



Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Connecting the Dots Between Early Learning and the Foundations of Lifelong Health in a COVID-19 World

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By All Means Convening | Education Redesign Lab
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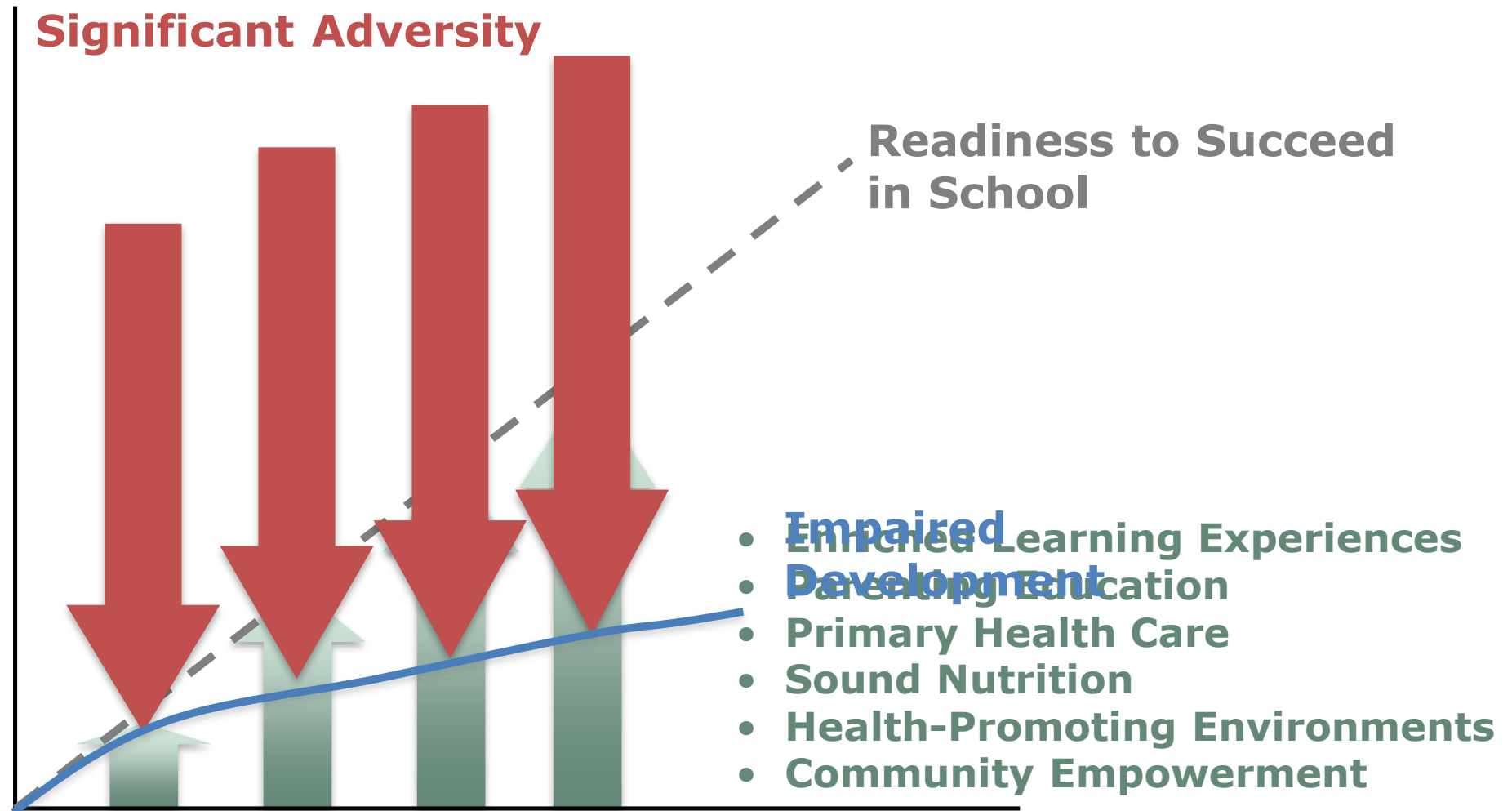


