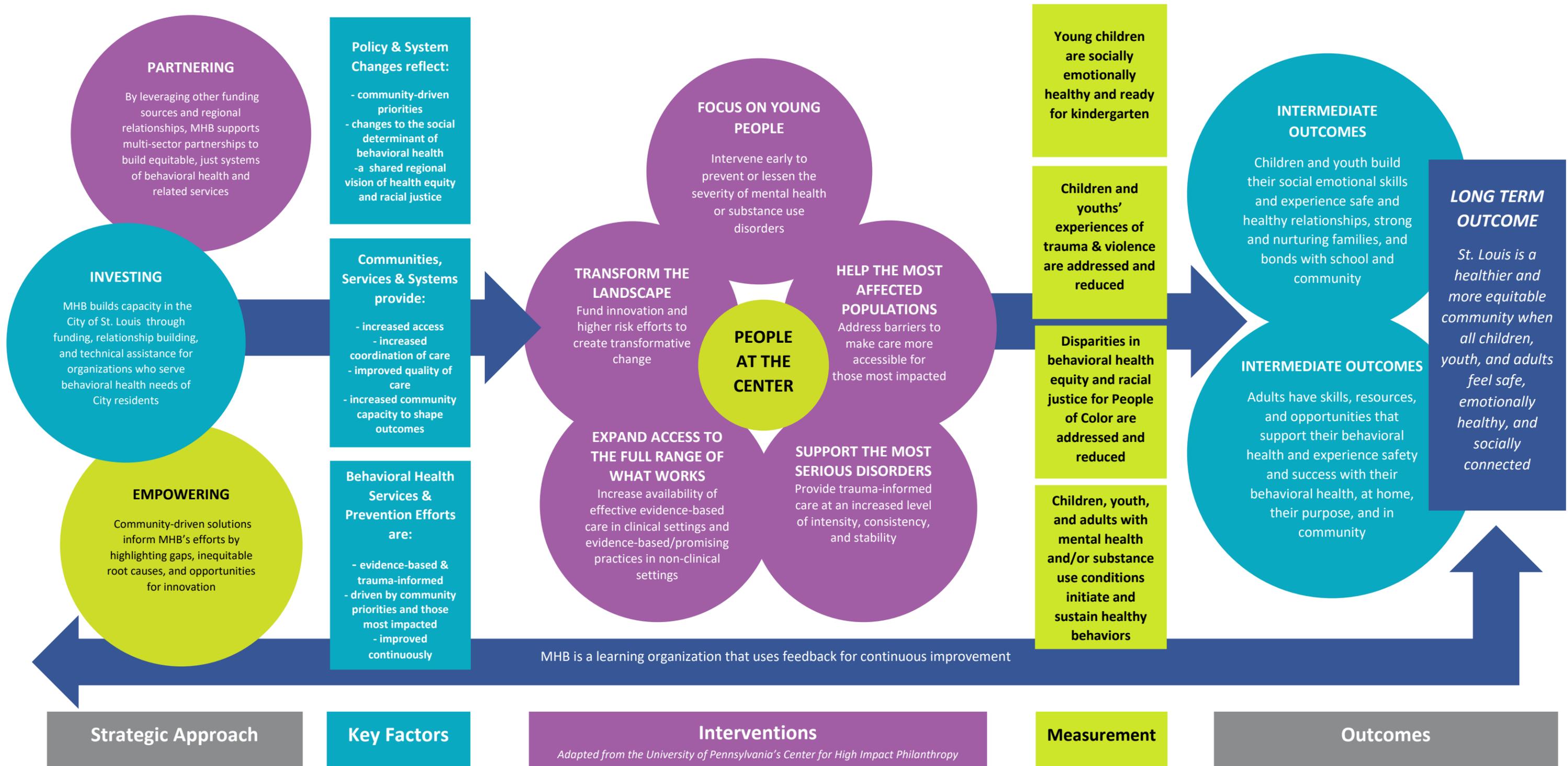


Saint Louis MHB's Theory of Change

COMMUNITY CONTEXT—Since 2008, the City of St. Louis' population has experienced improvements in factors of economic and community well-being (such as median household incomes, unemployment, violent crime, and most behavioral health emergency room visits). However, other key factors, like that of housing instability and homelessness, poverty rates and behavioral health hospital utilization have persisted or grown, with the data continuing to highlight the racial disparities in our region stemming from structurally and historically inequitable policies and biases. Regardless of the direction of change, most behavioral health risk indicators and outcomes for St. Louis City are far worse when compared with neighboring St. Louis County and the State of Missouri. Thus, City residents face greater challenges and greater behavioral health needs than their counterparts. Moreover, certain areas of the City, primarily in the eastern areas of far North and far South City experience the greatest impact. Most recently, these outcomes and racial disparities have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the need for behavioral health and related safety net supports.



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