



INTERACT
FOR HEALTH

STRATEGY UPDATE

FEBRUARY 13, 2025



Agenda

- Welcome
- 2024 Overview & Reflections
 - Values, Roles, Principles, Strategic Framework, Grantmaking Snapshot, Reflections
- 2025 Plans
 - Key Refinements, Strategic Priorities, Goals Grantmaking Plans, Key Dates, Office Hours
- Q & A



2024 OVERVIEW & REFLECTIONS



Our Why

Vision

People in our region are healthy and thriving, regardless of who they are or where they live.

Mission

To ensure people in our region have a just opportunity to live their healthiest lives.





Our Values



WE TACKLE ROOT CAUSES



WE AMPLIFY COMMUNITY POWER



WE SPEAK OPENLY



WE PARTNER WITH TRUST



WE ARE RELENTLESS PROBLEM SOLVERS



WE STRIVE FOR IMPACT



Our Priority Populations

It shouldn't matter where you live, how much money you make, or what your race or ethnicity is – everyone should have the ability to shape their communities and access the resources they need for good health. Interact for Health focuses on groups that are facing the greatest barriers to health and well-being.



Black communities



Hispanic communities



Children in families with low incomes



Rural communities



LGBTQ+ communities



Our Roles: How We Work



Flexible, catalytic funder



Trusted, non-partisan voice for change



Independent, regional convener



Amplifier of community voice



Go-to resource for data on health and health justice



2023-2027 Strategic Priorities

- 1. Community Power Building:** We support efforts that shift power dynamics to ensure that those most impacted by health inequities are leading and deciding.
- 2. Policy & Systems Change:** We support public policy changes that improve health equity and mental health, and we work to elevate community voices and change narratives to address the root causes of inequities.
- 3. Mental Health & Well-Being:** We aim to improve mental health and well-being by strengthening systems and supports for young people and removing systemic barriers in mental health overall.



2024 Grantmaking Snapshot

BY THE NUMBERS

49 Grants to 44 Grantee Partners

Avg. Amount: **\$139,244**

Avg. Duration: **20 months**

New Partners: **15**

Multi-Year Grants: **29**

FOCUS AREA SUMMARY

Community Power (\$2M total)

15 grants; \$135K avg

Mental Health (\$2.5M total)

16 grants; \$154K avg

Policy & Systems Change (\$2.3M)

18 grants; \$130K avg



Capacity Building

- Offered **11 capacity building trainings** for over 600 participants
- Implemented comprehensive **sustainability program** for 12 organizations over a 15-month period
- Provided **access to external resources** like Bayer Center capacity building and APF's Fundamentals of Fundraising, with over 80 users
- Shared **Policy Map licenses** with 98 organizations and more than 200 users



2024 Strategy Highlights

- Launched a **rural investment strategy**
- Awarded 3 communities within the urban/suburban core to **support community-identified priorities** that advance health equity
- Focused primarily on **youth prevention** within our mental health strategy and partnered to launch **HEY!**
- Moved to **larger, multi-year grants** with aligned partners
- Revamped our **event sponsorship** process to be more accessible



From Feedback to Action

2024 Grantee Perception Survey



THE CENTER
FOR EFFECTIVE
PHILANTHROPY

- Confidential survey of grantee partners on Interact's impact, equity and justice, interactions and communications, and grant processes
- Significant improvements in all areas since 2021, thanks to feedback and partnership with grantees

“ Their focus on health equity and supporting underrepresented communities aligns perfectly with what we’re trying to achieve... Their influence goes beyond just financial support; they inspire us to keep pushing for greater equity and opportunities for everyone! ”



2025 PLANS



OUR HEALTH, OUR OPPORTUNITY

UNLOCKING POSSIBILITIES FOR A HEALTHY,
THRIVING GREATER CINCINNATI

INTERACT
FOR HEALTH

Every person deserves the opportunity to live their healthiest life.



We all want :



The opportunity to thrive where we live, learn, work, and play.



To be treated with dignity and respect, no matter who we are.



