

Our Tomorrows: Working with Stories to Solve Complex Problems

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Public Partnerships
and Research

AGENDA



Introductions and
Expectations

Working with
Stories

Kansas Early
Childhood Journey

Complexity-informed
Decision-making

Share a Story

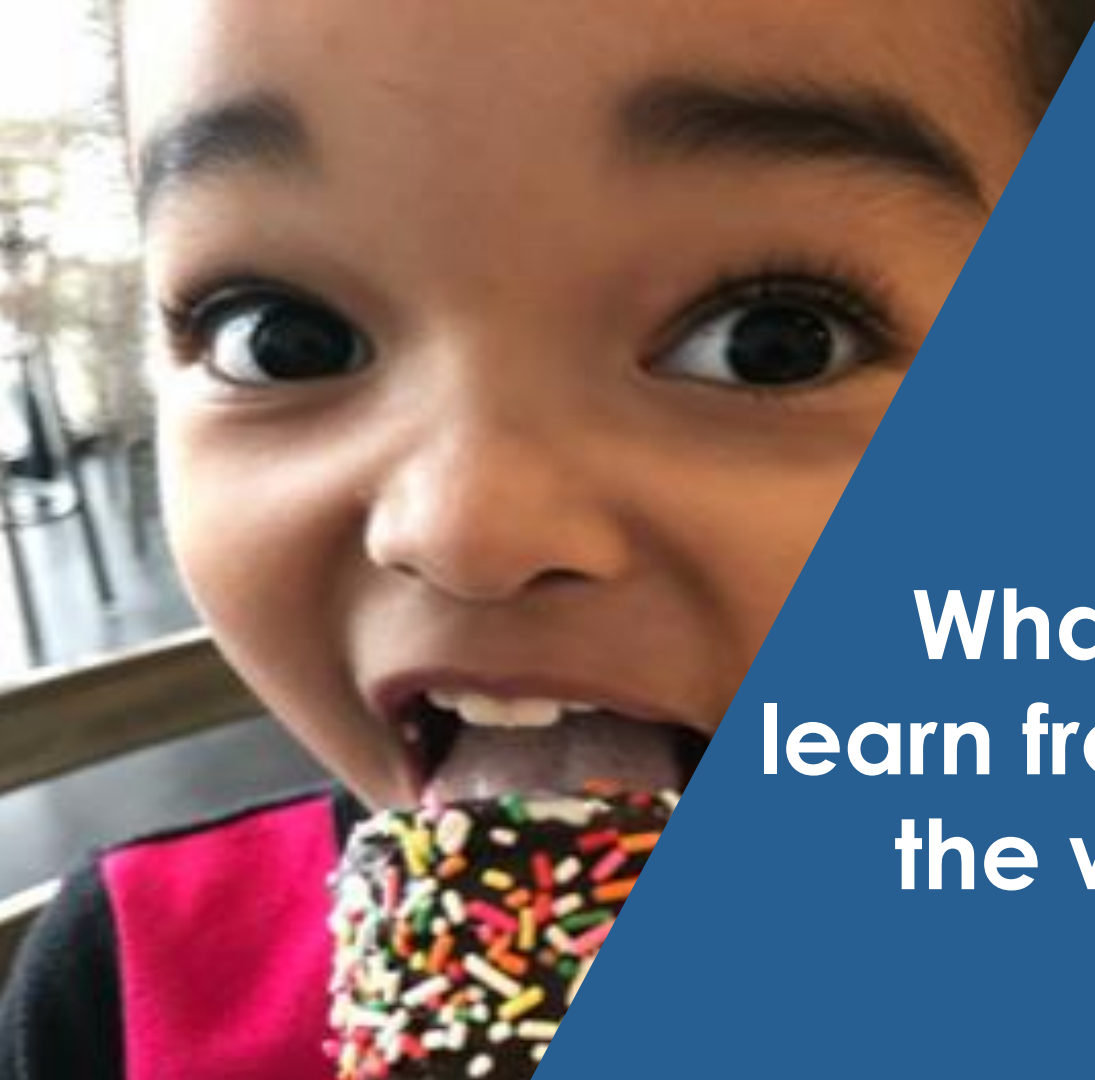
What's Next?

Center for Public Partnerships and Research

Mission: Optimize the wellbeing of children, youth and families.

- ▶ Research and Evaluation
- ▶ Data Science
- ▶ Social Innovation





Who are you?

