Collaboration for Impact Workshop

May 1, 2025

NH Perinatal Quality Collaborative Summit

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Learn about the Spectrum of Collaboration
- Review key components and principles of collaboration
- Review role of the backbone organization
- Discussion
  - Find shared alignment
  - Determine common purpose
  - What opportunities exist to strengthen the common purpose of your local council? (optional)
  - What collaborative work is going well across councils? Where is there opportunity to strengthen the work? (optional)

Group Agreements

- Take Space, **Make Space**

- **Listen to understand**, not to respond – seek clarity

- Bring **head and heart** in the room

- Feeling **discomfort is part of growth**

- Practice **self-care**

- Have an intention of **shared creation**

- What else?

WHO WE ARE

NH Hunger Solutions is a policy and advocacy non-profit that advocates to end food insecurity, improve equitable access to nutritious food, and address hunger's root causes for all people in New Hampshire.

Riona Corr
Deputy Director

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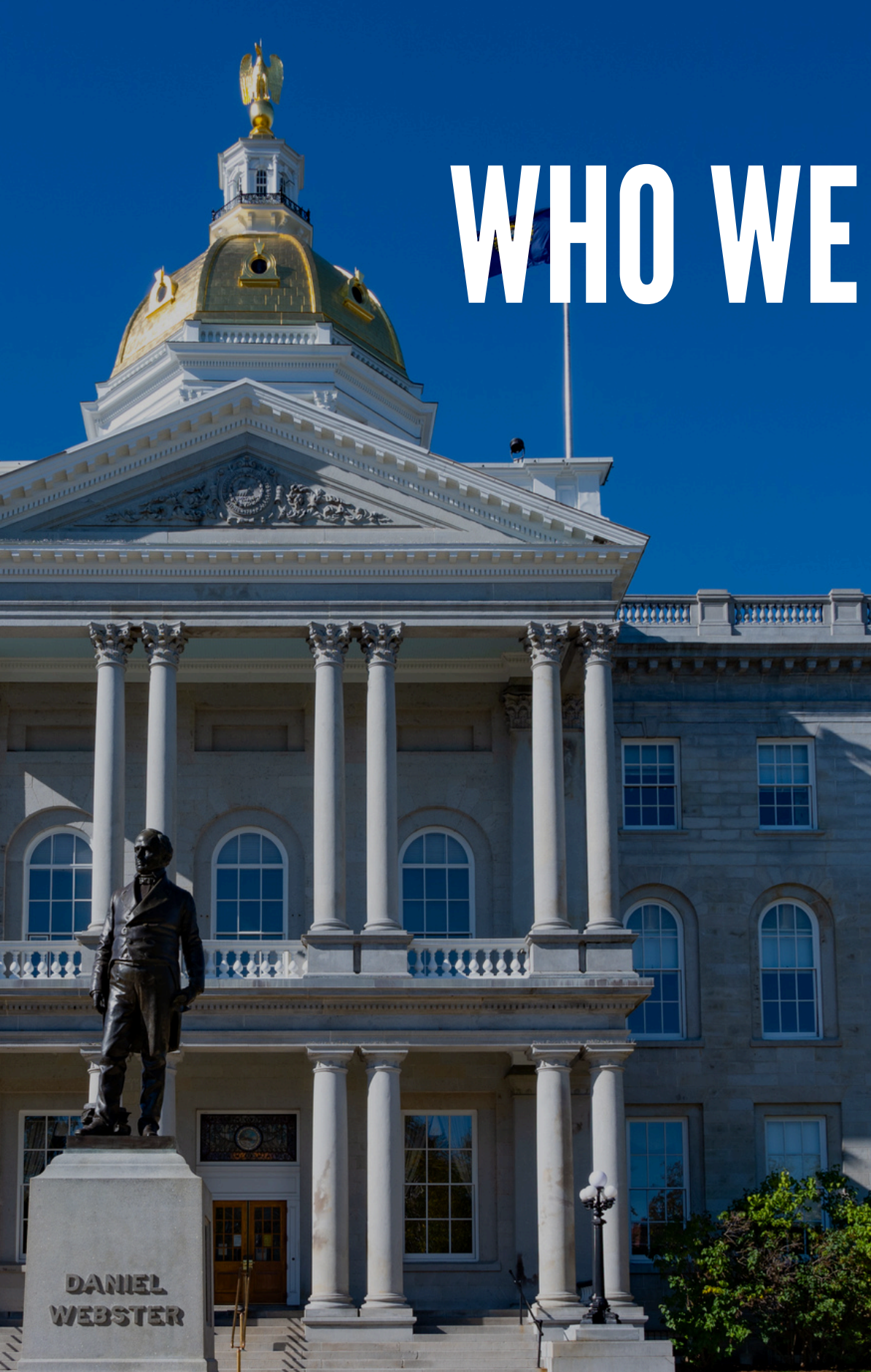
Food and Nutrition Supports
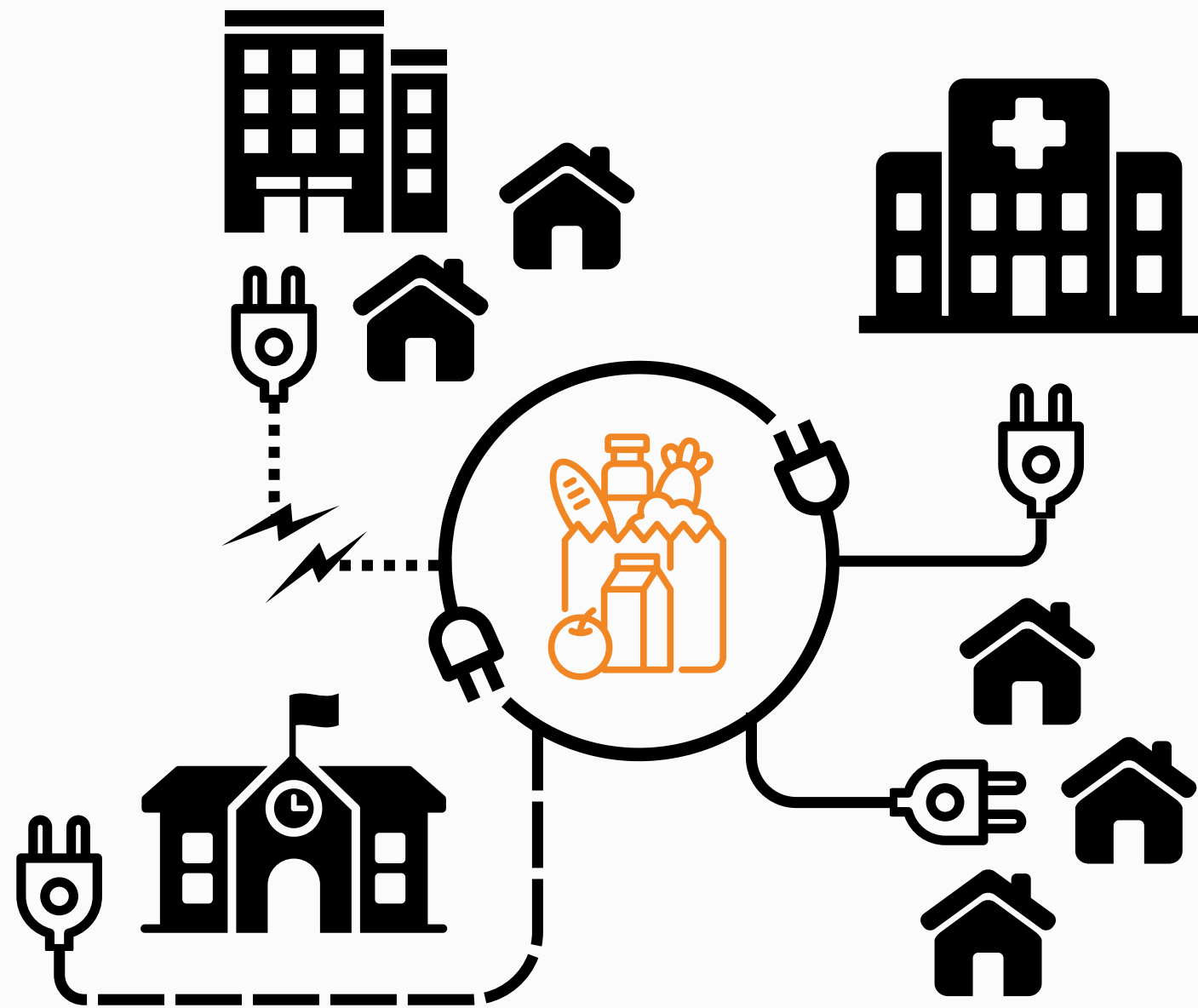
Our system of food and nutrition supports is like a power grid that moves healthy food through communities. In New Hampshire, the grid is well developed in some areas and patchy or non-existent in others

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Connecting to the Grid

How does NH Hunger Solutions connect people?

