

# ACHIEVING COMPREHENSIVE EARLY CARE & EDUCATION IN ALEXANDRIA



**PROGRESS UPDATE:  
PREPARED FOR THE JOINT SCHOOL BOARD & CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

June 18, 2015



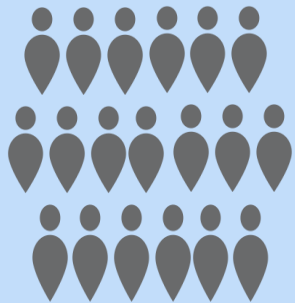
**EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION WORKGROUP**

# ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How is the Early Care and Education Workgroup (ECEW) helping to ensure comprehensive early care and education in Alexandria?
2. How does ECEW represent key stakeholder groups in our community? How does it define Early Childhood Education?
3. What is the progress to date of the ECEW?
4. What are the critical issues that still need to be addressed?
5. How are we collaborating to ensure successful implementation in the coming years?
6. What are the next steps for the ECEW?

# THE ECEW HAS GROWN TO **NEARLY 20 MEMBERS**, REPRESENTING A WIDE ARRAY OF STAKEHOLDERS

## Early Care & Education (ECEW) Work Group



- **Lisette Bishins**, CEO, The Child & Family Network Centers
- **Debbie Bowers**, Public Health Nurse Manager, Alexandria Health Department
- **Debra Collins**, Deputy City Manager, City of Alexandria
- **Alvin Crawley**, Superintendent, ACPS
- **Carol Farrell**, Chief of Early Childhood, Department of Community & Human Services, City of Alexandria
- **Ellen Folts**, Executive Director, Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation
- **Kate Garvey**, Director, Department of Community & Human Services, City of Alexandria
- **Lisa Guli**, Epidemiologist, Alexandria Health Department
- **Stephen Haering**, Director, Alexandria Health Department
- **Mark Jinks**, City Manager, City of Alexandria
- **Stacey Joyner**, Coordinator of Citywide ECE Programs, ACPS
- **Sean McEneaney**, Chair, Children, Youth, & Families Collaborative Commission
- **Tammy Mann**, CEO, The Campagna Center
- **Lori Morris**, President, Bruhn-Morris Family Foundation
- **Terri Mozingo**, Chief Academic Officer, ACPS
- **Clint Page**, Chief Accountability Officer, ACPS
- **Lisa Piehota**, Director of Elementary School Instruction, ACPS
- **Deborah Warren**, Director, Center for Children & Families, Department of Community & Human Services, City of Alexandria
- **Brandi Yee**, Chief Program Officer, ACT for Alexandria

# HOW DO WE DEFINE “ECE” IN TERMS OF THE AGES AND TYPES OF SERVICES IT ENTAILS?

“Prenatal is definitely **part of a holistic ECE system**, but we need to be **very targeted** in how we engage in the pre-natal to three space.”

“The three and four-year-old space is an **important core** to our work. We need strength there from which we can reach out to the 0-3 and 5-8 year old space.”

“We need to be connected to the early elementary school years so we can **ensure ECE gains are sustained.**”



EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



HEALTH SUPPORT



SOCIO-EMOTIONAL  
SUPPORT



FAMILY SUPPORT



COMMUNITY SUPPORT

# THE EARLY CARE & EDUCATION WORK GROUP HAS MADE **SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS** TO DATE



2012:  
Development  
of the  
Children &  
Youth Master  
Plan begins



Spring 2013:  
ACT begins  
convening  
Early Care &  
Education  
Work Group  
(ECEW)



Summer  
2013: Risk  
& Reach  
Study  
conducted in  
collaboratio  
n with ECEW



November  
2013:  
Creation of  
Children &  
Youth Well-  
Being  
Profile



January 2014:  
Risk & Reach  
Study presented  
to Children, Youth  
& Families  
Collaborative  
Commission



