

Resilient Communities - 2021 Spring Grant Cycle

IMPACT ANALYSIS



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Intro

Short Brief :

This report provides analyses of fifty-four grant reports from grantees who were awarded grants in the Resilient Communities - 2021 Spring Grant Cycle from the Community Foundation of Tompkins County. This report focuses on understanding the impact grant making has on organizations in several different areas. The questions asked in the report are related to the grantee organization's mission, goals, collaborations, capacity, racial equity work, needs assessed, and learnings from the year.

59

Grant
Applications

56

Grants
Made

54

Reports
Reviewed

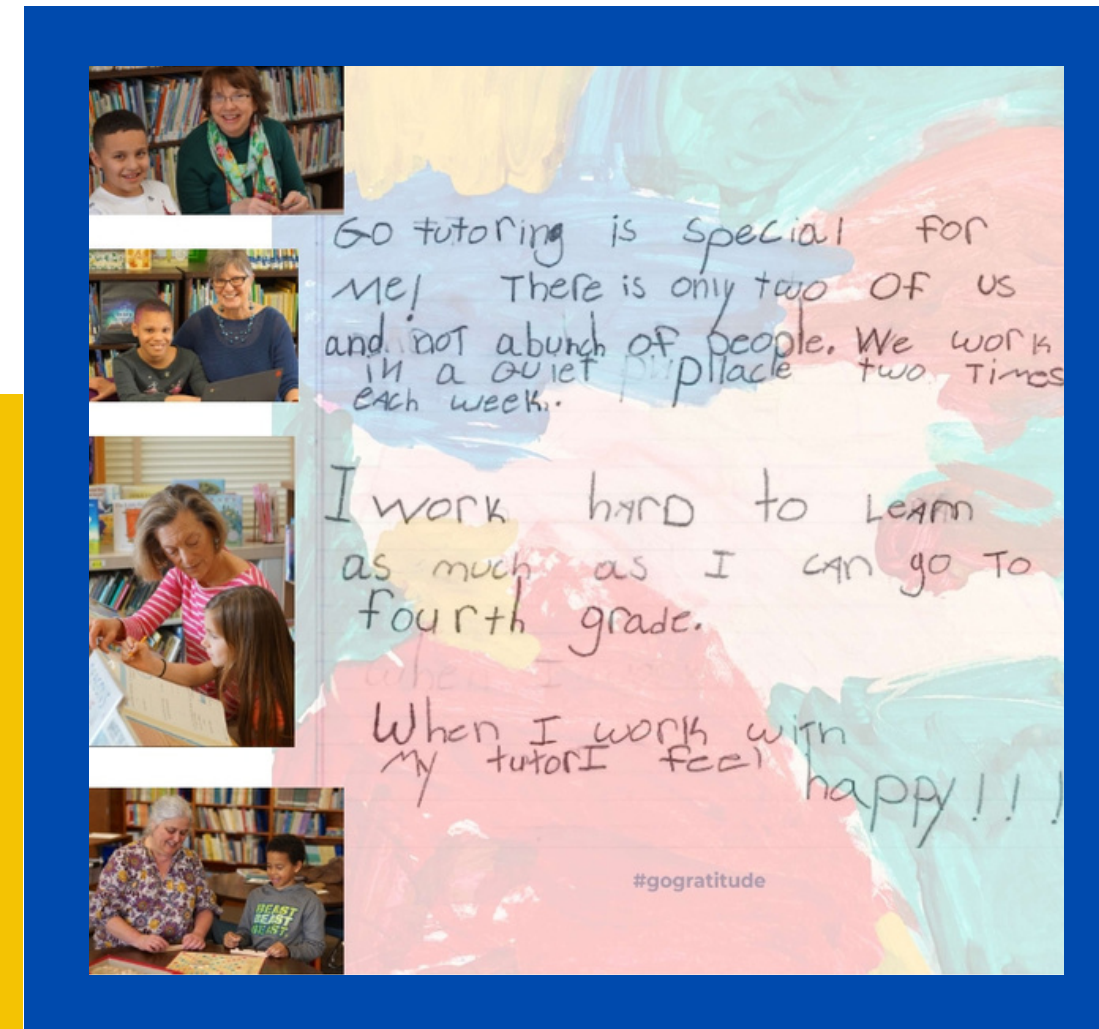
Preface

- All report questions are open-ended
 - Data is compiled from self-reported, written answers
- Data may contain several points from one report and zero from another

Stories That Inspire

"The loss of ICSD transportation has been the biggest challenge for GO, with rural families being the most impacted. In our almost 18 year history, GO has never turned students away for lack of transportation. Through a collaboration with Ithaca Carshare, GO found a creative way to transport students home and avoid online tutoring. The majority of GO families do not have access to transportation. GO has not stopped working to achieve educational equity and will continue to provide academic support and transportation while creating new initiatives to support our organization's changing needs."