**What do you want to
learn from stories during
the workshop today?**

Early Childhood Systems Building

- ▶ Large network of stakeholders across Kansas for Early Childhood Systems Building
- ▶ Led by:
 - Kansas State Department of Education
 - The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
 - The Kansas Department for Children and Families
 - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- ▶ Explore the work to strengthen early childhood in Kansas:
<http://www.kschildrenscabinet.org>

Kansas Early Childhood Journey

- ★ 50 Community Engagement Sessions
- ★ Online Survey
- ★ Our Tomorrows Story Collection
- ★ Review of Multiple Needs Assessments
- ★ Other Activities

STRENGTHENING early
childhood
in **KANSAS**

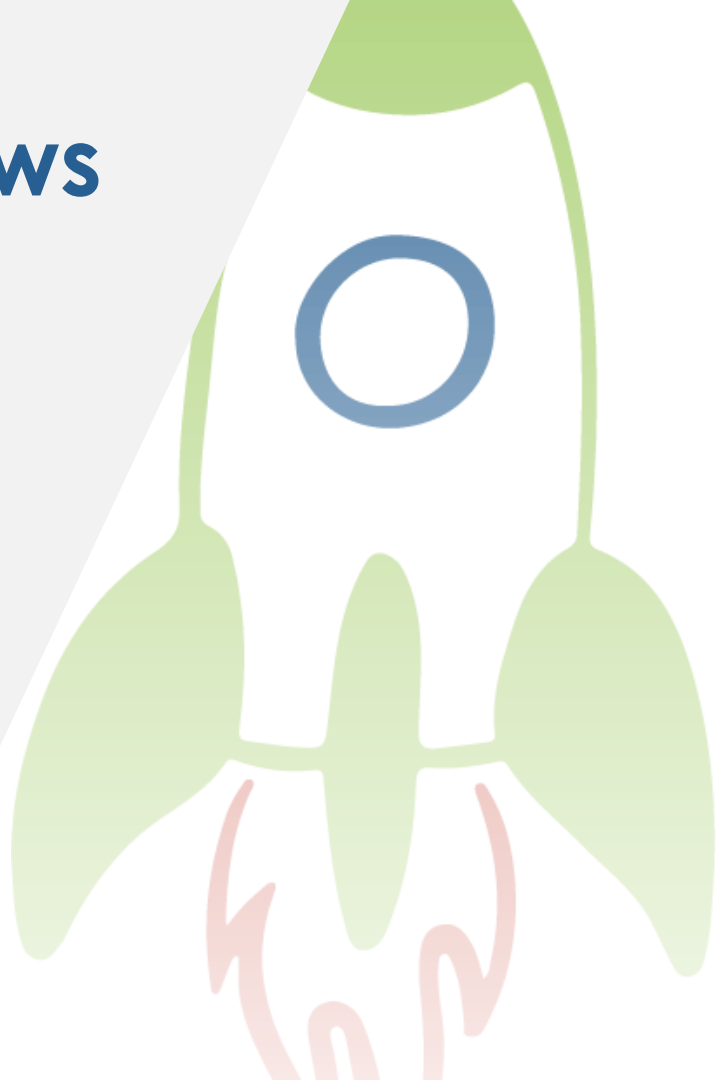


Goals of Our Tomorrows

- ★ Use SenseMaker® to collect 2,000* stories about thriving or surviving from families in Kansas.