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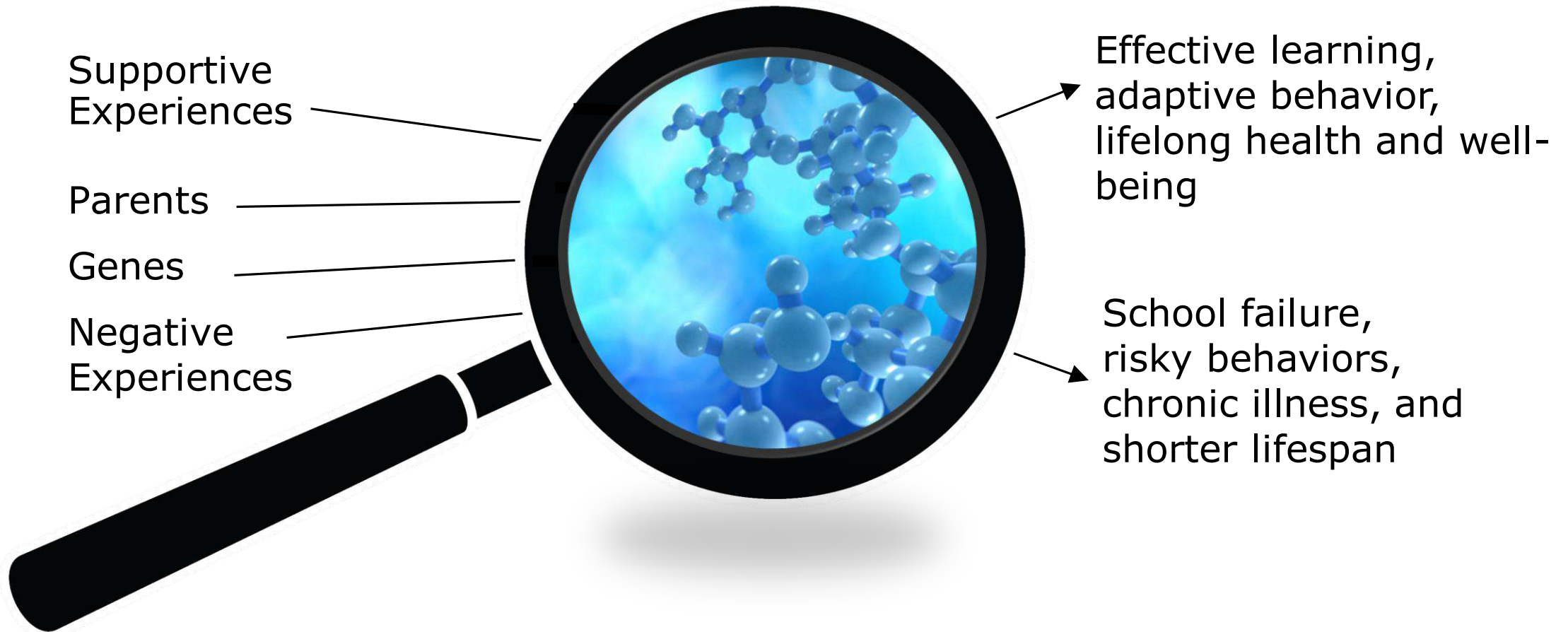


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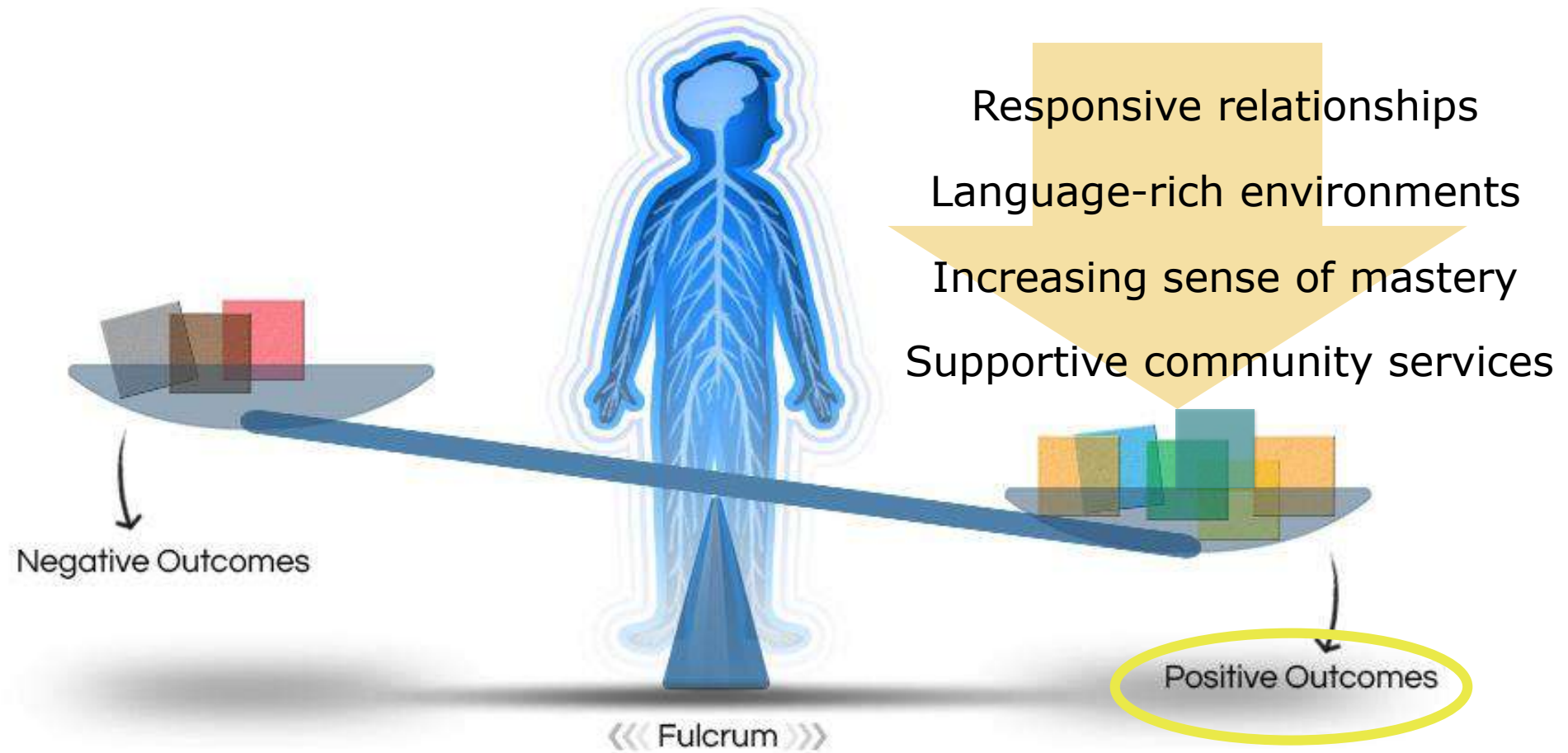
The Framework Guiding Early Childhood Policies and Programs for Half a Century is Conceptually Sound But Variable in Impact