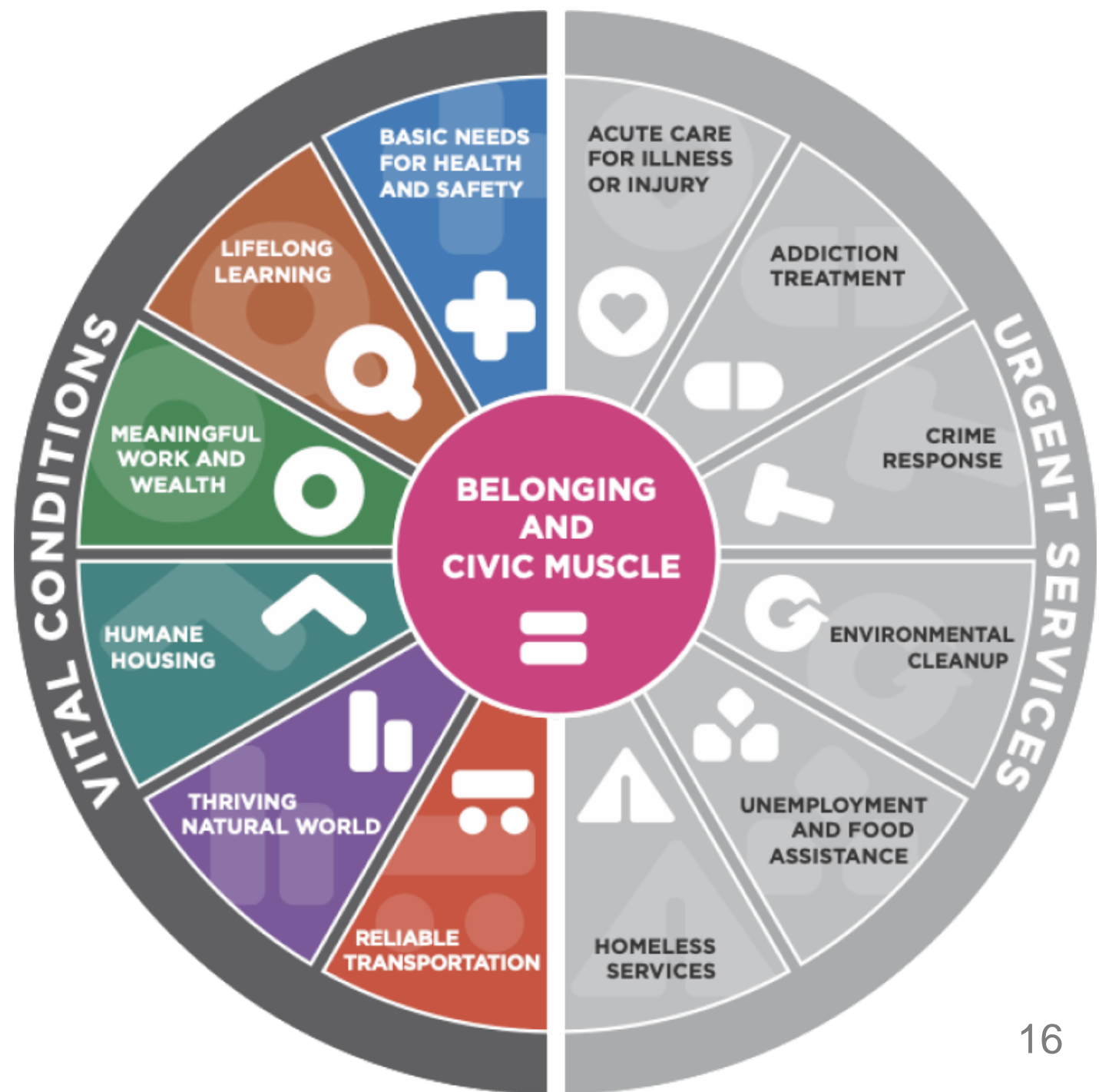
To be seen and heard for who we are.



To know that we matter, have a voice, and can contribute.



Factors that impact health and well-being



Vital Conditions vs Urgent Services -
The Rippel Foundation

VISION

People in our region are healthy and thriving, regardless of who they are or where they live.

MISSION

To ensure people in our region have a just opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