**Minimum of 100 stories per community*

- ★ Represent 100% of Kansas counties



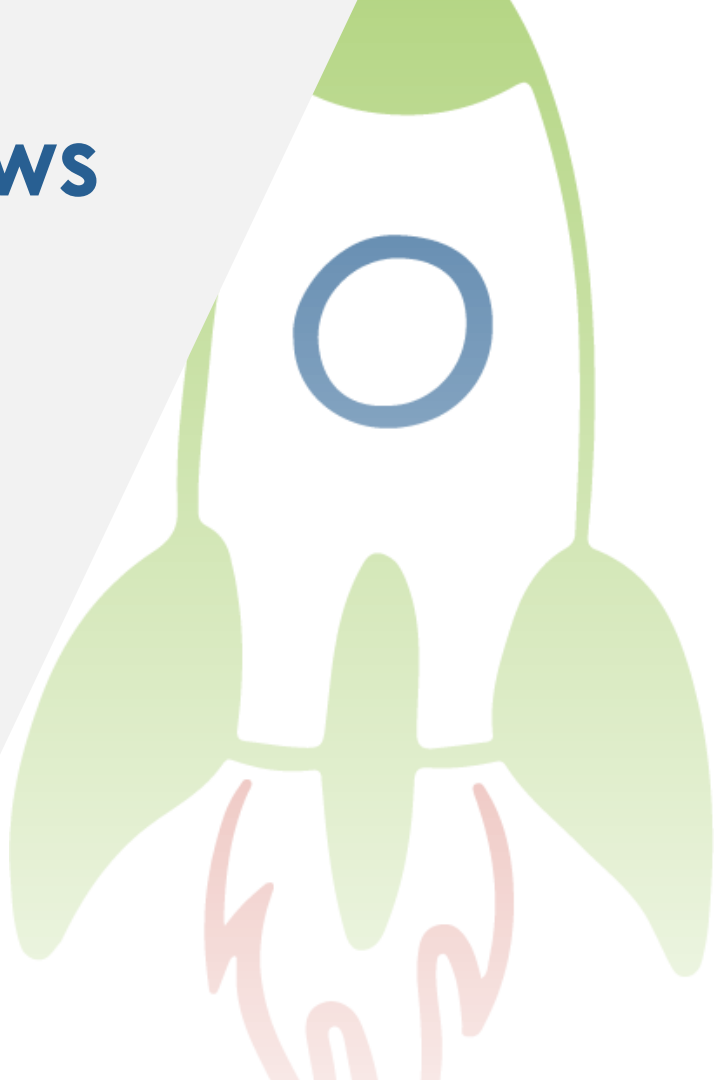
Goals of Our Tomorrows

★ **Community Sensemaking Workshops**

- ★ Gather to discuss and interpret stories as community listening process

★ **Community Action Labs**

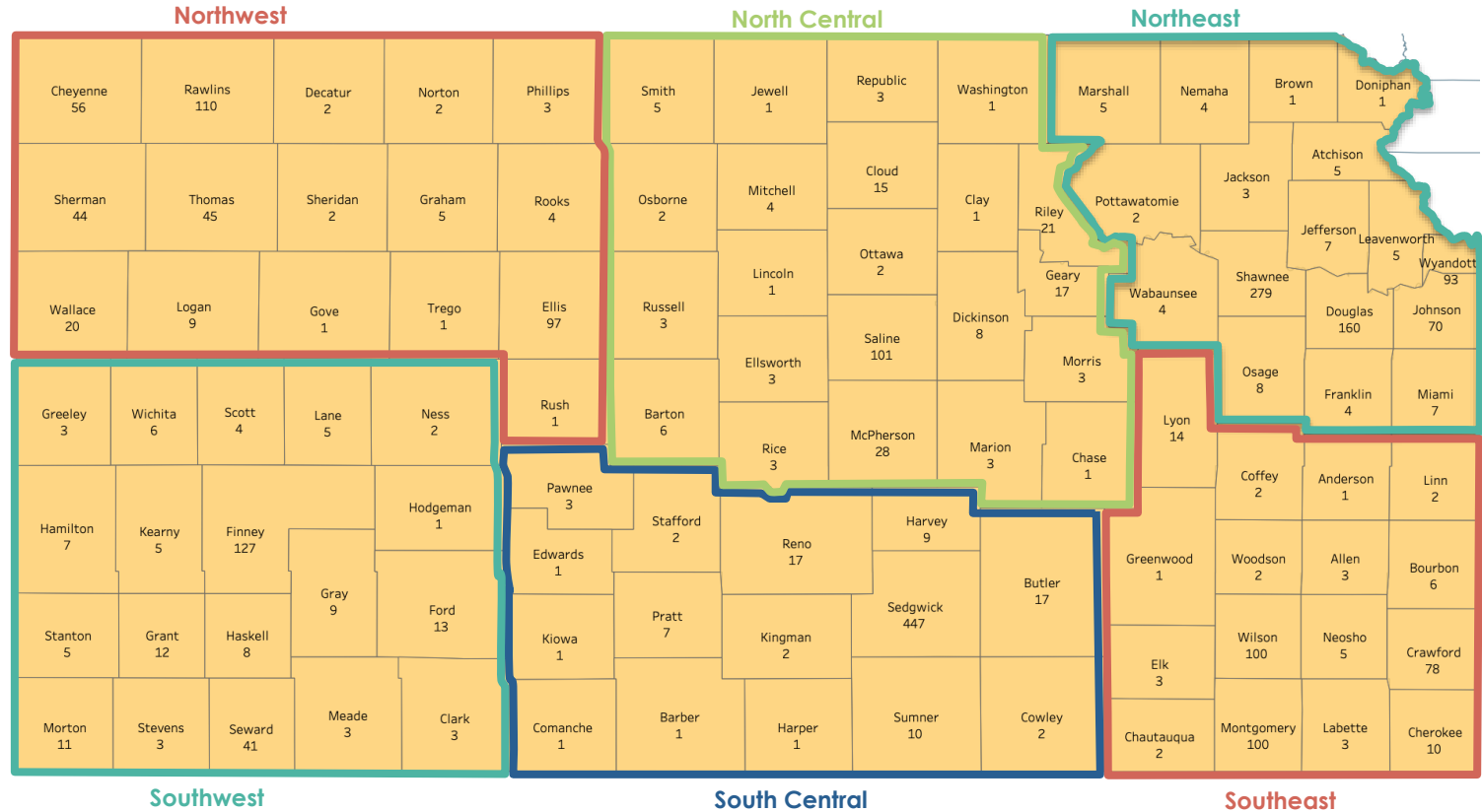
- ★ Shape decisions collectively and identify solutions and receive 20 Actionable Applications