21st-Century Biology is Opening the Black Box of Disparities in Educational Achievement and Lifelong Health



Early Life Experiences Are Built Into Our Bodies (For Better or Worse)



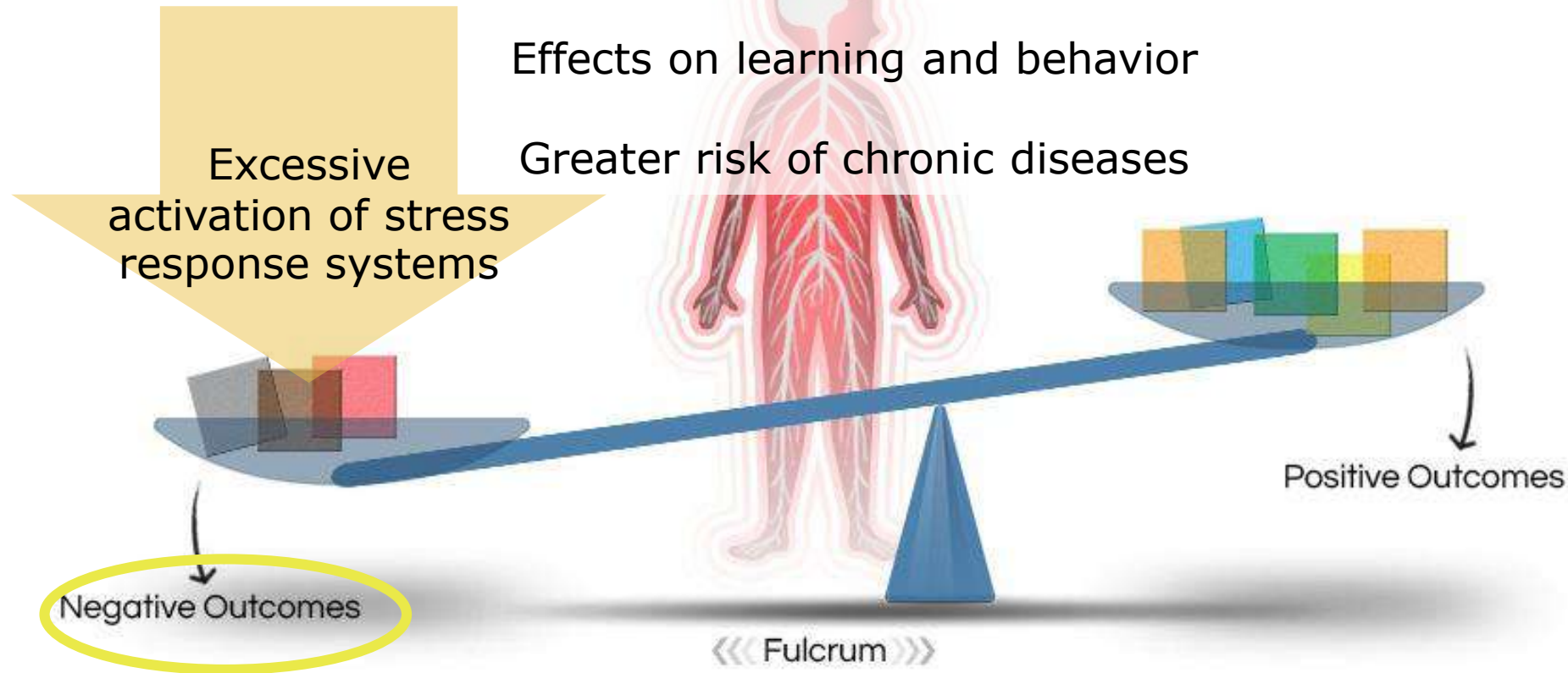
Early Life Experiences Are Built Into Our Bodies (For Better or Worse)