~ Golden Opportunity



"During the pandemic, people became more interested in reconnecting with the land to improve their resiliency and sufficiency. We observed a particularly large interest from young people, BIPOC aspiring farmers, and people from urban areas looking to the Finger Lakes as an area to establish roots. Groundswell's Farmer Training Program proved to be extremely desirable and competitive. 34 BIPOC aspiring farmers applied for the 5 available trainee positions in 2021. This year, we received 70 applications for the 2022 cohort of 7 trainee positions. "

~ Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming



How Organizations Are Publicizing Their Grants



Publication Method	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Donor Letters	1	1%
Board Meeting Recognition	2	3%
Presentations	6	8%
Word of Mouth	7	9%
Marketing Materials	10	13%
Newsletters	11	14%
Social Media Account(s)	12	16%
Annual Report/ Appeal	14	18%
Website	14	18%
	77	100%

*14 organizations did not publicize their grants

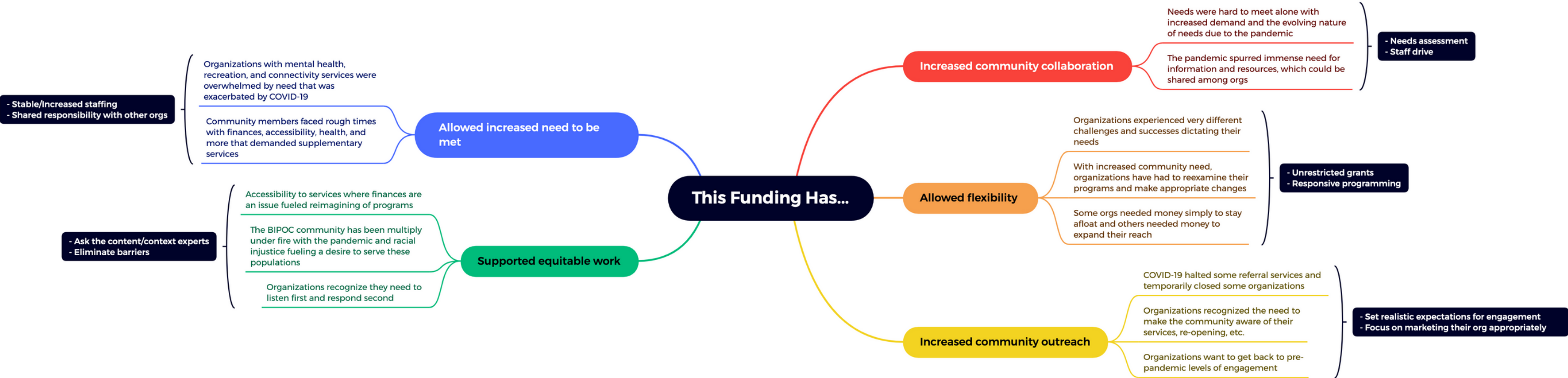
**Facebook and YouTube are the most referenced social media sites utilized

How Organizations Are Using Funds

Use of Funds	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Content Development	1	1%
Organizational Growth	1	1%
New Leadership	1	1%
DEIJA work	2	2%
Internal Review	2	2%
New Partnerships	2	2%
New Projects	3	4%
Program Implementation	5	6%
Infrastructure Improvements	5	6%
COVID-Related Supplies	5	6%
Outreach/Marketing	6	7%
Material Goods/Supplies	11	13%
Operating Cost/Support	14	17%
Payroll/Staffing Support	25	30%
	83	100%

THEMES OF IMPACT

Impact Theme Mapping



Presented with XMind

This Funding Has...

Allowed increased need to be met

Organizations with mental health, recreation, and connectivity services were overwhelmed by need that was exacerbated by COVID-19

Community members faced rough times with finances, accessibility, health, and more that demanded supplementary services

- Stable/Increased staffing
- Shared responsibility with other orgs

This Funding Has...

Supported equitable work

Accessibility to services where finances are an issue fueled reimagining of programs

The BIPOC community has been multiply under fire with the pandemic and racial injustice fueling a desire to serve these populations

Organizations recognize they need to listen first and respond second

- Eliminate barriers
- Ask the content/context experts

This Funding Has...