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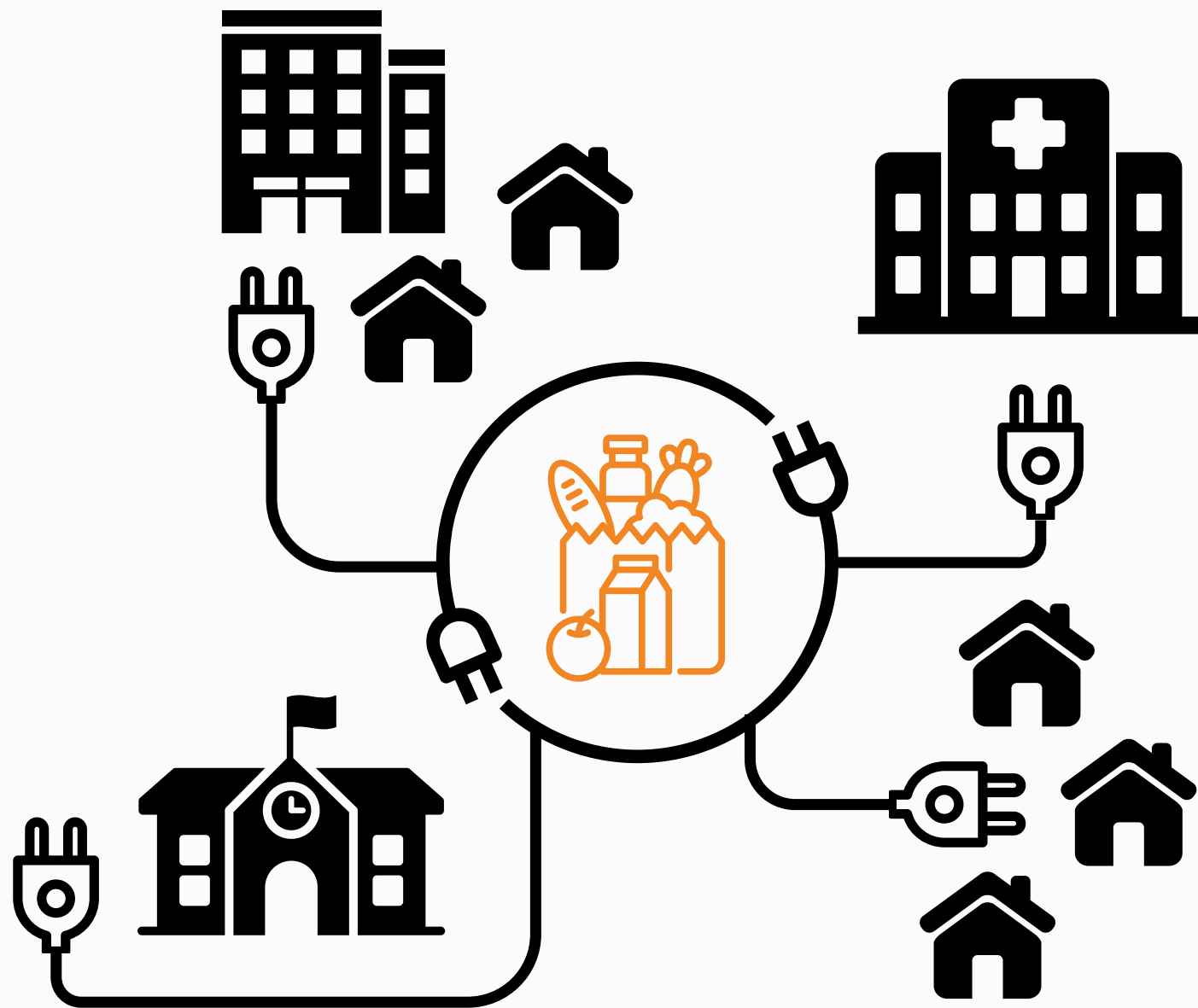
Our Work

Close the gap between eligible and enrolled in Federal Nutrition Programs

Close the Gap

Increase participation in school and summer meals

Feed Children

Increase public and policymaker understanding of hunger in NH and how to solve it

Raise Awareness

Support and build food access coalitions

Build Coalitions

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Food Access Coalitions

Community stakeholders and organizations that meet to improve local food systems and/or address hunger in their communities.

Statewide
- NH Food Access Coalition
  - SNAP Coalition
  - Nutrition and Health Equity
  - NH Nutrition Access Research Network
- NH Food Alliance

North Country
- North Country Food and Ag Council

Capital Area
- Capital Area Food Access (CAFA) Coalition

Lakes/Winnipesaukee Region
- Lakes Region Food Access Coalition

Carroll County
- Carroll County Food Access Network

Greater Nashua
- Greater Nashua Food Council

Greater Monadnock
- Monadnock Farm & Community Coalition
- Monadnock Understands Childhood Hunger
- Healthy Monadnock Alliance

Upper Valley
- Hunger Council of the Upper Valley
- Sullivan County Strong/New London Hospital

Greater Seacoast
- Seacoast Food Providers Network
- Strafford Public Health Healthy Living Workgroup

