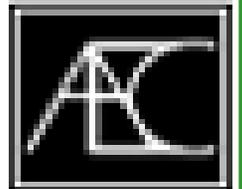


Annie E Casey Foundation

Making CONNECTIONS

October 6, 2004



Annie E Casey Foundation

- The Annie E. Casey Foundation was established in 1948 by Jim Casey, one of the founders of United Parcel Service
- The Foundation was named in honor of their mother
- The mission of the Foundation is to foster public policies, human service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of today's vulnerable children and families

Making Connections: The Basics

Making Connections is.... the Foundation's initiative to improve outcomes for some of the nation's most vulnerable children and families. The initiative is conducted through deep and durable partnerships with selected cities and neighborhoods across the United States.

The Problems We Are Trying to Address

- Approximately 15% of American children live with family risk factors that threaten their futures.
- These children and their families are disproportionately concentrated in the toughest neighborhoods of American cities.
- These neighborhoods, and the families that live there, are disconnected from the mainstream of the American economy, have poorer public and human services, and generally less supportive social relationships.
- The economic opportunities available to these families are fewer, and harder to grasp, than for most American families
- Schools, police, child care, health services, and other supports often don't function well in these neighborhoods, further eroding families' chances of getting ahead.

The Premise....

Children do better when they grow up in strong families, and families do better when they live in supportive neighborhoods.

Thus, *Making Connections* strategies are dually aimed at helping families obtain what they need to be strong and raise their children, and helping neighborhoods gain the resources they need to support families.

Neighborhood Transformation Family Development

- Building political will & public support
- Strengthening the field; encouraging potentially relevant work
- Enacting, demonstrating and testing the ideas
- Developing policy initiatives

Achieving the Results: Making Connections' Theory of Change

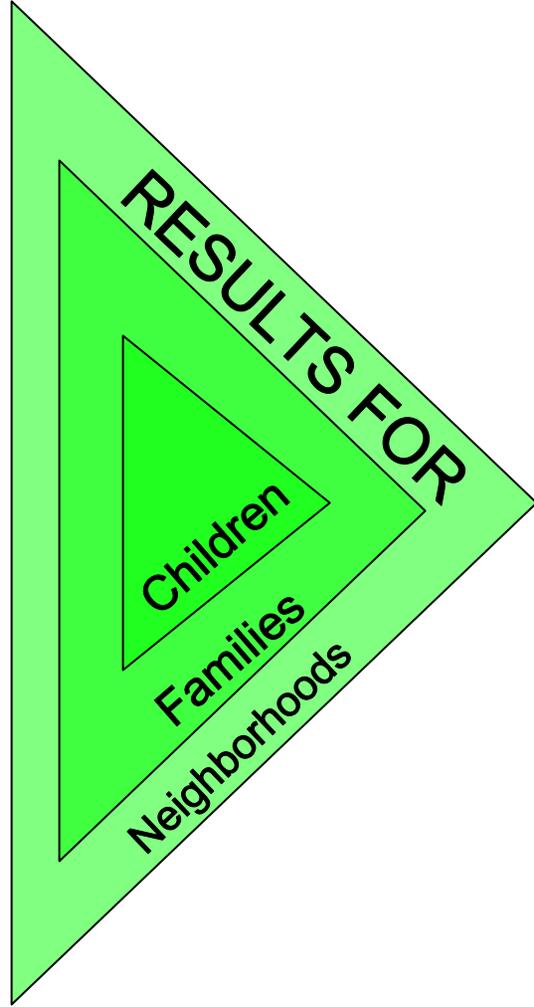
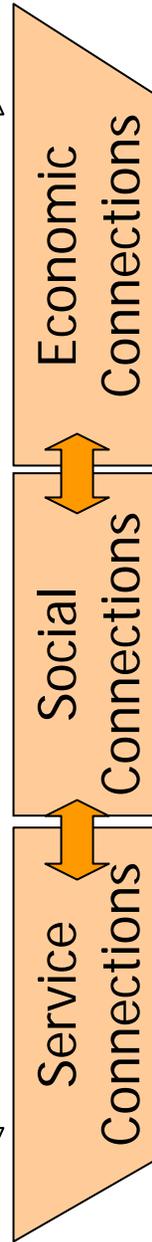
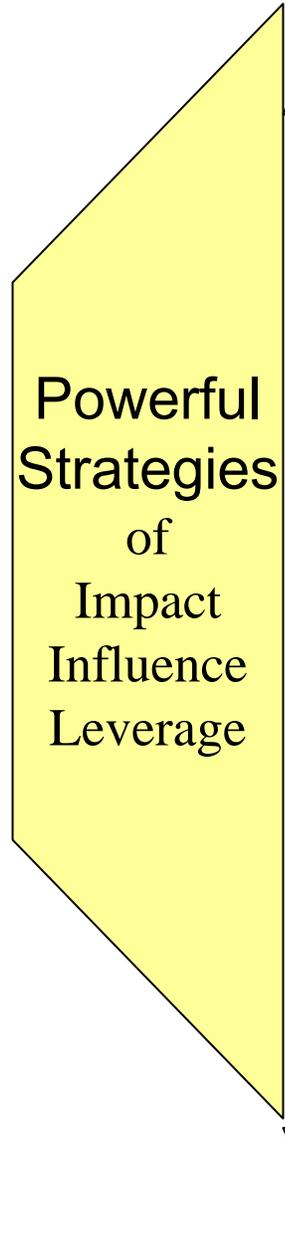
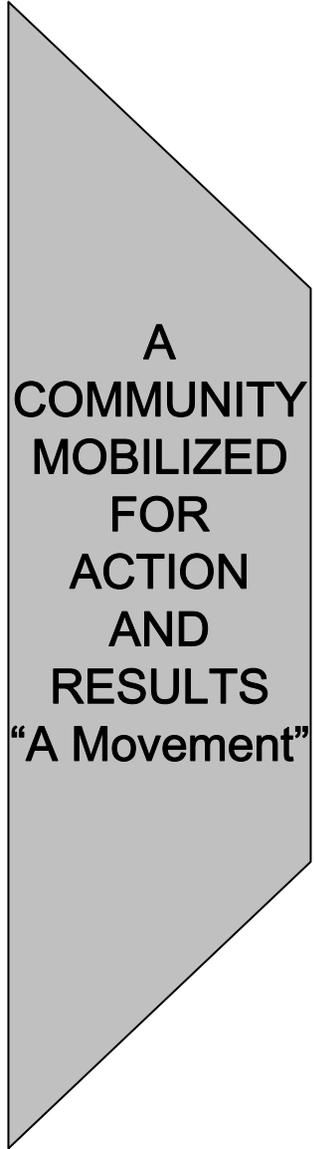
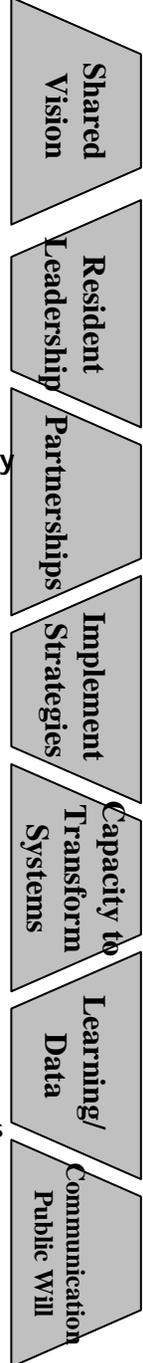
- In 2003, we've developed and shared the theory, and it is becoming useful to site teams
- The theory is being put into practice: sites are connecting families to...
 - Economic opportunities
 - Social networks
 - Supports and services that work