Increased community collaboration

Needs were hard to meet alone with increased demand and the evolving nature of needs due to the pandemic

The pandemic spurred immense need for information and resources, which could be shared among orgs

- Staff drive
- Needs assessment

This Funding Has...

Allowed flexibility

Organizations experienced very different challenges and successes dictating their needs

With increased community need, organizations have had to reexamine their programs and make appropriate changes

Some orgs needed money simply to stay afloat and others needed money to expand their reach

- Unrestricted grants
- Responsive programming

This Funding Has...

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graph TD; A[This Funding Has...] --> B[Increased community outreach]; B --> C[COVID-19 halted some referral services and temporarily closed some organizations]; B --> D[Organizations recognized the need to make the community aware of their services, re-opening, etc.]; B --> E[Organizations want to get back to pre-pandemic levels of engagement]; C --- F[ ]; D --- F; E --- F; F --> G["- Set realistic expectations for engagement<br/>- Focus on marketing their org appropriately"]
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Increased community outreach

COVID-19 halted some referral services and temporarily closed some organizations

Organizations recognized the need to make the community aware of their services, re-opening, etc.

Organizations want to get back to pre-pandemic levels of engagement

- Set realistic expectations for engagement
- Focus on marketing their org appropriately

ORGANIZATIONAL THEMES



COLLABORATION



CAPACITY



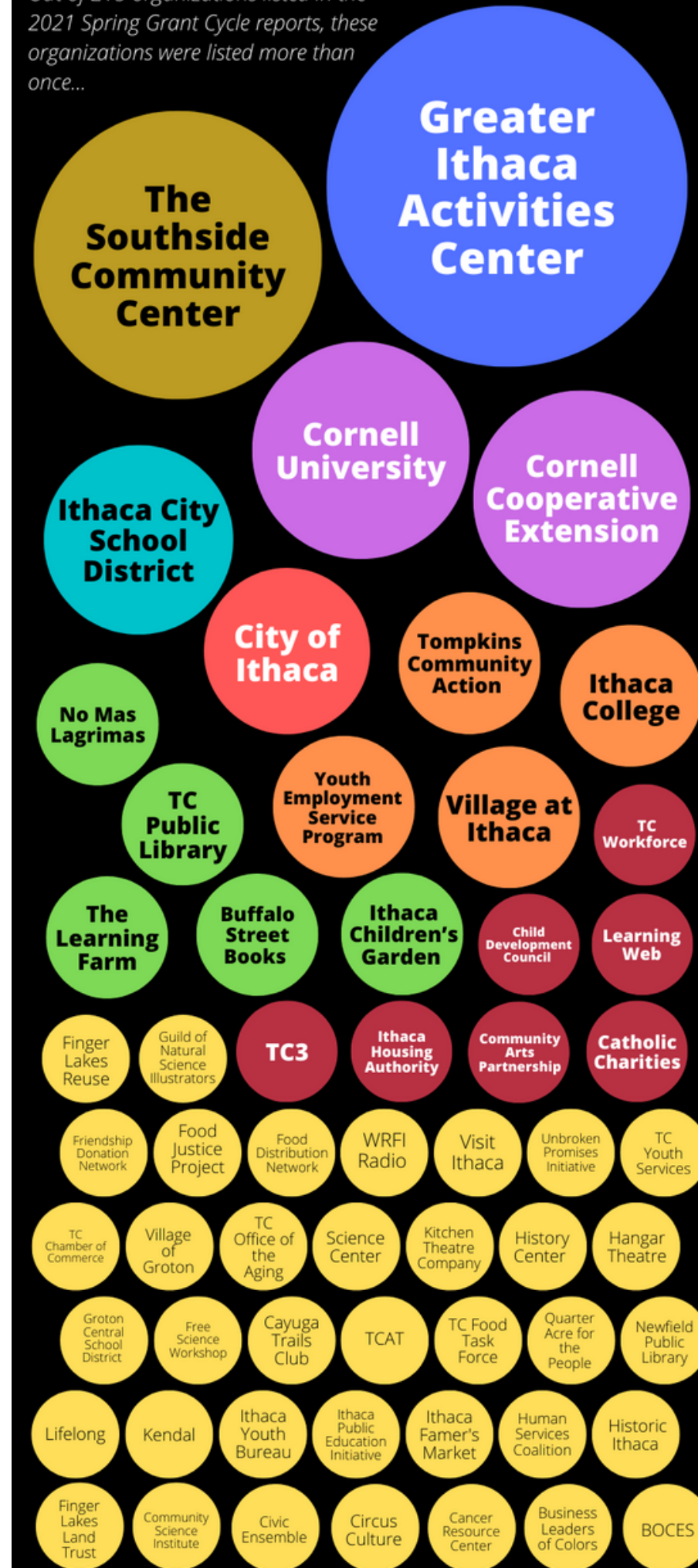
DEIJA

Collaboration Is Key

- 215 unique collaborative organizations were listed by grantees
- 74% of grantee organizations reported collaborating with 1 or more other grantees in this cycle

Most Collaborative Organizations

Out of 215 organizations listed in the 2021 Spring Grant Cycle reports, these organizations were listed more than once...



Collaboration Is Key

"Collaboration, resource-sharing, and open communications were key to survival during 2020-21"

~ Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, Inc.

Most common types of collaboration:

- Joint Programming and Projects
- Sponsored Events
- Connection with educational systems
- Resource/Advisory Sharing

96%

Of grantees report collaborating with other organizations to some extent (anything beyond referrals)

"We explored a partnership with Village at Ithaca during their summer program held at Southside Community Center. We led theatre workshops with young people in their program. Eager to build our own youth theatre, this short collaboration allowed us a meaningful engagement with a partner, as well as a chance to truly listen to young people and how they were responding to theatrical tools we had not used since prior to the pandemic."

~ Civic Ensemble

"We collaborated with Challenge Industries and the South Hill Business Complex to complete the packing and distribution of over 4,000 books and material kits for students this year!"

~ Discovery Trail, Inc.