South Central:
- Greater Derry Food Council

Greater Manchester
- Manchester Food Collaborative
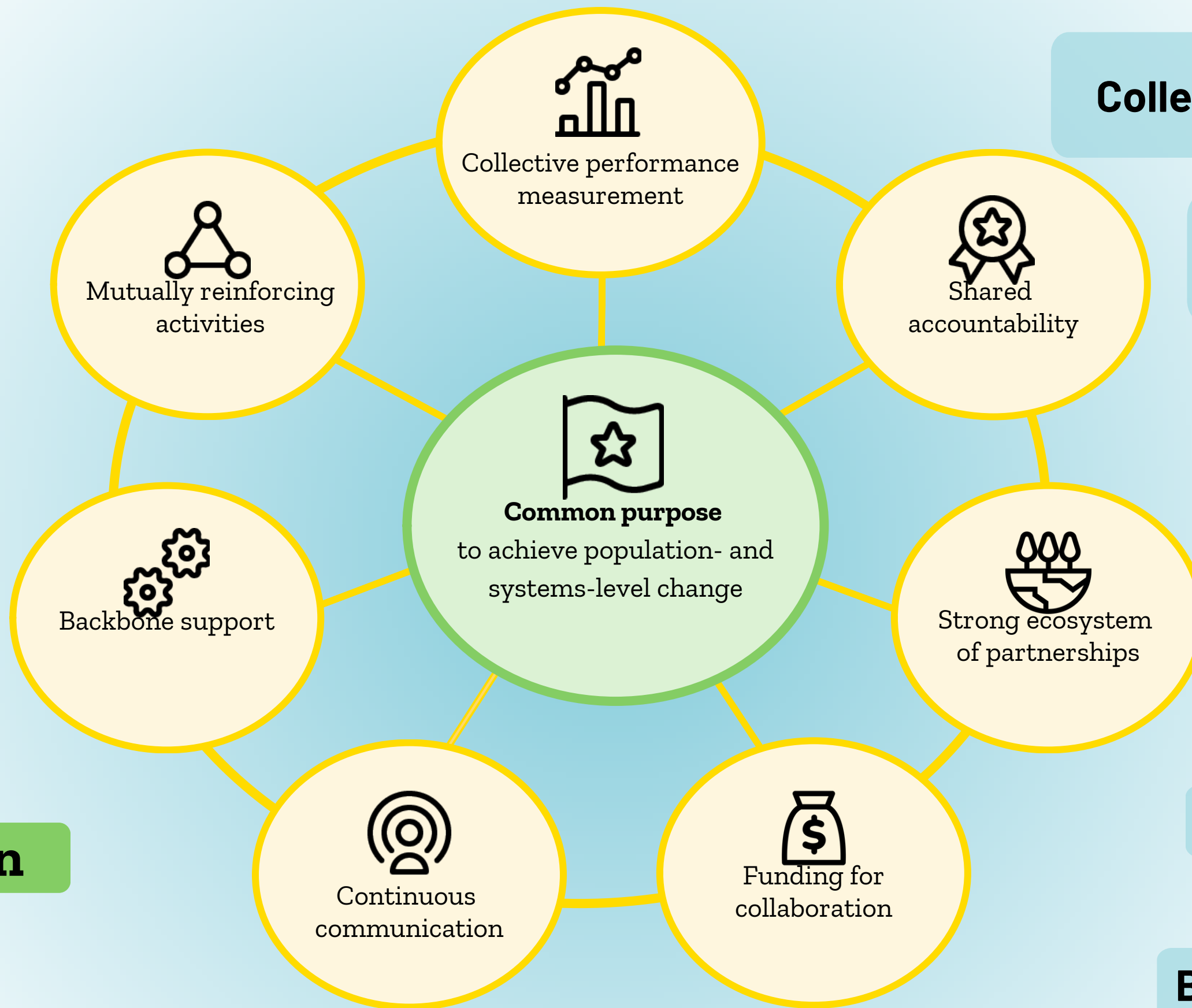