Disruptions in the developing brain
and other biological systems

Effects on learning and behavior

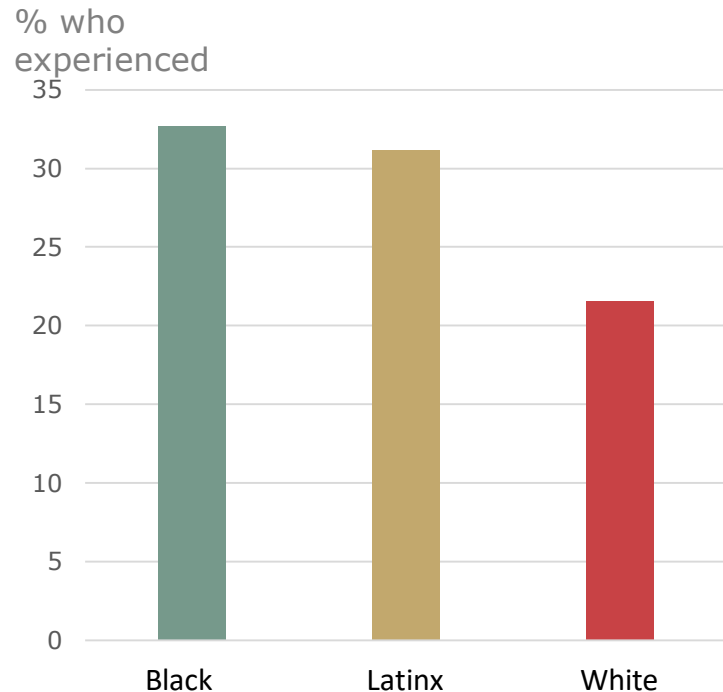
Greater risk of chronic diseases

Excessive
activation of stress
response systems

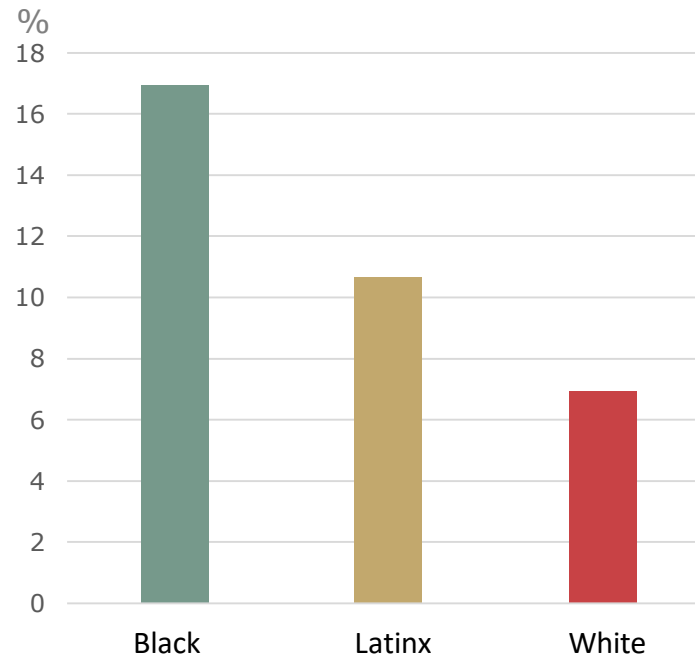


Racial & Ethnic Disparities in Adverse Experiences Impose Significant & Unequal Burdens on Families Raising Children

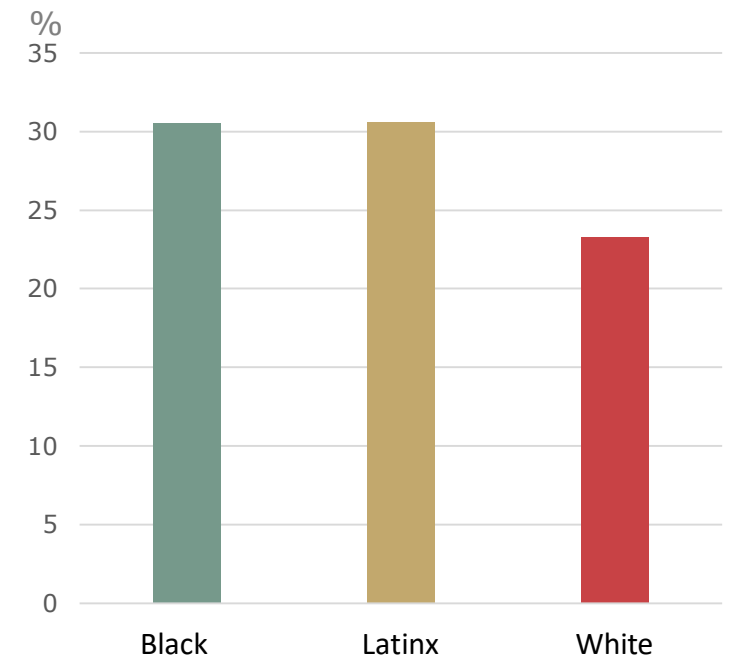
Two or more "adversities"