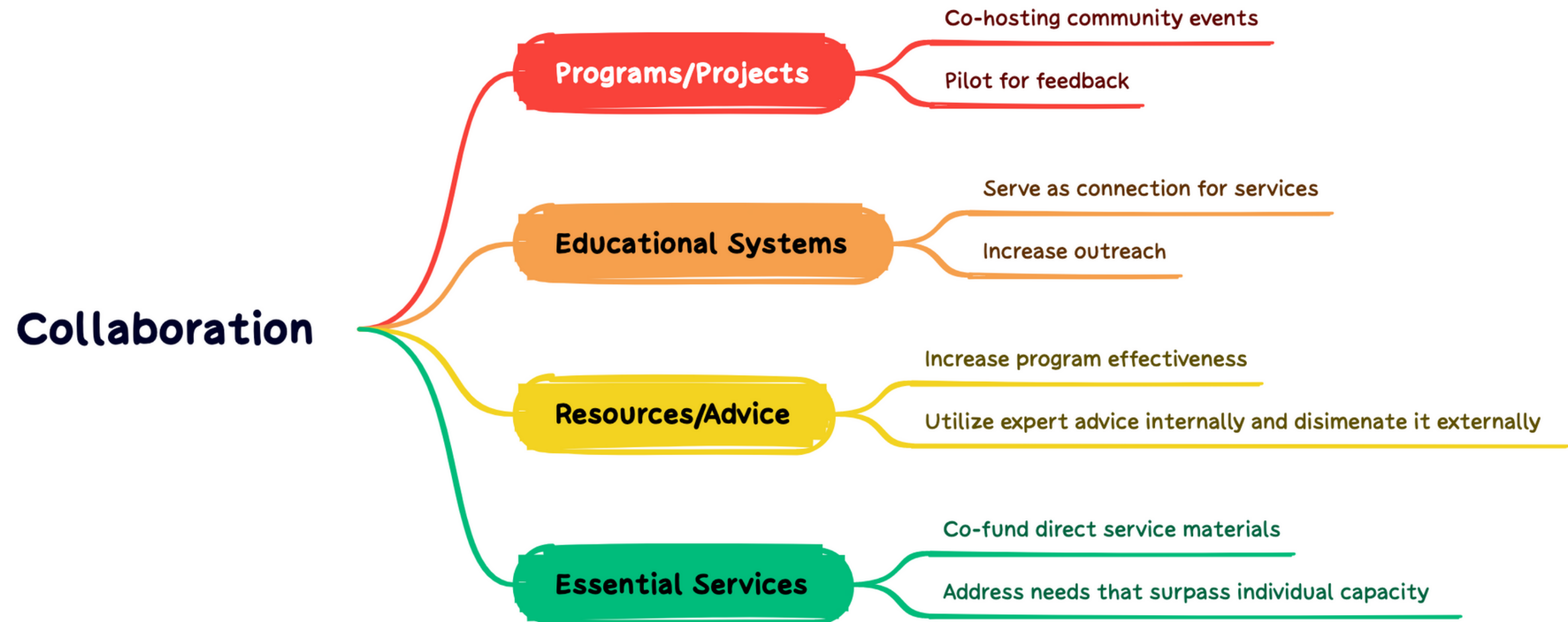


"Over the summer, we offered an in-person 'Outdoor Experiences' class to help students new to Ithaca feel more oriented. This class was a huge success--some of our students had lived in Ithaca for months but were not aware of community resources like the public library."

~ Open Doors English



Collaboration As a Theme



Presented with XMind

Capacity Is Variable

- 91% of organizations are reporting capacity in relation to their staff and leadership
 - High turnover and difficulty filling positions
 - Lack of qualified applicants
 - Increased labor costs
 - Increased workload on existing staff
 - New positions and updated professional development
- A majority of organizations expressed they expect hybrid and virtual options for their staff and services to continue in some capacity past the pandemic

HOW DID GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY CHANGE?

Out of 54 grant reports, number saying....

● Increased
● Decreased
● Neutral



Capacity In Action