NEW HAMPSHIRE REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORKS

- ☑ North Country
- ☑ Upper Valley
- ☐ Central NH
- ☑ Carroll County
- ☑ Greater Sullivan County
- ☑ Winnipesaukee
- ☐ Strafford County
- ☑ Capital Area
- ☑ Greater Manchester
- ☑ Seacoast
- ☑ Greater Monadnock
- ☑ Greater Nashua
- ☑ South Central
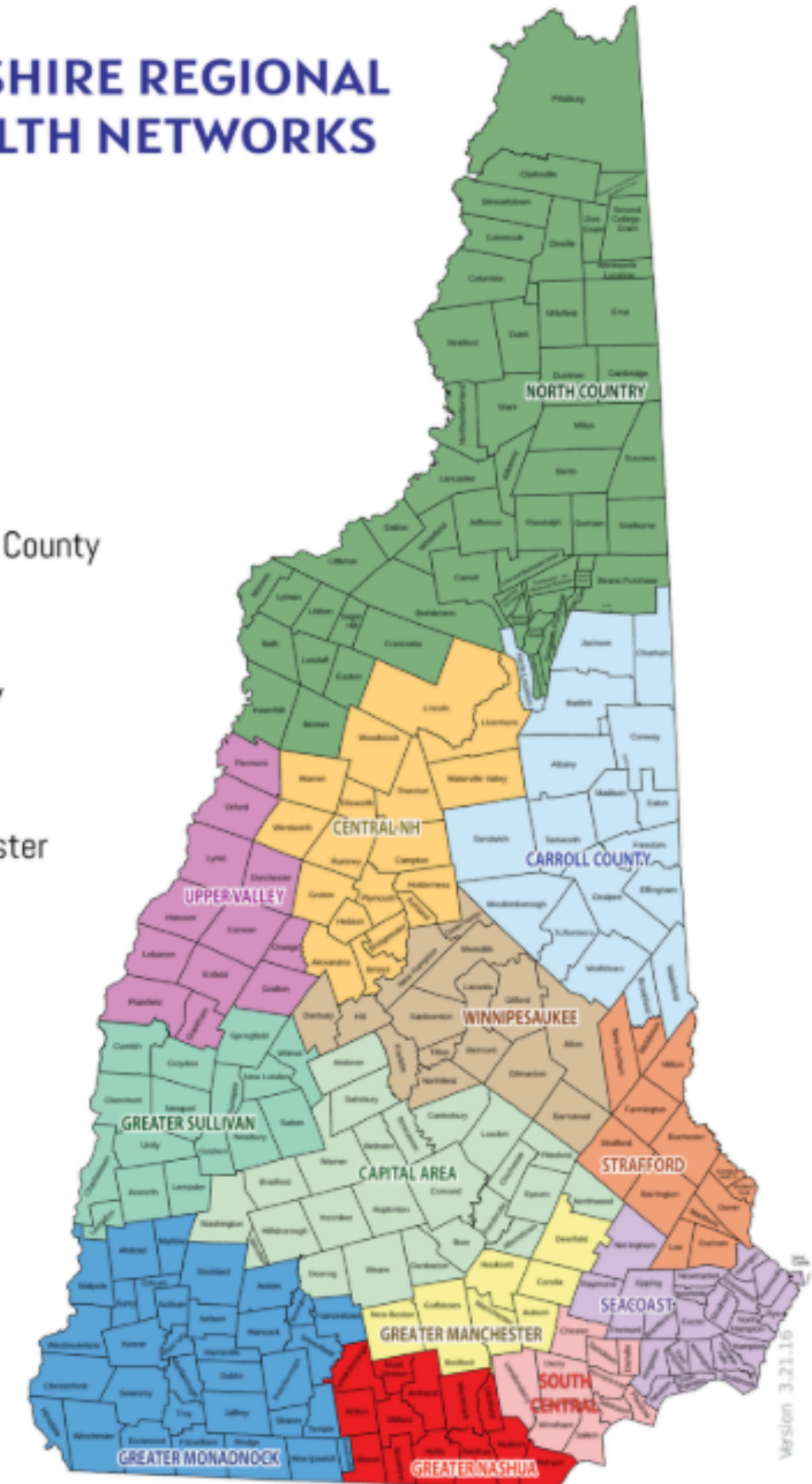
Spectrum of Collaboration

1 Information Exchange	2 Coordinated Effort	3 Cooperative Effort	4 Collective Action
Definition: Focuses on sharing knowledge and **networking** among teams.	**Definition:** Strengthening **relationships & referrals** among partners serving the same community.	**Definition:** Closing **service gaps** through coordinated planning and execution.	**Definition:** An approach to **systems change** that involves those most impacted by and impacting a challenge (working down-, mid-, and upstream) sharing power, trust, and resources.
Usefulness: • Building a resource and knowledge-sharing network • Fostering a sense of community	**Usefulness:** • Building partnerships • Locating service gaps • Reducing inefficiencies • Optimizing processes in a specific area	**Usefulness:** • Bridging service gaps • Improving service quality through collaboration with partners serving the same community (access, cultural resonance, data, etc.)	**Usefulness:** • Essential for addressing root causes that sustain inequitable outcomes in a community

Principles *and* Components *of* Collective Action

Collective performance measurement

Mutually reinforcing activities

Shared accountability

Common purpose
to achieve population- and systems-level change

Backbone support

Strong ecosystem of partnerships

Continuous communication

Funding for collaboration

Collective action is equity work

Relationships & community first

Shift & share power

Seek to learn

Context matters

See the larger ecosystem

Balance flexibility & focus

Components of Effective Collaboration

Common Purpose — A shared and well-defined goal that unites participants in their collaborative efforts.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities — Coordinated actions and tasks that complement each other, contributing to the achievement of the common purpose.

Backbone Support — A central support that helps facilitate the collaborative effort.

Continuous Communication — The ongoing exchange of information, feedback, and updates among participants to maintain alignment, progress, and relationships.

Funding for Collaboration — Resources allocated to facilitate and sustain the collaborative effort.

Strong Ecosystem of Partnerships — A network of diverse and strategic partnerships that bring in varied expertise, experience, and resources.

Shared Accountability — The collective responsibility and commitment of participants to achieve the goals of the collaboration.

Collective Performance Measurement — The systematic assessment and tracking of progress and outcomes to gauge the success of the collaborative effort, and continuously learn and improve their efforts along the way.