VALUES



We tackle root causes



We amplify community power



We speak openly



We partner with trust

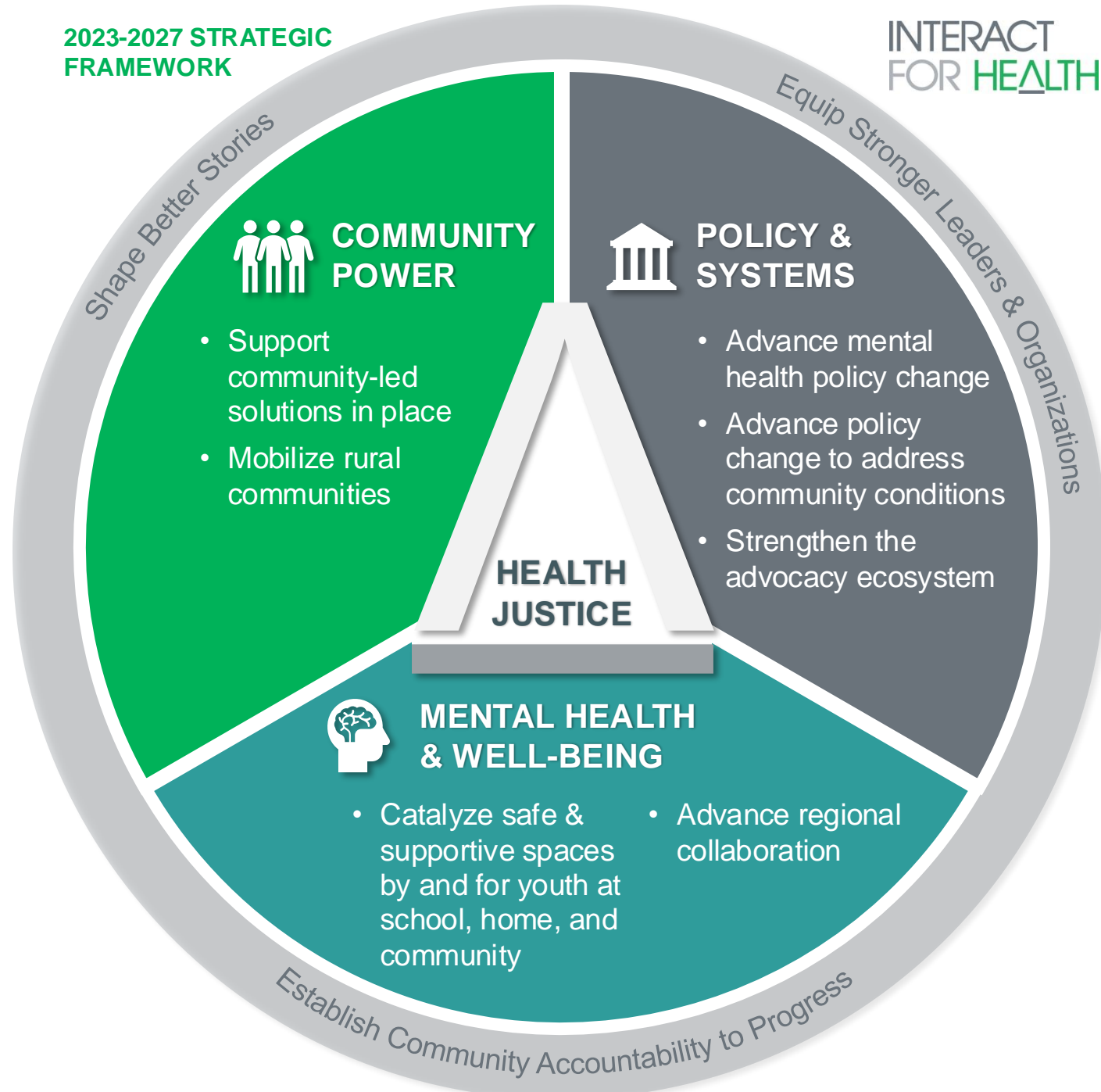


We are relentless problem solvers



We strive for impact

2023-2027 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



PRIORITY POPULATIONS

- Black communities
- Hispanic communities
- Low-income families
- Rural communities
- LGBTQ+ communities

HOW WE WORK

- Flexible, catalytic funder
- Trusted, nonpartisan voice
- Independent, regional convener
- Amplifier of community voice
- Go-to resource for data

GENERATIONAL IMPACT

Health justice is achieved when a person's health is no longer determined by who they are or where they live.

We strive for a system that produces overall improvement and reduced disparities in:

- ↑ Life expectancy, quality of life
- ↑ Mental health, well-being
- ↓ Racism, discrimination
- ↓ Deaths of despair and premature death



Community Power

Strategies:

- Community-Led Solutions in Place
- Mobilize Rural Communities

Goals:

- Increase the number of community-led policy, system, and physical changes
- Increase the voice, agency, and resources to community-led plans



Community Power

2025 Focus:

Continuing to support community-identified priorities that advance health equity with our 3 community-led solutions in place communities

- **Middletown**, Middletown Connects
- **Beekman Corridor**, Working in Neighborhoods
- **Lincoln Heights**, The Heights Movement



Community Power

2025 Rural Investment Strategy:

- **Rural Changemaker RFP** provides strategic funding that enhances and supports grassroots work related to the vital conditions for health and well-being—the resources we all need to thrive.
 - Deadlines – April 14th and September 8th
- **Event Sponsorships** will be available to support rural events. Funding opportunities will support local initiatives and collaborations, increasing the impact in our rural regions.
 - Deadlines - March 31, May 31, July 31, September 30, November 30
- **Rural Community Councils** is the convening of community members from our rural regions in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana that will inform our grantmaking and rural strategy.