October  
2014:  
ECEW  
selected to  
attend P-3  
Conference  
in Seattle



March 2015:  
MOU signed by  
ACT, ACPS, &  
City for ACT to  
serve as  
convener of  
ECEW for CYMP  
Strategy 2.1



May 2015:  
ECEW  
engages  
with FSG on  
systems  
building  
strategy  
project

2012

2013

2014

2015

Fall 2012: ACT is  
asked to convene  
Early Care &  
Education leaders  
to work on a  
strategy for early  
childhood

June 2013: ACT  
hosts Early Care  
& Education  
IMPACT Forum  
highlighting state  
and national best  
practices

November  
2013: ACT  
establishes  
Early Care  
& Education  
Fund

June 2014:  
Children &  
Youth Master  
Plan approved  
by Alexandria  
City School  
Board & City  
Council

February 2015:  
U.S. Secretary of  
Education Arne  
Duncan visits  
Patrick Henry  
Elementary  
School and  
meets ECEW

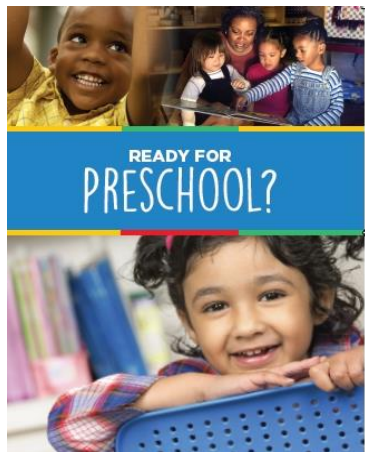
April 2015:  
ECEW visits  
Allegheny County  
to learn about  
Data Sharing &  
Partnership best  
practice model



# THE ECEW HAS HAD A NUMBER OF SUCCESSSES TO DATE:



*"The Allegheny field trip helped us envision what was really possible."*



*"When we put together the brochure, I was really impressed; I didn't think we could be at that stage so quickly."*



The Quality Collaborative formed around CLASS Professional Development for VPI, Head Start, and Early Childhood Special Education teachers. Cohort includes 60+ lead teachers in 41 early childhood classrooms, serving more than 720 of the City's highest need young children. Additional partnership with UVA for evaluation of 3 year pilot.