Foundational Principles of Collaboration

The following principles guide collective action initiatives towards their common purpose while ensuring a focus on, practice, and advancement of equity:

Collective action is equity work

Equity is the aim, practice, and approach needed for systems- and population-level change.

Relationships & community first

Building, rebuilding, and nurturing trusting relationships is core to all collective action work.

Shift & share power

Cede space for the leadership of those most directly impacted by, and most directly impacting, the central challenge.

Seek to learn

Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement.

Balance flexibility & focus

Hold to the common purpose and values of the initiative; be

Context matters

Ground work in the history, vision, and other data local to the

See the larger ecosystem

Understand the ecosystem in which the challenge sits to

Local Food Access Coalition/Council Infrastructure

Driven by Common Purpose and Take Action in Collaboration

Strategic guidance | *Partner-driven action*
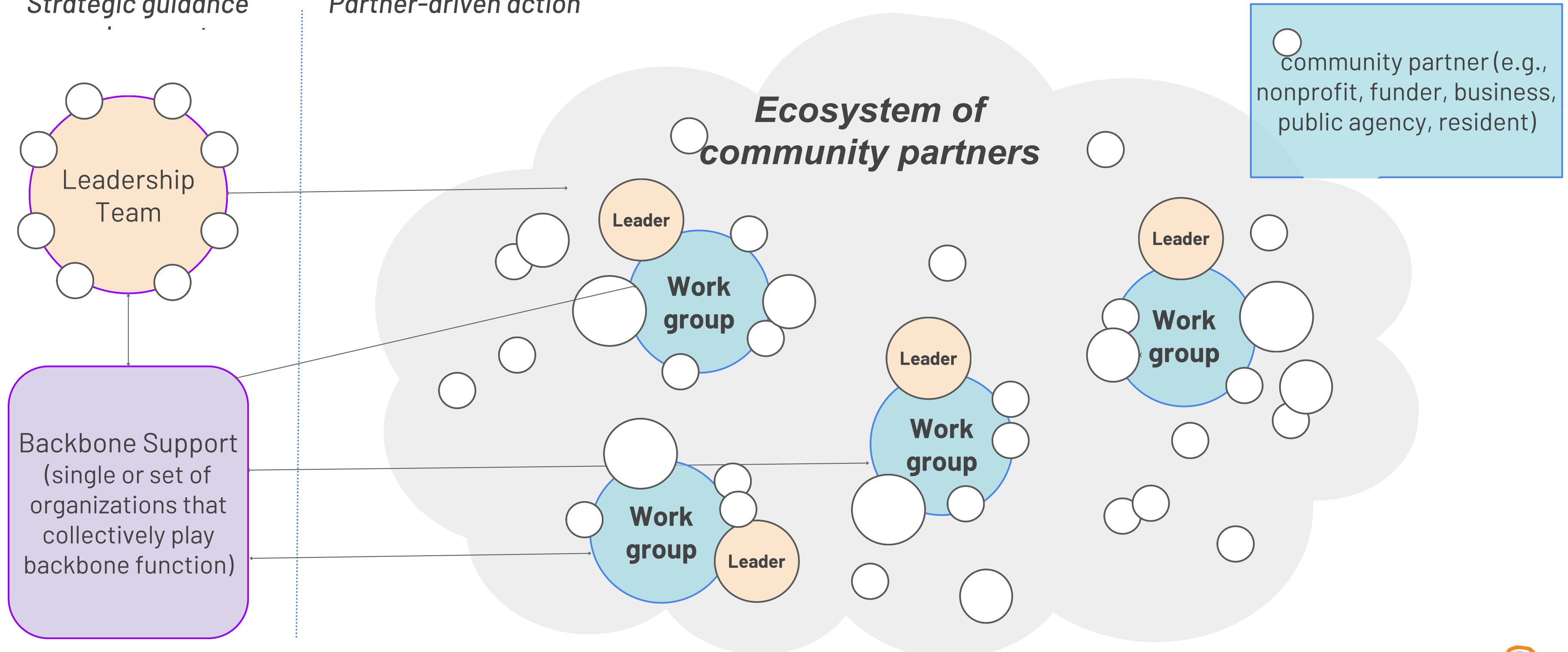
Leadership Team

Backbone Support (single or set of organizations that collectively play backbone function)

Ecosystem of community partners

community partner (e.g., nonprofit, funder, business, public agency, resident)