"The staff and volunteer workload increased and changed. LLH has more members, more programs, and a much higher number of services than it had two years ago. This success is extremely positive while also being a challenge for the future. Expectations have been raised and the organization is at a critical point where a drive for more members and more donations will be required to attain this new and important level of operation."

~ Love Living at Home, Inc.

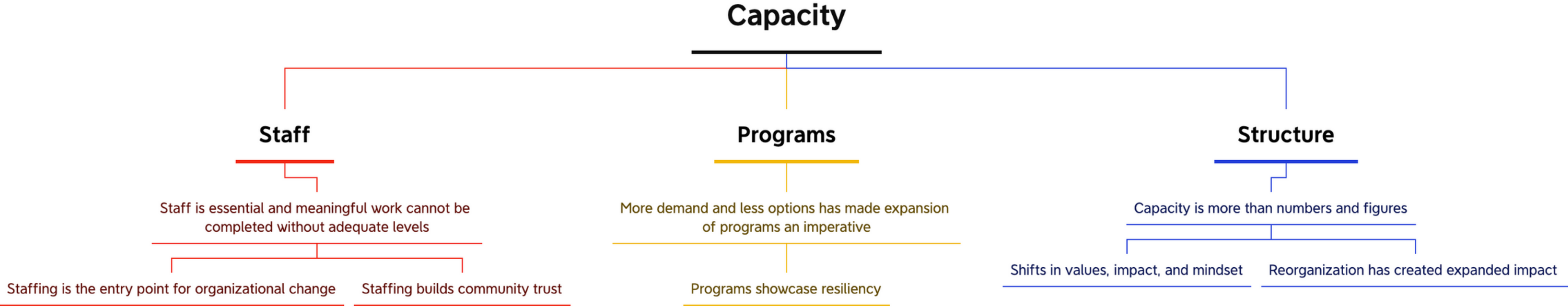
"Our agency experienced a 40 percent staff turnover during the pandemic. We increased pay by 20 percent, dramatically improved employee benefits, and used innovative recruitment. These measures have been effective in stabilizing staffing."

~ Hospicare and Palliative Care Services of Tompkins County

"At our September 2021 board meeting, we realized our goal of a Black led Board of Directors with the voting in of three Black women as the head of our Executive Board. With the attainment of this goal, we have created clear opportunities and pathways to further increase access and equity to the Black community."