*"Bringing the VPI providers together has enabled a lot of tangible progress."*



## EARLY CARE & EDUCATION IN ALEXANDRIA RISK & REACH STUDY

Early Care & Education Workgroup  
Study Consultant - Real Change Strategies



*"Getting a sense of the needs through the Risk & Reach study was huge."*



*"Strategic plans are starting to align in a way that makes sense."*

# WHAT ARE THE **CRITICAL ISSUES** THAT STILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED?



**Reaching the hardest to reach**



**Space and transportation constraints**



**Sustainable funding**



**Data: What, how much, and why**

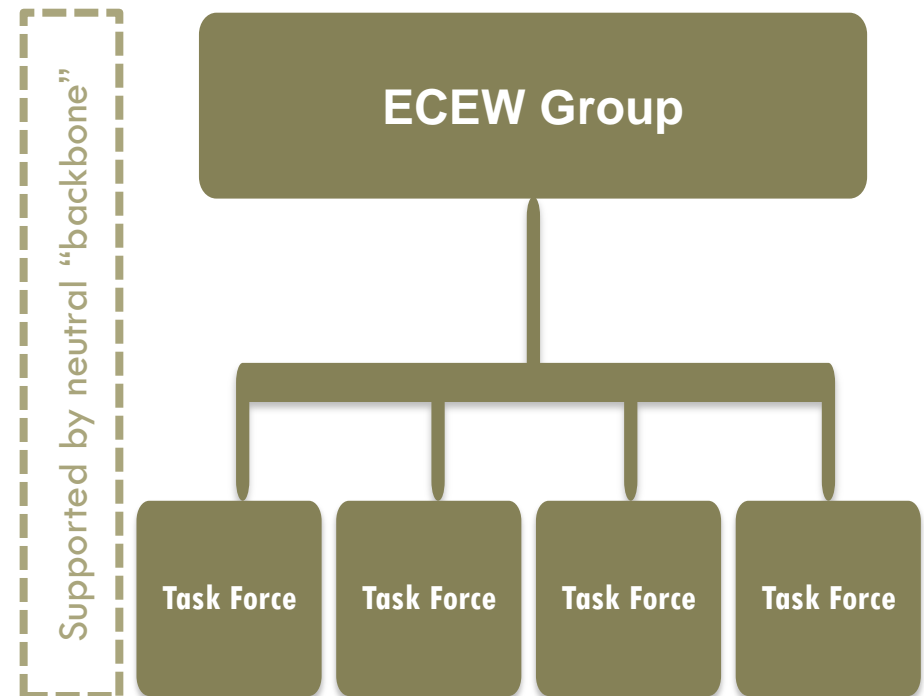


**Enhancing and sustaining quality**



# WHAT WOULD SUCCESS IN 3 YEARS LOOK LIKE IN TERMS OF PROCESSES IN PLACE?

1. **Strategic direction:** We are all aligned on a goal and what strategies we'll employ to achieve that goal
2. **Clear implementation plan:** We understand our 'next steps' clearly, gathering inputs (e.g., data) with a specific purpose in mind
3. **Effective, output-oriented meeting facilitation:** We have task forces with specific marching orders that tie back directly to our strategies
4. **Dedicated individual to shepherd the work forward:** We need a champion who wakes up every day with pre-natal to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade ECE on their mind





# TOGETHER WE ARE CRAFTING A **COMMON AGENDA** TO GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION IN THE COMING YEARS

## Vision & Definitions:

What is our “passionate purpose”? How do we define each component of our vision?

## Big Goals / Outcomes:

What outcomes would we want to see to know that our vision will become a reality?

## Strategies & Structures:

What strategies can we undertake that will lead to the desired goals?  
What backbone and working group structure will best support them?

## Indicators:

What metrics will indicate successful outcomes?

## Learning & Evaluation:

How will progress measurement and continuous learning happen?

## Guiding Values & Principles:

What are the underlying values and principles that guide our work?

**Vision & Definitions**

**Outcome**

**Outcome**

**Outcome**

**Strategies & Structures**

*(e.g., sub-committees, governance, facilitation)*

**Indicator**

**Indicator**

**Indicator**

**Indicator**

**Learning & Evaluation Plan**

**Guiding Values & Principles**

# A SHARED MEASUREMENT SYSTEM IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THIS WORK

## Definition

Identifying common metrics for tracking progress across organizations and systems toward a common agenda