Human Sensor Network

- ▶ 52 partner recruitment meetings
- ▶ 24 organizational partners
- ▶ 8 individual Citizen Journalists
- ▶ 21 Citizen Journalist Trainings

2413 STORIES SHARED BY KANSANS



Share Your Story

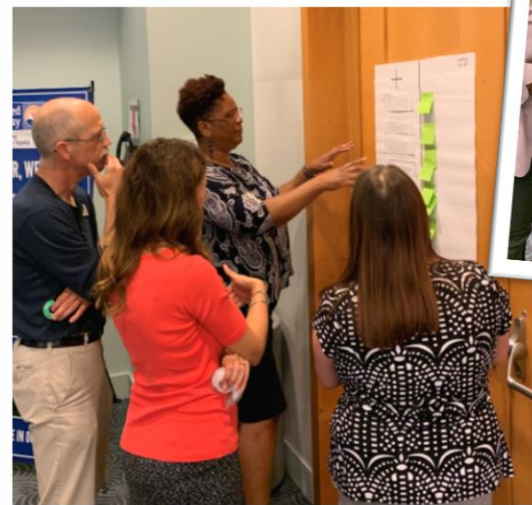
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Working with Stories

Working with Stories



Working with Stories

- ★ Read the stories in your story pack
- ★ Work with your partner/s to group similar stories together (by themes, categories, who is involved, etc)
- ★ Give each story group a title write on a sticky note.
- ★ Choose an example story that best represents group.

Working with Stories



Moms together

Parenting



Questions to Report Out

- ★ What kinds of patterns did you notice in your stories?
- ★ What surprised you?
- ★ What did you expect to see, but didn't?