Policy & Systems

Strategies:

- Advance mental health policy change
- Advance policy change to address social drivers
- Strengthen the advocacy ecosystem



Policy & Systems

Goals:

- Increase the pace, number, and quality of advocacy and policy wins
- Expand and strengthen the capacity, skills, and collaboration of organizations advancing health equity policy efforts



Policy & Systems

2025 Grantmaking:

- ***Open RFP, Local Policy***, will be released focused on advancing local policy and advocacy efforts that address the vital conditions of health
- ***Open RFP, Advocacy Capacity Building***, will be released focused supporting nonprofit organizations to strengthen their organizational culture, mindsets, and practices for policy and advocacy efforts focused on the vital conditions for health and well-being.



Policy & Systems

2025 Grantmaking:

- Invited RFP focused on supporting organizations to engage in equitable advocacy and policy change efforts that address the vital conditions for health and well-being and promote mental health and well-being.



Mental Health & Well-Being

Strategies:

- Catalyze safe & supportive spaces by and for youth at school, home, and community
- Advance regional collaboration to drive systems change, primarily through HEY!



Mental Health & Well-Being

Goals:

- Expand evidence-informed prevention policies, practices, and/or programs to priority schools and communities that promote mattering, belonging, and other factors that support positive mental health and resilience in youth
- Increase the number of young people informing and deciding upon policies, practices, and/or programs that impact them



Mental Health & Well-Being

2025 Grantmaking:

- Invited RFP for current and new partners to catalyze safe & supportive spaces by and for youth at school, home, and community
- Investing in the implementation of HEY!
- Building community capacity to support youth-led organizing and changemaking



Cross-Cutting Strategy

Strategies:

Equip grantees, partners, and communities to deepen their impact in advancing health justice by:

- Shifting dominant narratives about health and well-being
- Strengthening leaders and organizations
- Improving understanding of community progress toward achieving health justice



Cross-Cutting Strategy

2025 Plans:

- Capacity building
 - Invited grantee sustainability program
 - Open quarterly trainings; Open advocacy capacity building cohort (~May '25)
- Data accessibility
 - [Policymap license](#) available to partners
 - Open RFP: [Data for Equity](#) (closed 2/7)
- Partnership with Rippel Foundation
 - Vital Conditions for Health & Well-Being Webinar 2.25.25 ([register](#))



Summary of Key Dates

- **Data for Equity RFP:** Closed February 7th
- **Rural Changemaker RFP:**
 - Informational Webinar: Wednesday, February 19th, 3:00 p.m.
 - Deadlines: April 14th and September 8th
- **Local Policy RFP:**
 - Release: February 18th
 - Informational Webinar: Tuesday, March 4th, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
 - Deadline: April 4th
- **Advocacy Capacity Building RFP:** Anticipated May 2025 release



Summary of Key Dates

- **Event Sponsorships:** Deadlines - March 31, May 31, July 31, September 30, and November 30
 - [Open RFPs are posted here](#)
 - [Apply for event sponsorships here](#)



Community Information Sessions

Local Policy RFP

- Wednesday, March 12th, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., *Interact for Health office*
- Monday, March 17th, 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., *Virtual*



Rural Office Hours

- Brown County Public Library
 - Friday, February 14th
 - Thursday, August 21st
- Grant County Public Library
 - Thursday, March 6th
 - Thursday, September 4th
- Tyson Library-Versailles
 - Thursday, February 20th
 - Thursday, August 28th

All Rural Office Hours will be held from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Contact us to learn more



Rural Strategy
Caitlin Bentley



Community Power
Julian Collins



Local Policy
Megan Folkerth



Mental Health Policy
Sonya Carrico



Youth Mental Health - Community
Deanna Hilliard



Youth Mental Health - Schools
Lisa Myers



Contact us to learn more



President & CEO
[Kate Schroder](#)



*Community Power,
Policy & Systems*
[Ashlee Young](#)



*Mental Health &
Well-Being*
[Ross Meyer](#)



@InteractForHealth



@Interact4Health

www.interactforhealth.org



Q & A