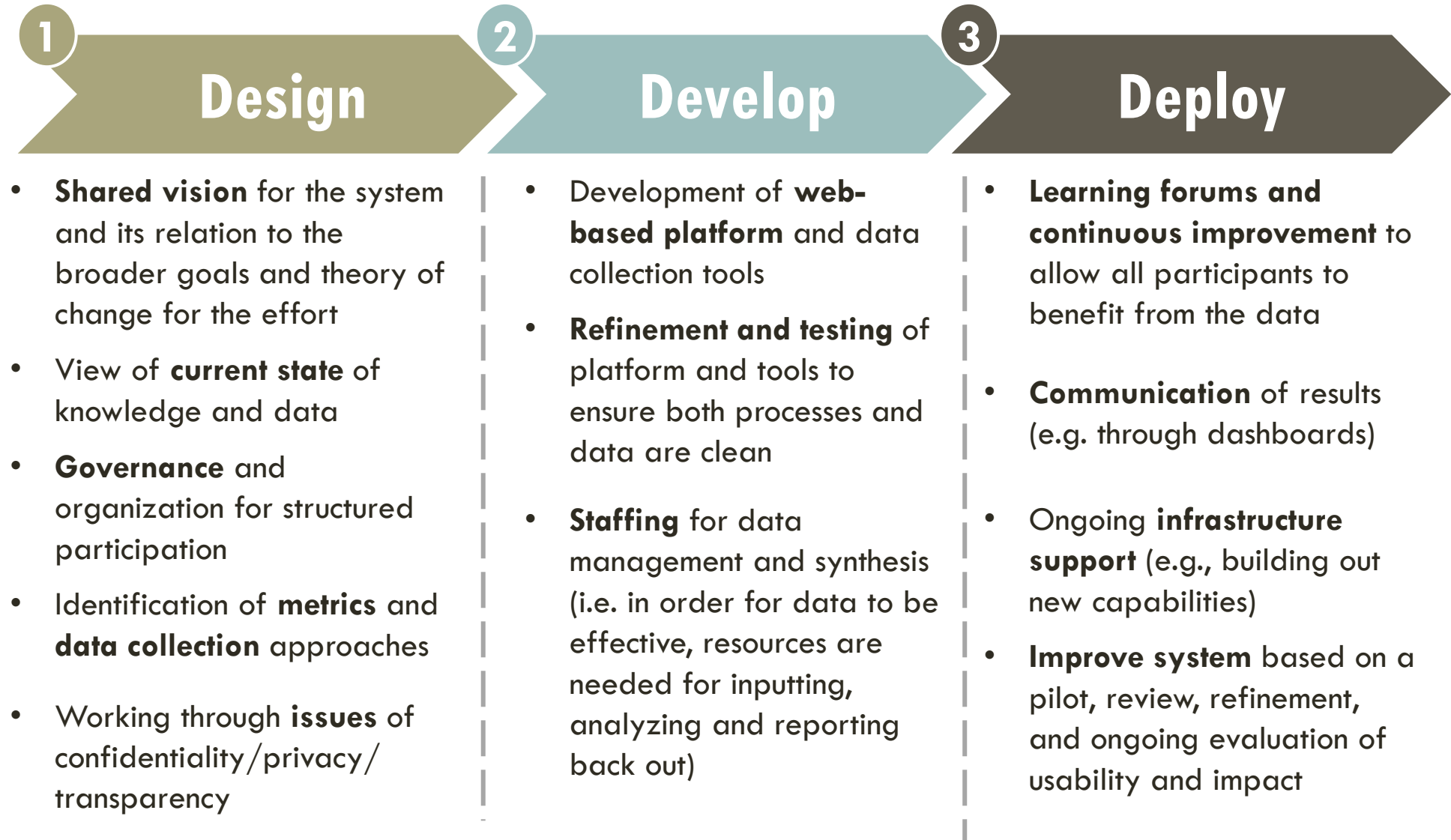
## Benefits

- Tracking progress toward a shared goal
- Enabling coordination and collaboration
- Improved data quality
- Continuous learning and course correction
- Catalyzing action