Complexity-Informed Decision-making

Community Action Labs

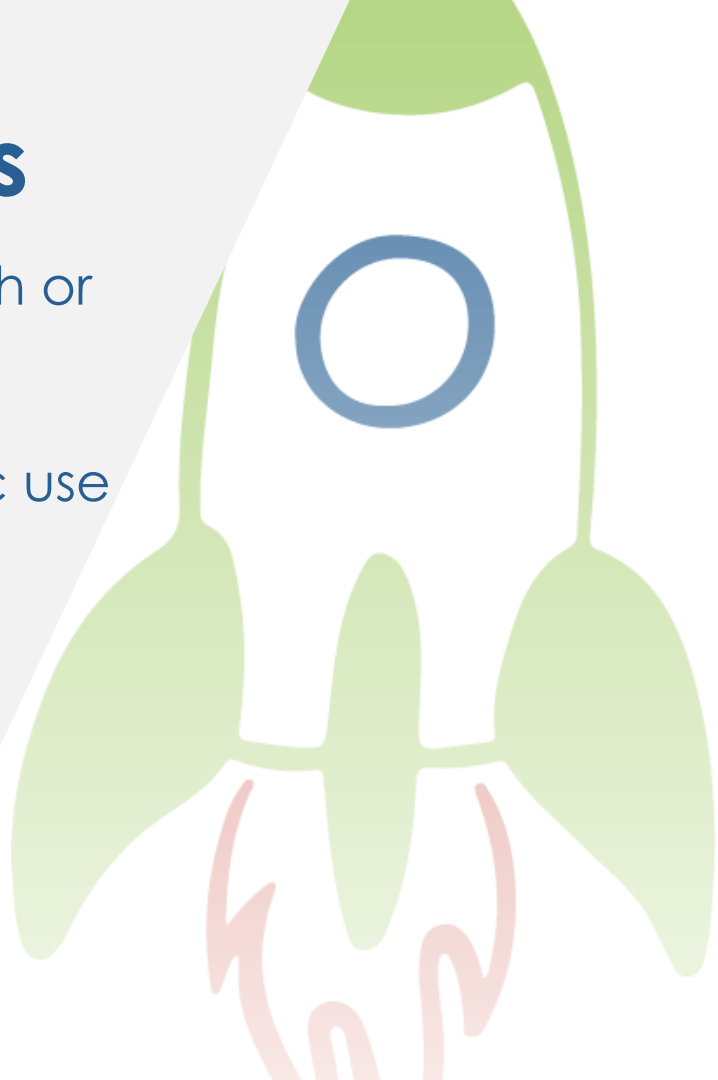
- ★ Big ideas start with small ripples.
- ★ Anyone can take action and make a difference.
- ★ Stories and families' experiences fuel action.
- ★ Locals know best.
- ★ We share the same destination, but there are many paths to get there.

Actionables

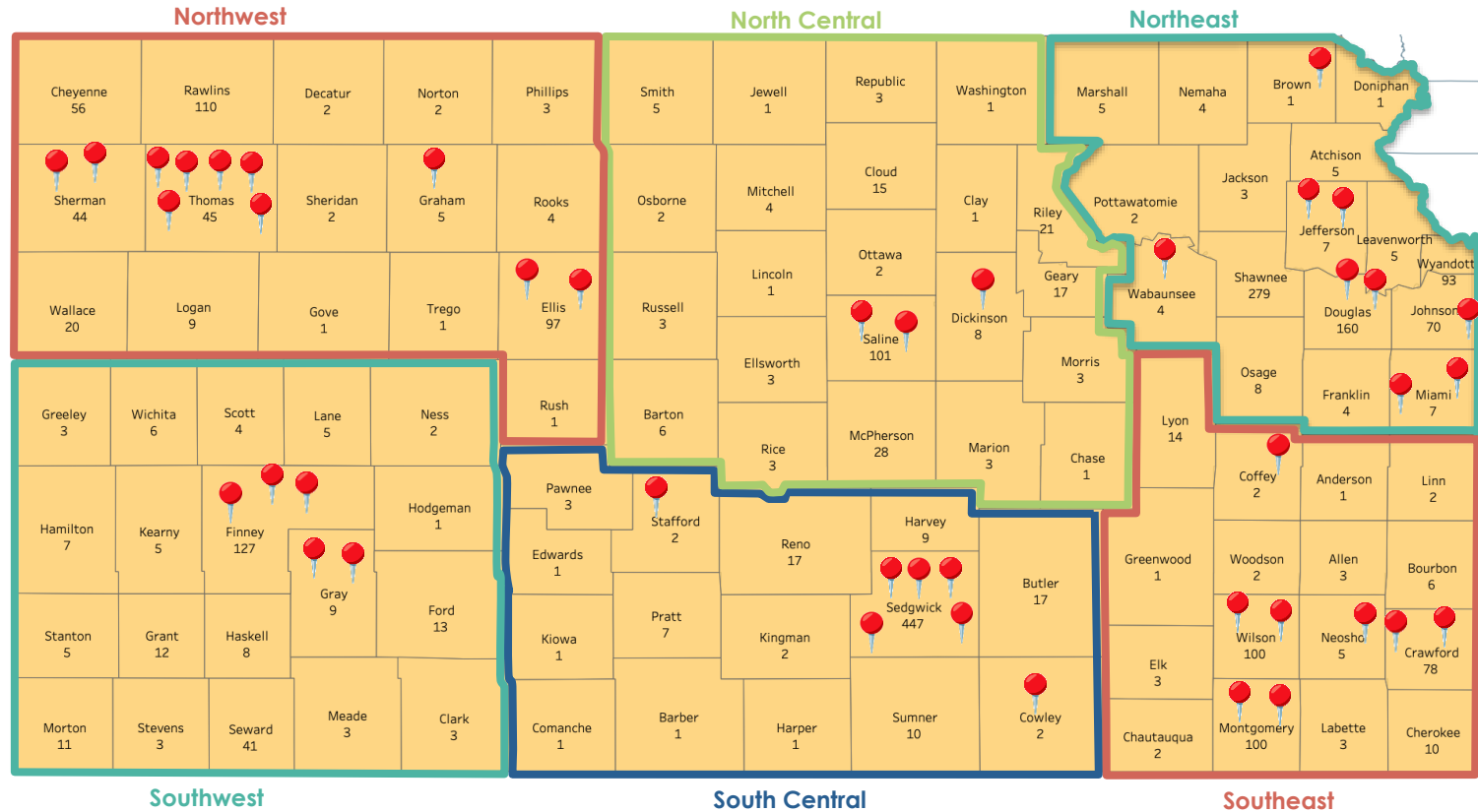
- ★ Actionables are
 - ★ Quick
 - ★ Inexpensive
 - ★ Local

