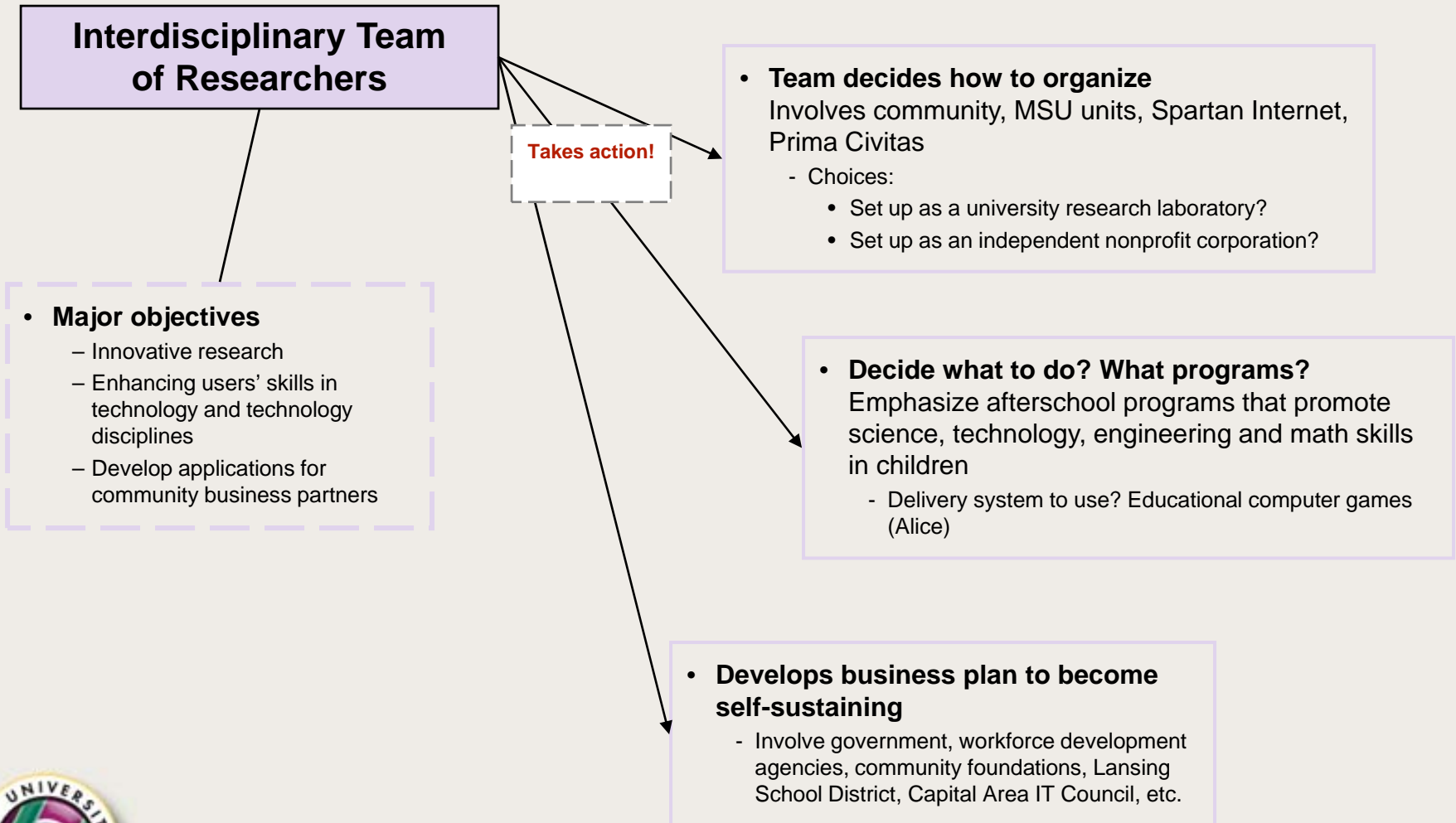
# Transforming Dynamics of Community Collaboration