Leader

Work group

Leader

Work group

Leader

Work group

Leader

Work group

NHHS Lessons Learned

1. **Ensure commitment and capacity of Backbone Team members.**

   The backbone team provides critical long-term support for the initiative over its lifetime.
   As a collaborative matures, its work evolves with emerging learnings and changing conditions. Backbone teams help ensure that initiatives have the capacity they need to be highly effective and adaptive over time while staying true to their mission and values.
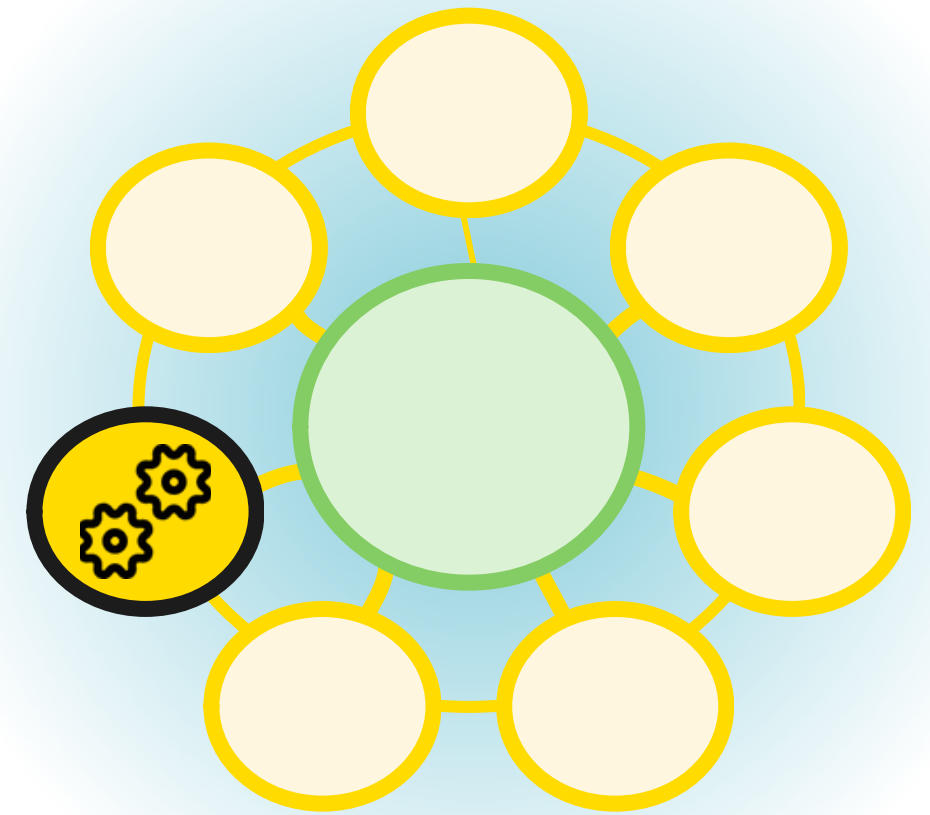
   Addresses: "Who's leading?" "Who is organizing?"

Functions of the backbone

| Function	Definition	Example
Center equity and the common purpose	Guide strategy, alignment, and evolution of the initiative towards equity and the common purpose	Provide those impacting and impacted by the work with an opportunity to learn about and provide input on the common purpose
Support aligned activities	Support coordination and collaboration across the initiative to ensure work is on track, mutually reinforcing, and aligned towards the vision	Facilitate regular meetings with members to ensure work is aligned and discuss progress on goals
Manage shared data, learning, and measurement systems	Manage shared performance measurement of the initiative for the purposes of learning, evaluation, accountability, and telling the story of the collective work	Facilitate discussions to develop/refine metrics to track progress towards goals; collect data and report out to stakeholders

Functions of the backbone

Function	Definition	Example
Cultivate community leadership and engagement	Cultivate community leadership of the initiative through intentional relationship building, and by sharing and shifting decision making power to those closest to the collective work.	Invite those impacted by the issue being addressed to participate on committees developing/refining solutions
Support community-led advocacy and policy change	Support community-led advocacy and policy change to remove barriers to collective progress.	Regularly share goals and data showing progress with those in positions to influence policy to reduce barriers in the work
Secure and develop initiative resources	Secure, develop, and mobilize resources for the initiative, including fundraising and recruiting staff and other non-monetary supports.	Meet with funders regularly to keep them informed of the work, the importance of collaboration to achieve key goals, and resources needed for collaboration

