The Role of Philanthropy in Fostering Collaboration through Cross-Sector Networks
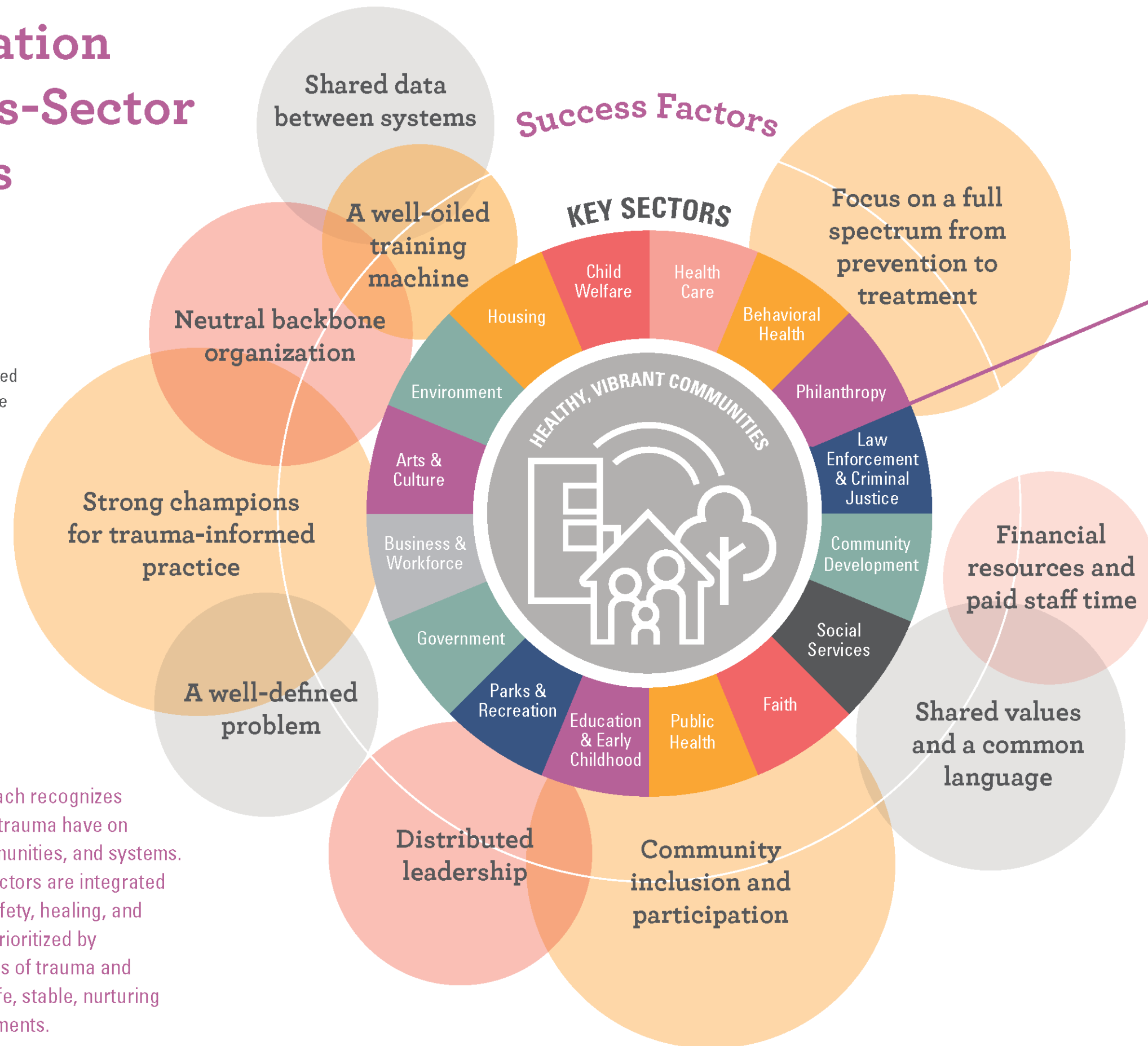
A companion to
Trauma-Informed Philanthropy

Collaboration and Cross-Sector Networks

ACEs and trauma are complex issues deeply rooted in social conditions, which no one organization or sector alone can transform. Real change can only occur with multifaceted strategies that capitalize on the unique expertise of diverse stakeholders.

Collaboration is critical to building trauma-informed, resilient communities. Cross-sector networks facilitate and accelerate the development of collaborative relationships.

A trauma-informed approach recognizes the impact that ACEs and trauma have on individuals, families, communities, and systems. Services from different sectors are integrated and aligned to promote safety, healing, and resilience. Prevention is prioritized by addressing the root causes of trauma and creating conditions for safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.

Success Factors

- Shared data between systems
- A well-oiled training machine
- Neutral backbone organization
- Strong champions for trauma-informed practice
- A well-defined problem
- Distributed leadership
- Community inclusion and participation
- Financial resources and paid staff time
- Shared values and a common language
- Focus on a full spectrum from prevention to treatment

KEY SECTORS

HEALTHY, VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

- Child Welfare
- Health Care
- Behavioral Health
- Philanthropy
- Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice
- Community Development
- Social Services
- Faith
- Public Health
- Education & Early Childhood
- Parks & Recreation
- Government
- Business & Workforce
- Arts & Culture
- Environment
- Housing

the role of philanthropy

PROVIDE FUNDING
- General operating support
- Project-based initiatives
- Evaluation support

CHAMPION THE CAUSE
- Act as an amplifier for the work of the network

FOSTER COLLABORATION
- Open lines of communication between different organizations both within and across sectors

Continuum of Collaborative Relationships Facilitated by Cross-Sector Networks

COLLABORATING

Enhancing capacity of multiple organizations through shared responsibility and accountability for project tasks, metrics, and goals

COOPERATING

Sharing resources among multiple organizations toward a set of common goals

COORDINATING

Aligning work from multiple organizations toward a set of common goals

NETWORKING

Exchanging information at stakeholder convenings virtually and in-person

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

MEANINGFUL SHARED WORK

For more information about how philanthropy can foster collaboration through cross-sector networks, read part 2 of *Trauma-Informed Philanthropy, Volume 2* (pg 26-32).