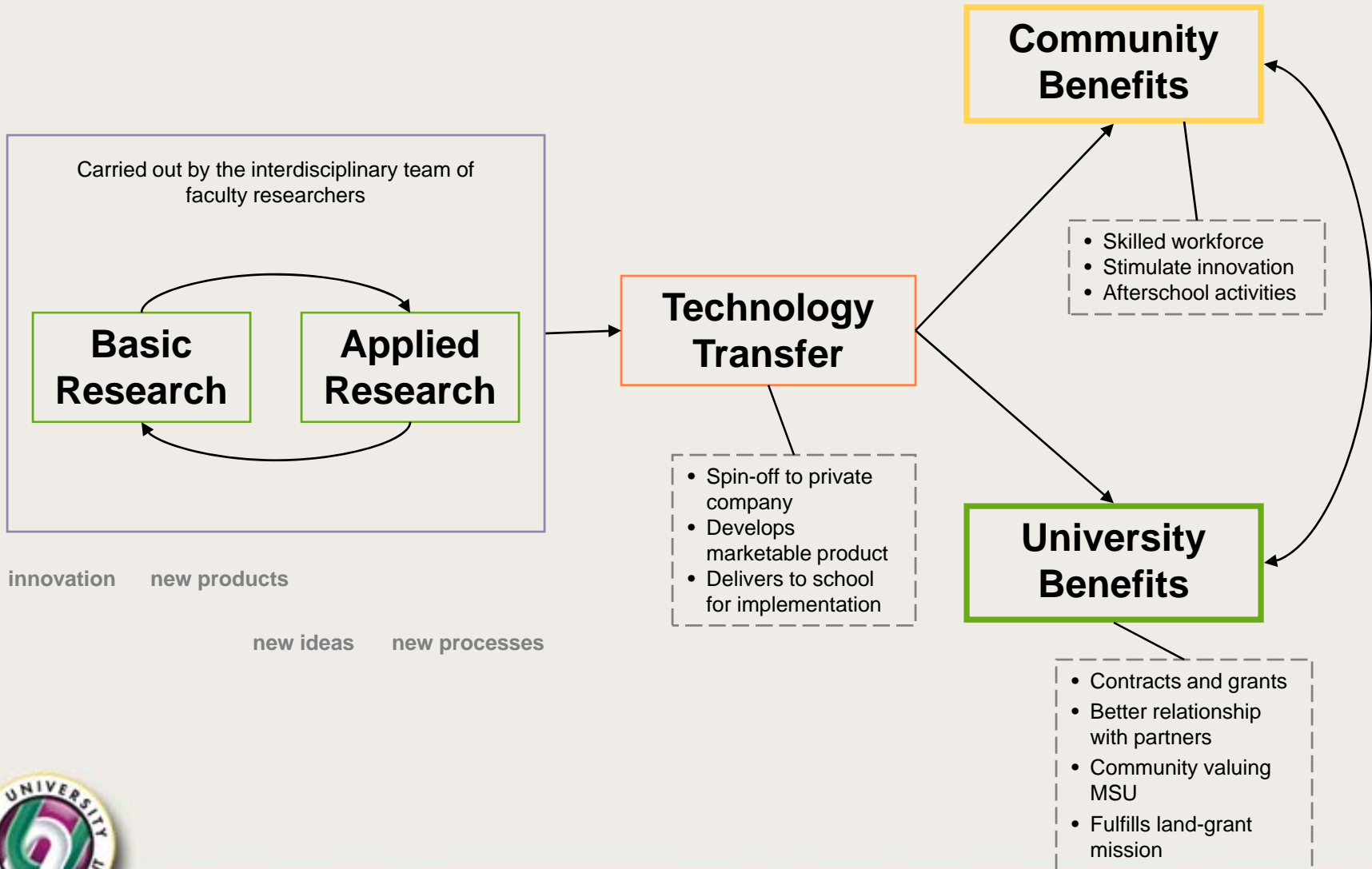
# An Approach to University-Community Engagement



# Steps Taken by the Interdisciplinary Team



# Research Process, Technology Transfer, and Benefits



## Contact Information

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