NHHS Lessons Learned

2. Confirm and validate mutually reinforcing activities

Coordinated actions and tasks that complement each other, contributing to the achievement of the common purpose.
As a collaboration starts to coordinate activities, make sure that participating partners see where their organizational activities are supported by the coalition and vice versa.
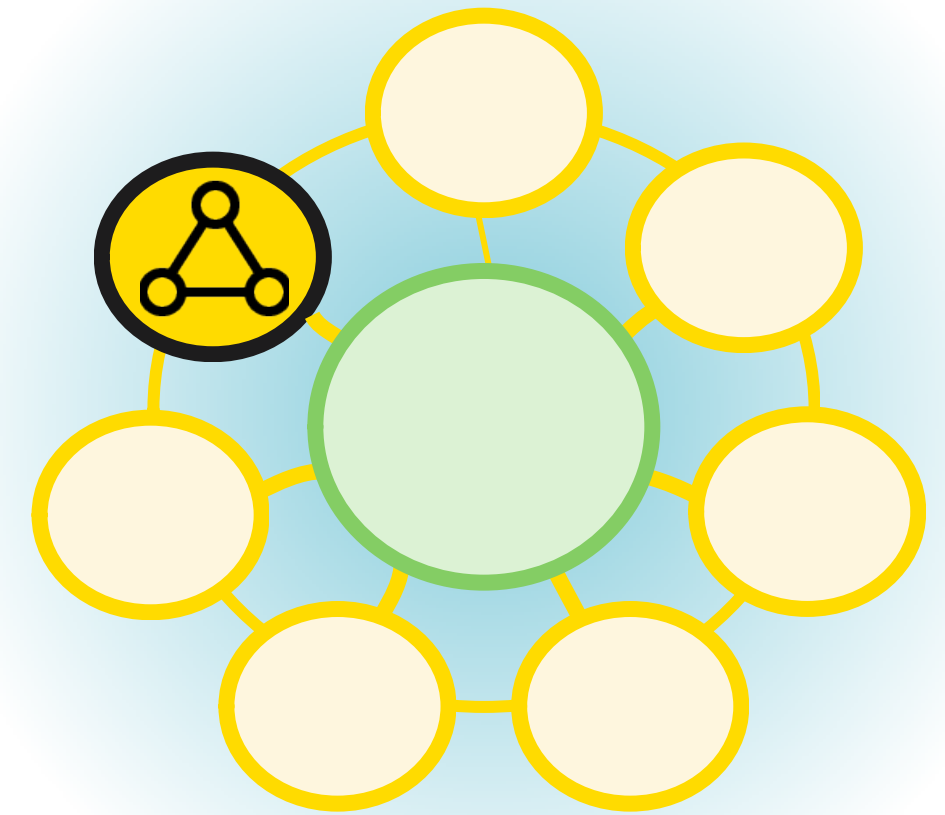
Addresses: "Why am I here?" "What's in it for our organization?"

Collaboration in Practice - Finding Alignment

1-1 Discussion (10 minutes)

Step 1: Find someone new or that you do not know well to partner with

Introduce yourselves, your title, your organization, and bullet points of your organizations mission and/or priorities (take turns 2-3 minutes each)

Step 2: Find alignment

Identify at least one priority where your organizations align that you could meet about at a future date to discuss collaboration.

Group Discussion (5 minutes): Discuss your reflections with other members of your initiatives who are here today.

Collaboration in Practice - Discovering Mutually Reinforcing Activities

Group Project (20 minutes)

Step 1: Group (10 minutes) Identify coalition strategies/projects

Using the worksheet given to you for this activity identify 3 potential projects and or strategies your current coalition is working on. (Try to partner up with current coalition partners)

Step 2: Self-reflection (5 minutes) Determine Priority Strategies/Priorities

Using the worksheet rate each of the columns 1, 2, or 3. 1 is the strongest and 3 is the weakest.

Group Discussion (5-10 minutes): Discuss your results with other members of your initiatives who are here today. What is one takeaway to celebrate as a small win.

Stay Connected

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Collaboration in Practice - Within our own Councils

Solo Reflection: 5 minutes

Step 1: Review the *Common Purpose* best practices

Your handout includes the list of best practices to help you think about your **Common Purpose,** how it was developed, and if there are opportunities to strengthen it

Step 2: Reflection on <u>current</u> state, <u>future</u> state, and <u>bridging</u> states

Your handout includes reflection questions and space to jot down initial thoughts.

Group Discussion (20 minutes): Discuss your reflections with other members of your initiatives who are here today. ***Identify 1-2 next steps*** you may consider to strengthen the common purpose of your work together.

Collaboration in Practice - Across Councils

- **How do Coalitions/Councils collaborate well with one another now?**
- **What opportunities exist for the councils to strengthen their collaboration locally and across the network?**
  - What opportunities exist to engage other stakeholders?
  - How can the NH FAC support collaboration within and among councils?

Discuss with other council members: 15 minutes
Share a key takeaway for each question with full group: 10 minutes

XXX Infrastructure

Leadership Team	• Provides strategic direction for the initiative • Champions the work • Aligns own work to common agenda • Some Steering Committee members serve on working groups
Backbone Support	• Provides dedicated staff • Supports the work of partners by assisting with strategic guidance, supporting aligned activity, establishing shared measurement, building public will, advancing policy, and mobilizing resources
Working Group	• Comprised of cross-sector community partners targeting particular element of common agenda • Typically led by co-chairs, supported by the backbone • Designs and implements strategies, involving non-working group members as needed
Community Partner	• Individual organizations and members of the community (e.g, nonprofit, funder, business, public agency, student, parent,) • Partners should have access to a variety of opportunities to learn about and engage in the initiative, and will be key to implementing strategies • Ultimate "power" resides within the community at large