~GreenStar Community Projects

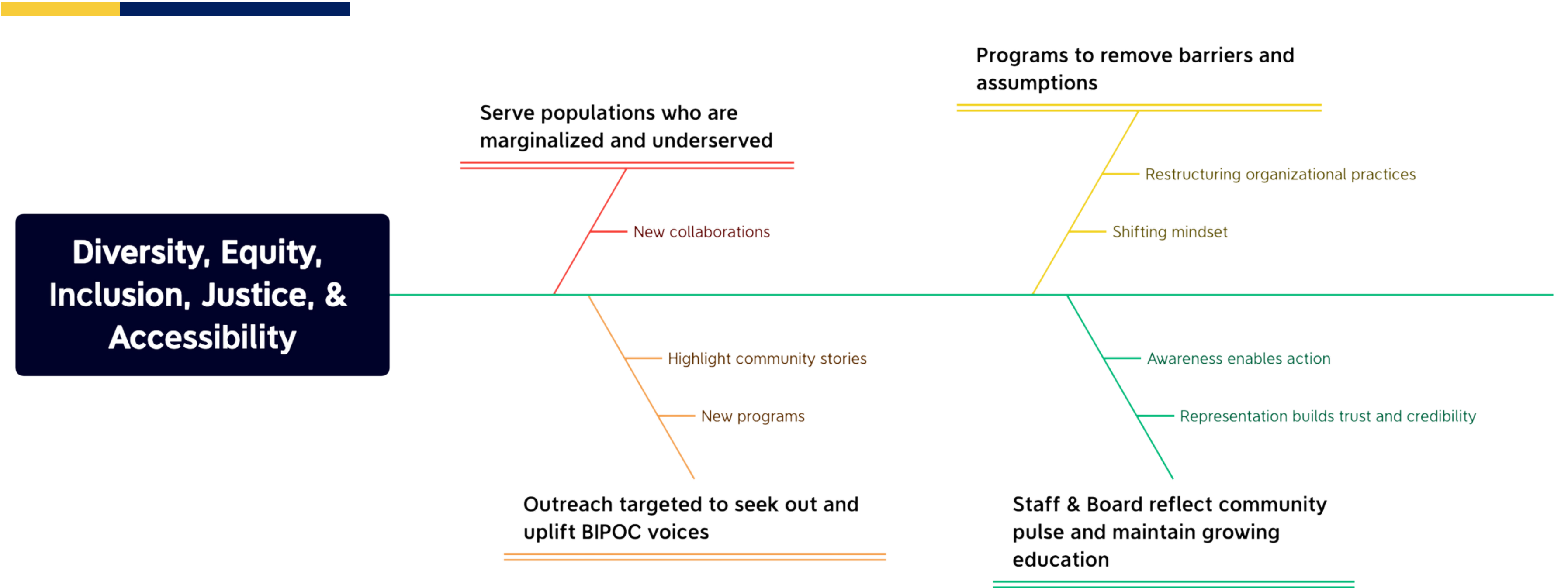
Capacity As a Theme



Presented with XMind


DEIJA

As a Theme



Presented with XMind

DEIJA Work



Kitchen Theatre Company.

Created a Pay What You Want ticketing system for performances and established a BIPOC Community Night with free and low cost options

Hangar Theatre

4 out of 9 performances in their 2021 season centered BIPOC experiences. They boast of diversity in their company of actors with 36 members identifying as LGBTQ+ and 45.6% BIPOC.

Ubuntu Library.

Center community members with lack of access to reading resources, mostly due to racial and socio-economic systems of oppression. Provide books that center culturally diverse characters and themes.

Open Doors English

Staff and Board Members attended bystander intervention workshops regarding the rise of anti-Asian/Asian American discrimination and harassment. One student expressed joy in knowing there is someone who will help and speak up for them.

How Organizations Are Acting on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility

DEIJ Activities	Frequency	Relative Frequency
Programming Specifically to Ensure Equity/ Access	17	16%
Collaboration/ Outreach to Address BIPOC Needs	13	12%
Diversifying Staff/ Board of Directors	11	10%
Programming Specifically for BIPOC Folks	10	10%
Formalized DEI/ Anti-Racist Statements/ Policies	10	10%
Have a DEI/ Racial Justice Workgroup/ Committee	9	9%
Staff Professional Development/ Training	9	9%
Promote an Inclusive Environment	6	6%
Have Used/ Will Use a DEI Consultant	5	5%
Center BIPOC Voices/ Experiences in the Community	5	5%
Staff Self-Education	3	3%
Funding Specificallly for BIPOC Folks	2	2%
Have Completed an Internal Review	2	2%
Staff Serve on Community Boards for DEI	2	2%
Have a Position for DEI work	1	1%
	105	100%

*6 organizations did not list DEIJA activities

Call To Action

- The Community Foundation
 - Continue to offer unrestricted funding
 - Reward DEIJA work by grantees (alignment w/ mission & values)
- Staff, Board, & Volunteers
 - Get to know grantee stories (1/2) to share impact and encourage philanthropy
- The Community
 - Utilize CU and IC students

Conclusion

- A report with further stories, data, and thematic information has been created to compliment this presentation
 - Recommendations regarding how to improve the effectiveness and usefulness of reports has been provided
 - Reflections on how these findings deliver on The Community Foundation's strategic priorities