Neighborhood violence



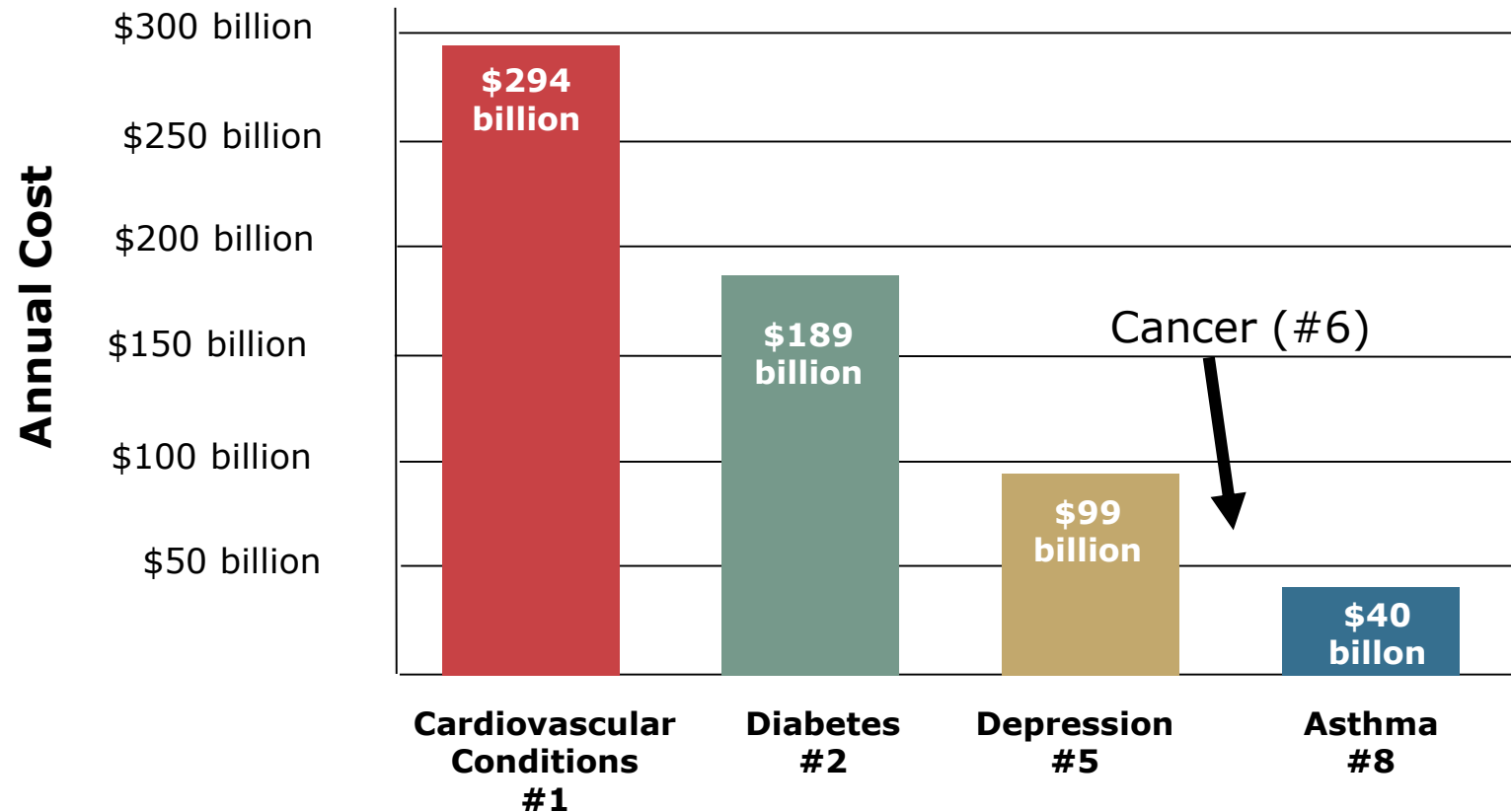
Financial hardship



Source: Slopen et al., 2016

Adult Diseases Associated With Childhood Adversity Dominate U.S. Health Care Costs

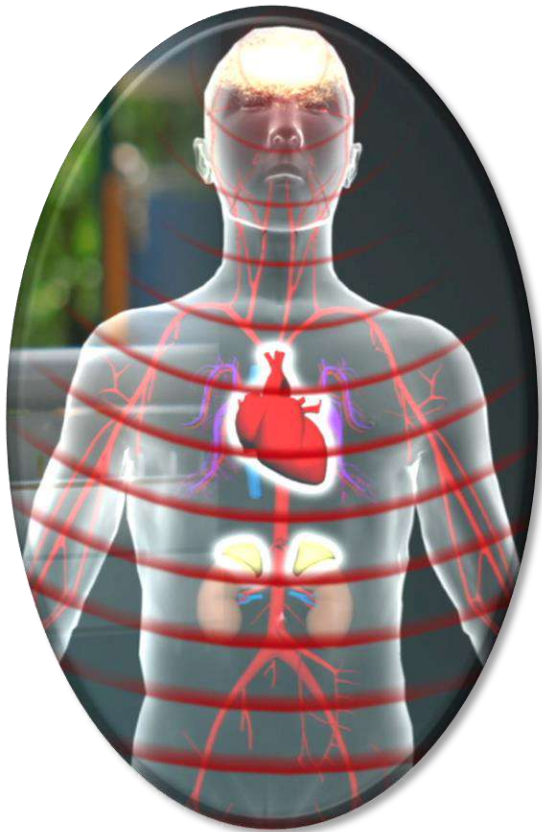
Four of Top Eight Most Costly Diagnoses = \$622 billion



Sources: Waters, Graf (Milken Institute, 2018); Greenberg et al. (2015)

The Biology of Adversity and Resilience Provides New Insights About the Early Roots of Development **AND** Health

