

# CROSS-SECTOR ALIGNMENT THEORY OF CHANGE

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) is working alongside others to build a national Culture of Health that provides everyone in America a fair and just opportunity for health and well-being. The foundation is working toward this vision by investing in four broad areas of focus.

- Leadership for Better Health
- Healthy Communities
- Healthy Children and Families
- Transforming Health and Health Care Systems

Within the Transforming Health and Health Care Systems area of focus, RWJF is investing in three primary strategies, one of which is a multisector systems Alignment strategy. The Alignment strategy intends to foster stronger, sustainable connections among health care, public health, and social services to better meet the goals and needs of the people they serve.

## THE THEORY OF CHANGE

Health care, public health, and social service organizations must have the capacity and urgency to improve how they work within their organizations, together, and with community members. If they work toward a set of shared priorities based on community goals and needs, they will make sustainable progress toward improving health and well-being in their communities, especially among the populations most at risk of inequities.



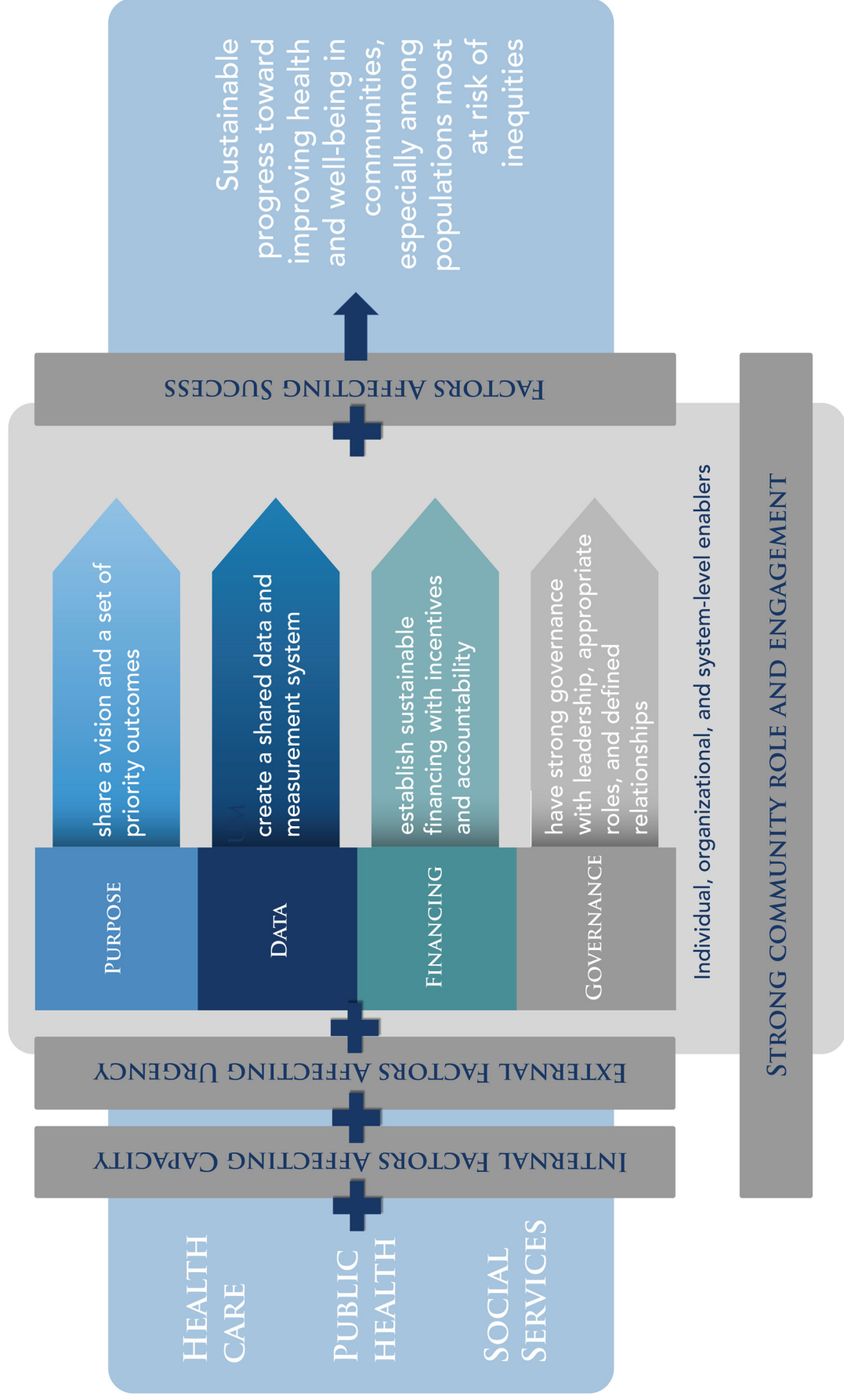
To achieve this, systems and leaders should

- Share a purpose and a set of priority outcomes
- Create a shared data and measurement system
- Establish sustainable financing with incentives and accountability
- Have strong governance infrastructure with leadership, appropriate roles, and defined relationships

Systems change and alignment should be driven by the voice and participation of community members.

Current multistakeholder collaborative efforts are often temporary due to funding constraints, lack of incentives, and structures that don't lend themselves to more permanent connections. Aligning sectors and systems is a way to sustain the impact of collaborative efforts. Alignment requires real change so that joint efforts to improve health and health equity among health care, public health, and community-based social services are built to last.

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## ALIGNING SYSTEMS FOR HEALTH

Health Care + Public Health + Social Services

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