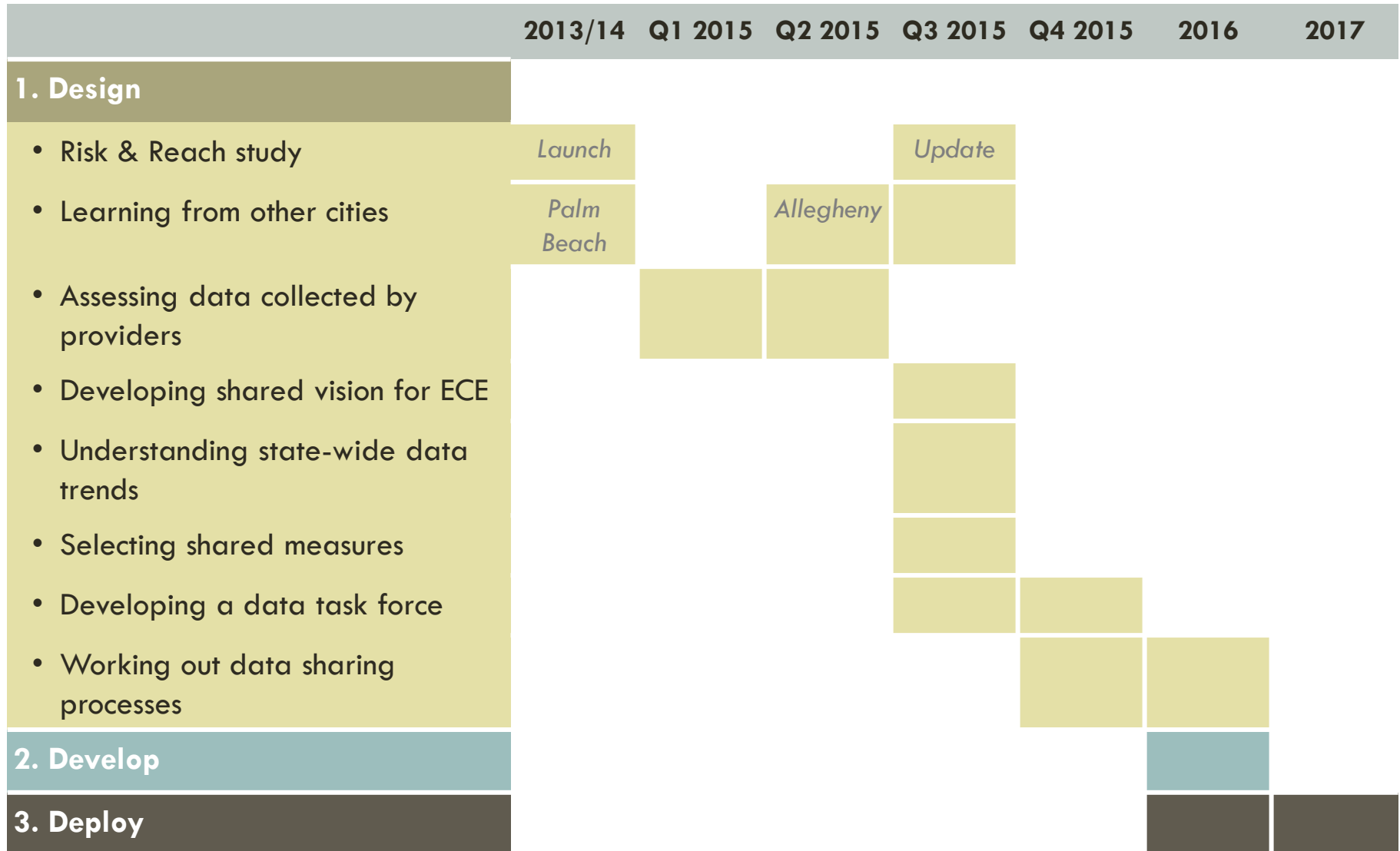
## Shared Measurement is not:

- × Meant to measure the impact of a single organization or intervention
- × Simple data collection or “just an IT platform”
- × Focused only (or mostly) on programmatic measures
- × Meant to be punitive
- × Meant to foster competition
- × A once-a-year report
- × A retrospective evaluation

# THE CREATION OF A SHARED MEASUREMENT SYSTEM ENTAILS **THREE STEPS**



# WE ARE CURRENTLY IN THE DESIGN PHASE OF THIS PROCESS



# NEXT STEPS FOR ACHIEVING OUR ECEW VISION



- ❖ **Refine** the shared vision for success
- ❖ **Explore national examples** of early childhood collective impact initiatives and share relevant insights
- ❖ **Discuss data, evaluation, and learning** as it relates to assessing the outcomes of ECEW's work
- ❖ **Guide the creation of task forces** and other sub-programs / initiatives to tackle specific objectives
- ❖ **Identify and empower a backbone organization** to support the effort