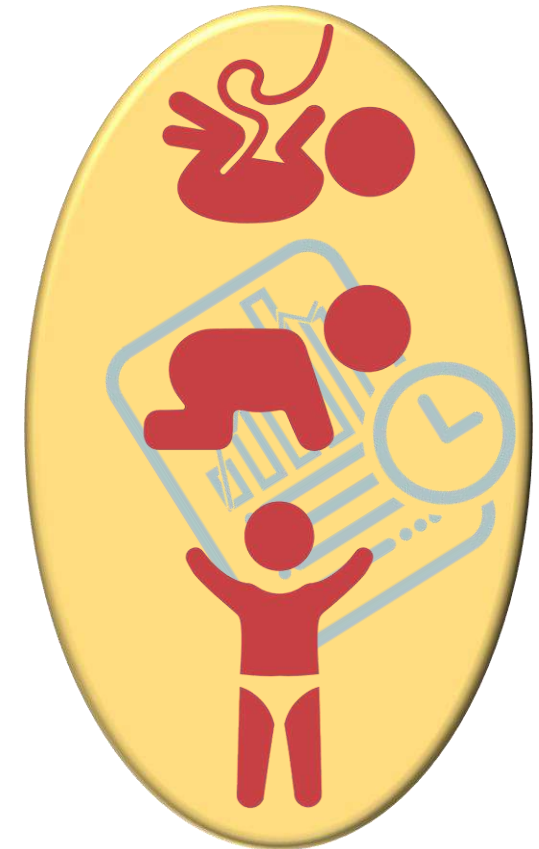
Connecting the Brain to the Rest of the Body