AECF



- Enhance capacity
- Create conditions
- Identify opportunity
- Bring knowledge
- Foster learning
- Build relationships
- Leverage resources
- Reduce barriers

**Local
Community**



Casey's Role

- Using site investments and TA to:
 - Influence how sites work toward results, the way partners work together, the strategies that are developed and implemented, and the capacity built to sustain this work
 - Leverage existing and new investments in our target neighborhoods
 - Have impact on results for neighborhoods, children, and families

Success Measures for *Making Connections*

- Core Results
 - Increase families' earnings and income
 - Increase family assets
 - Increase civic participation of families and young people
 - Stronger social networks for families
 - Greater access to effective formal services and supports
 - More children ready to succeed in school

Core Capacities Needed to Achieve and Sustain Results:

- Develop, achieve and sustain a collective vision for results among residents, institutions, and other stakeholders
- Develop, promote, and sustain resident leadership within the collective change process to achieve results
- Develop and sustain relationships and partnerships among residents, institutions, and others in support of a change process to achieve results
- Implement powerful strategies to achieve results
- Promote, lead and sustain the successful transformation of public systems
- Support collaborative learning, measurement of interim and long-term progress, and accountability to results
- Capacity to communicate core messages, ideas, and accomplishments in order to engage and influence public will and a wide audience

Casey Supports

- Data and Learning Capacity/LLPs
- Technical Assistance
- Investments to Seed Local Action and Build Capacity
- Communications
- Documentation
- Site team

Learning

- MC is convincing people that:
 - Tough neighborhoods are places worthy of investment, and
 - Families add value
- Early “implementation” of programs and policies are making a difference
- Local capacity to do this work is growing
- The nature and magnitude of work to shift to a results orientation is:
 - harder than we thought and
 - More important than we thought

Challenges

- Building capacity and implementing strategies at the same time
- Building community ownership/partnerships
- Role of neighborhood residents
- Measuring and communicating progress
- Building capacity to use data well
- Developing alternatives to an exit strategy
 - Knowledge brokers, investors
- Managing knowledge in ways consistent with our goals
 - Improved effectiveness
 - Credible marketing

Thank you