Actionables Examples

- ★ Providing a monthly community lunch or hosting a pot luck
- ★ Adding a computer station for public use
- ★ Extending office hours once a week
- ★ Developing informational materials for new programs
- ★ Neighborhood playdates, visiting your neighbors



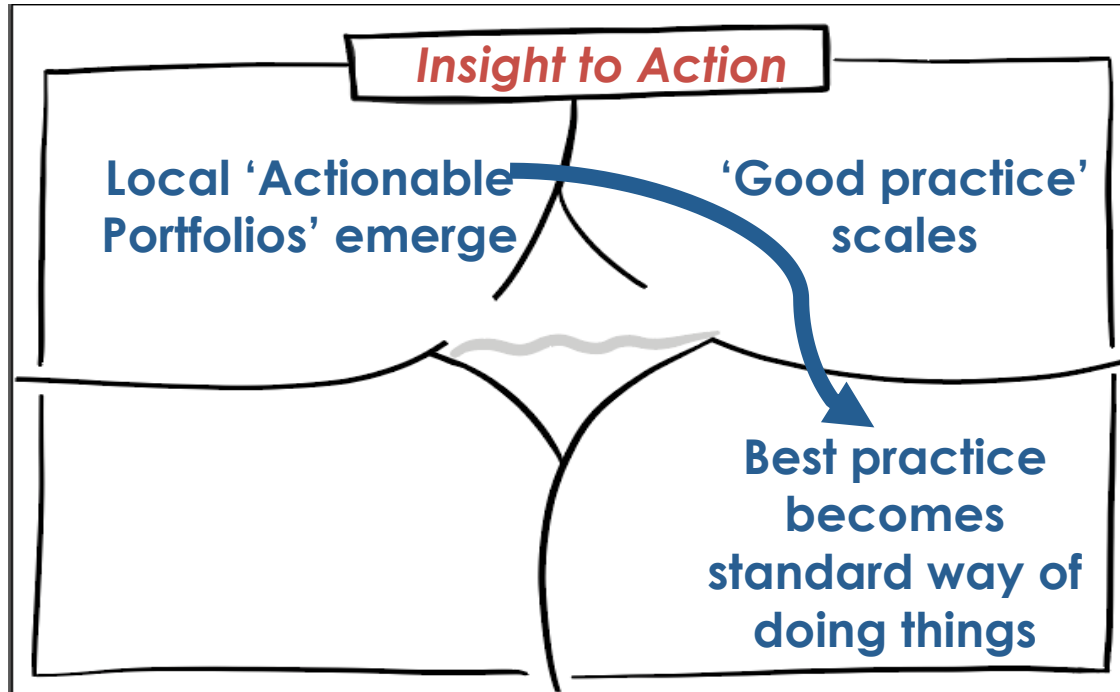
46 Actionables Funded



Location of Community Action Lab Application

3 Statewide Actionable applications

Complexity-Informed Innovation



What's Next?

- ★ Our Tomorrows StoryBank
 - ★ Ongoing story collection across Kansas
 - ★ Monitoring and Evaluation with Vector Theory of Change
- ★ Community Action Labs facilitate local innovation portfolios and rural development
- ★ Distributed analysis with SAVVY Dashboard

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Thank you