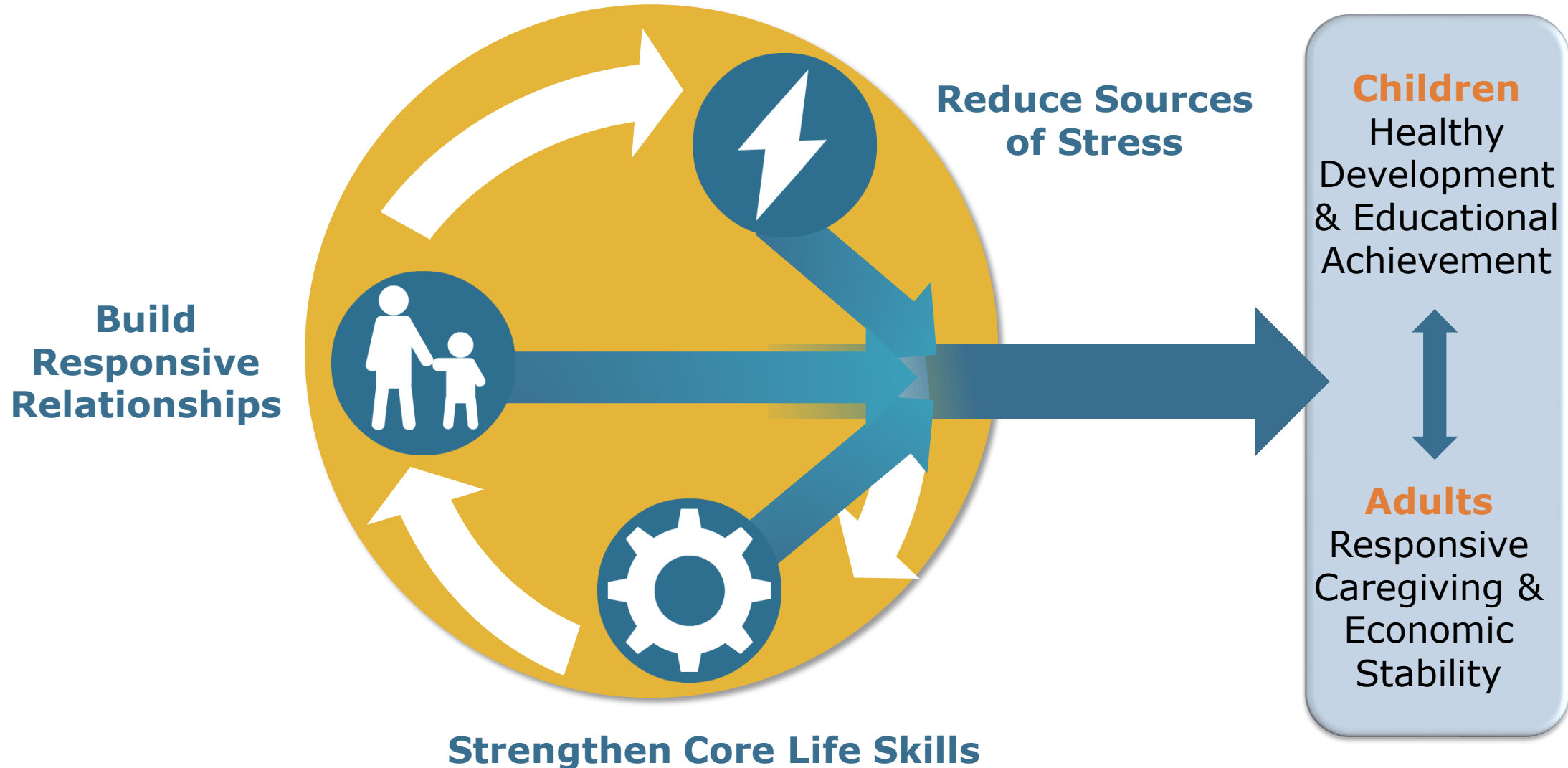
Variation in Sensitivity to Context



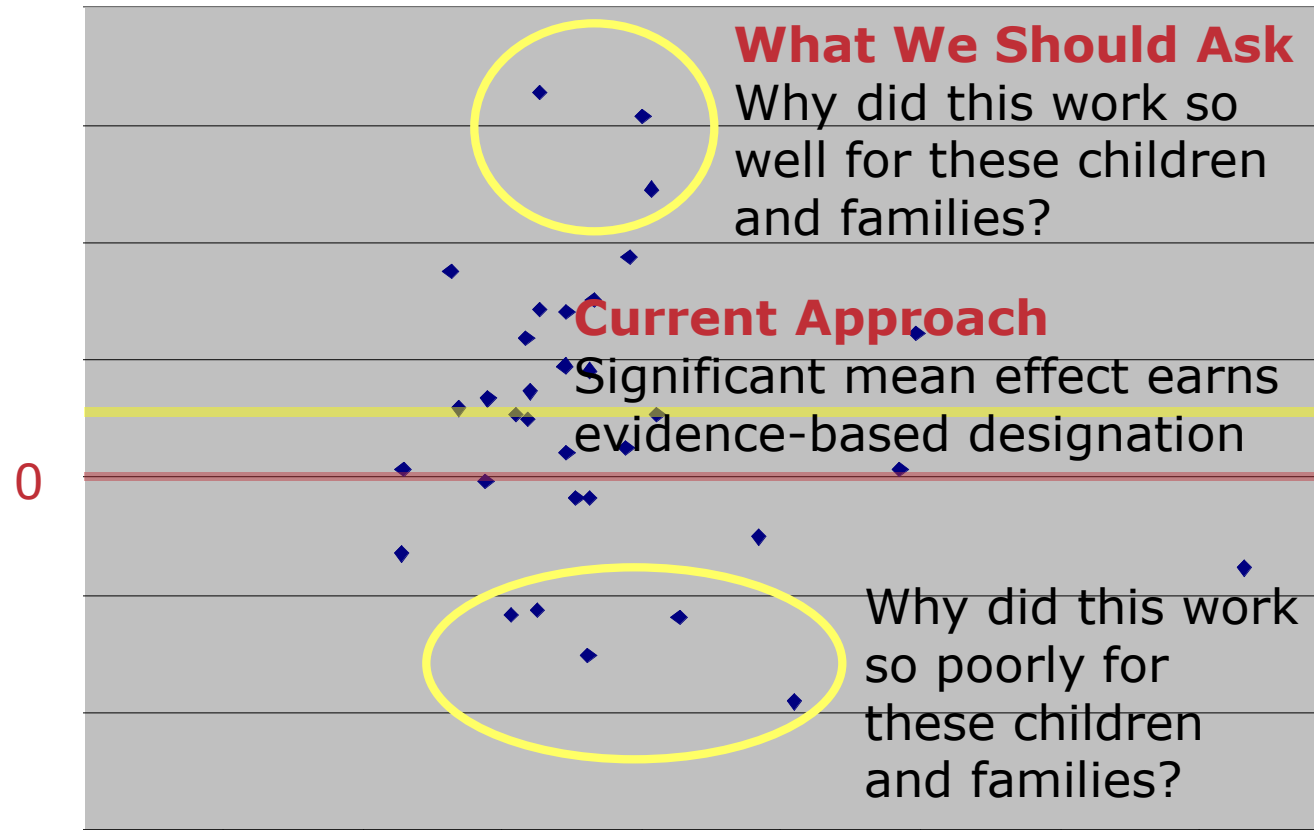
Timing & Critical Periods



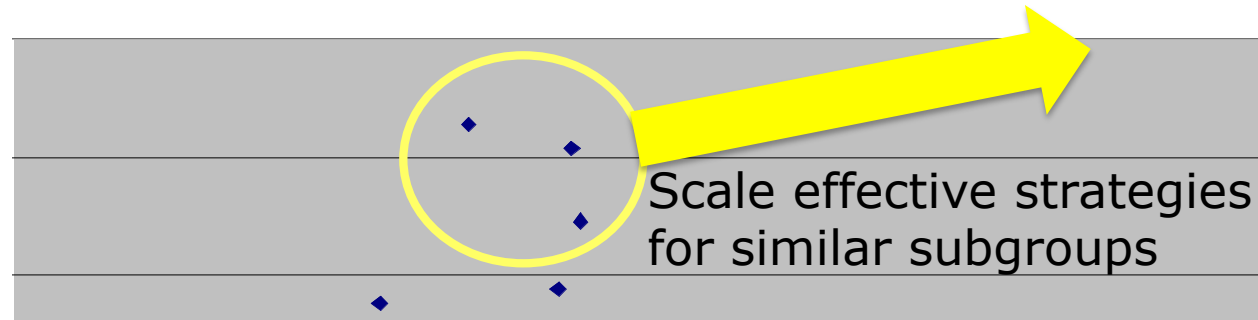
3 Science-Informed Principles for Interventions Designed to Reduce Disparities Related to Early Adversity **But the Devil is in the Details**



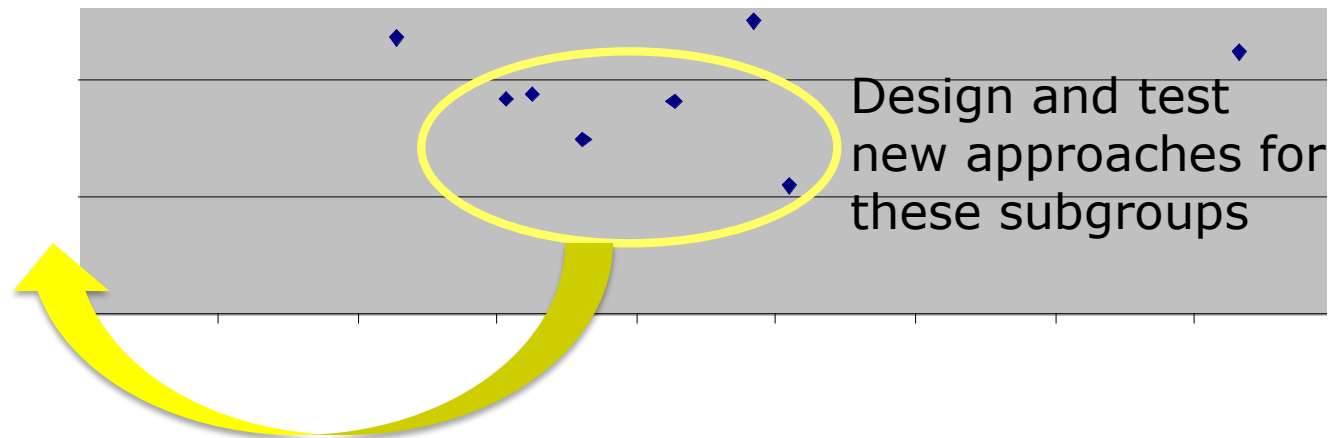
Achieving Greater Impact at Scale Will Require Redefining the Criteria for Evidence-Based Programs



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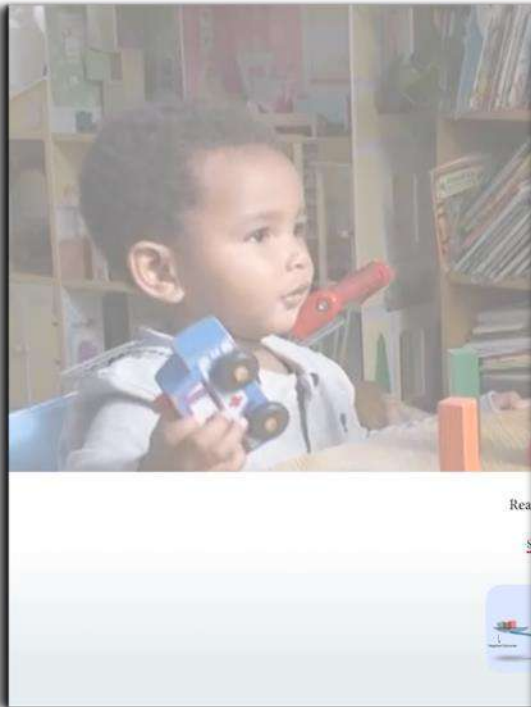


Build a suite of programs and policies **across sectors** that matches different strategies to different resources, needs, and outcomes





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The Brain Circuits Underlying Motivation: An Interactive Guide

Experiences Create Pathways Between Brain Regions How Motivation Systems Develop

Serotonin Pathways

Dopamine Pathways

Hover over the labels on the brain regions or the highlighted text below to learn more about the role each plays in reward and motivation.

- Experiences trigger neurons (brain cells) in certain regions of the brain to send chemicals to other neurons in different regions.
- Repeated experiences create different pathways in the brain that link those experiences to thoughts, memories, and behaviors.
- These linked pathways create powerful associations between what we do and the memories of how that made us feel physically and emotionally, and that drives our behavior.
- We are motivated to repeat those experiences that made us feel good, and to avoid those that

IDEAS Impact Framework One-Day Training

Innovation in Action
Reimagining Program Development and Evaluation

What will this training do for me?

Since 2016, the IDEAS Impact Framework Training has helped people in a variety of roles gain critical skills and knowledge. The training is ideal for anyone involved in the development, implementation, or evaluation of programs for children and families who is interested in learning how to go beyond the best of what the field has achieved so far. Past participants have come from a wide range of settings, including **community-based organizations, non-profits, universities, philanthropic organizations, and policy/systems settings**. Among other take-aways, participants have learned how to:

- improve the impact of their interventions,
- understand the underlying mechanisms of an intervention by co-creating an evaluation plan with multiple stakeholders,
- identify programs with the greatest potential to impact kids and families facing adversity,
- redefine how they evaluate program effectiveness, and
- orient their businesses around impact and reach.

What does the agenda include?

- Opening Presentation: [Three Principles to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families](#)**
This presentation will cover three design principles that we can use to create and improve policies and programs for children and families.
- An Overview of the [IDEAS Impact Framework](#)**
An introduction to the framework designed to help innovators overcome barriers and go beyond the status quo to increase impact.
- IDEAS Impact Framework Component #1: [Theory of Change](#)**

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