



FORWARD CITIES

Accelerating Inclusive Entrepreneurship in our
Nation's Cities

CHRISTOPHER GERGEN

forwardcities.org | [@forwardcities](https://twitter.com/forwardcities)



Forward Cities is a national nonprofit that:

- Provides **capacity building** to cities and micropolitans committed to boosting entrepreneurship and small business growth in under-connected neighborhoods
- Fosters **collaboration and learning** between cities and within regions/ states





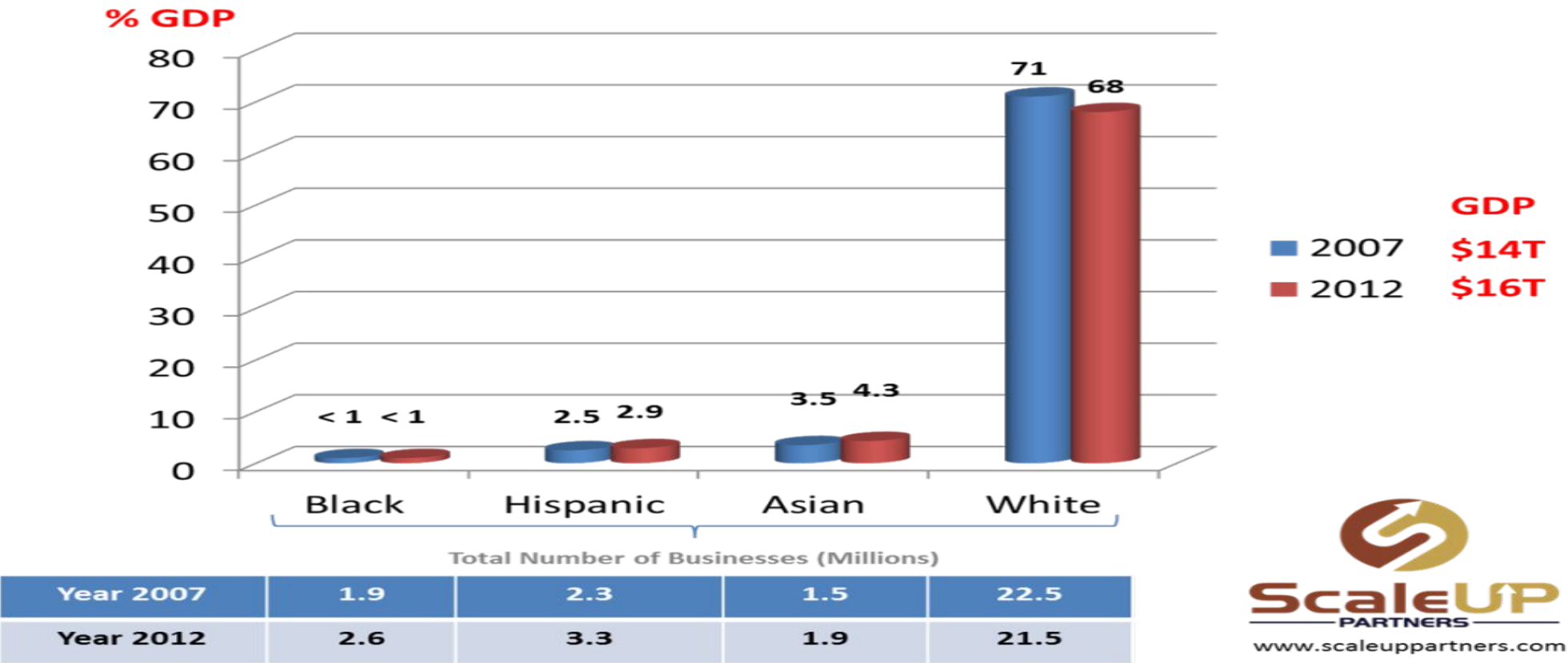
The problem we are addressing...

Entrepreneurship is a critical economic driver and creator of wealth but this prosperity is not broadly shared.





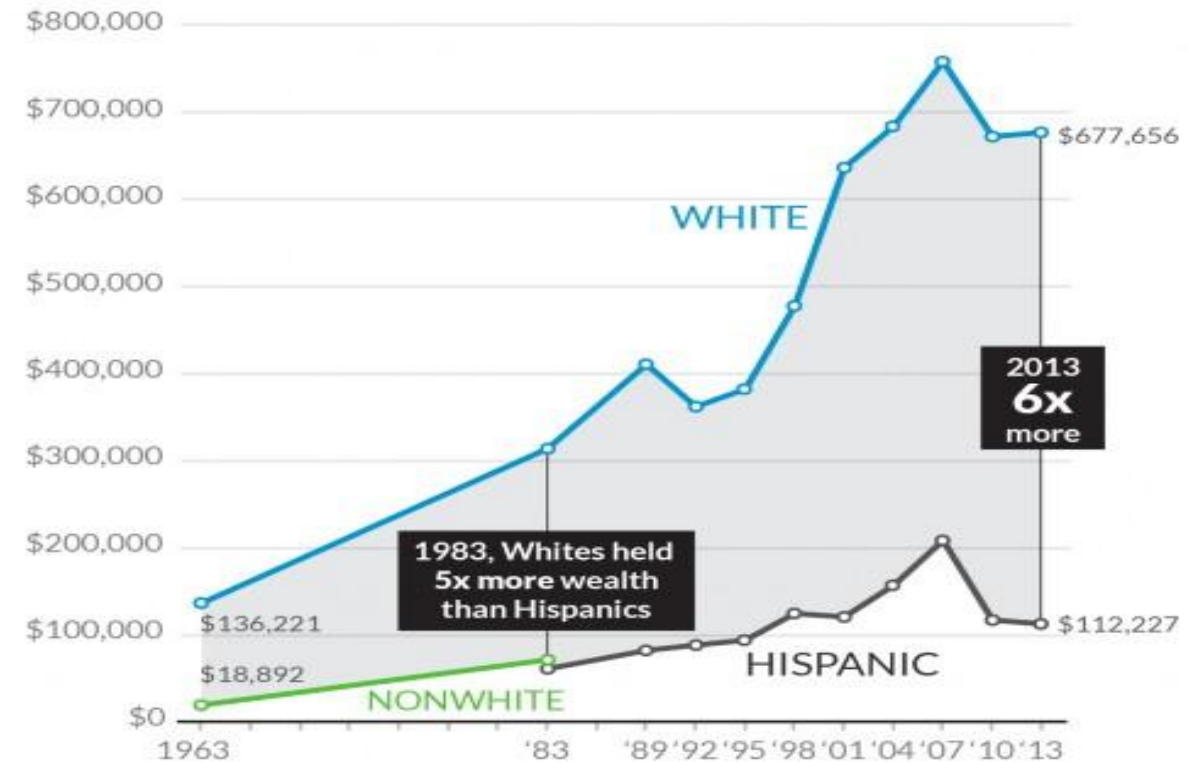
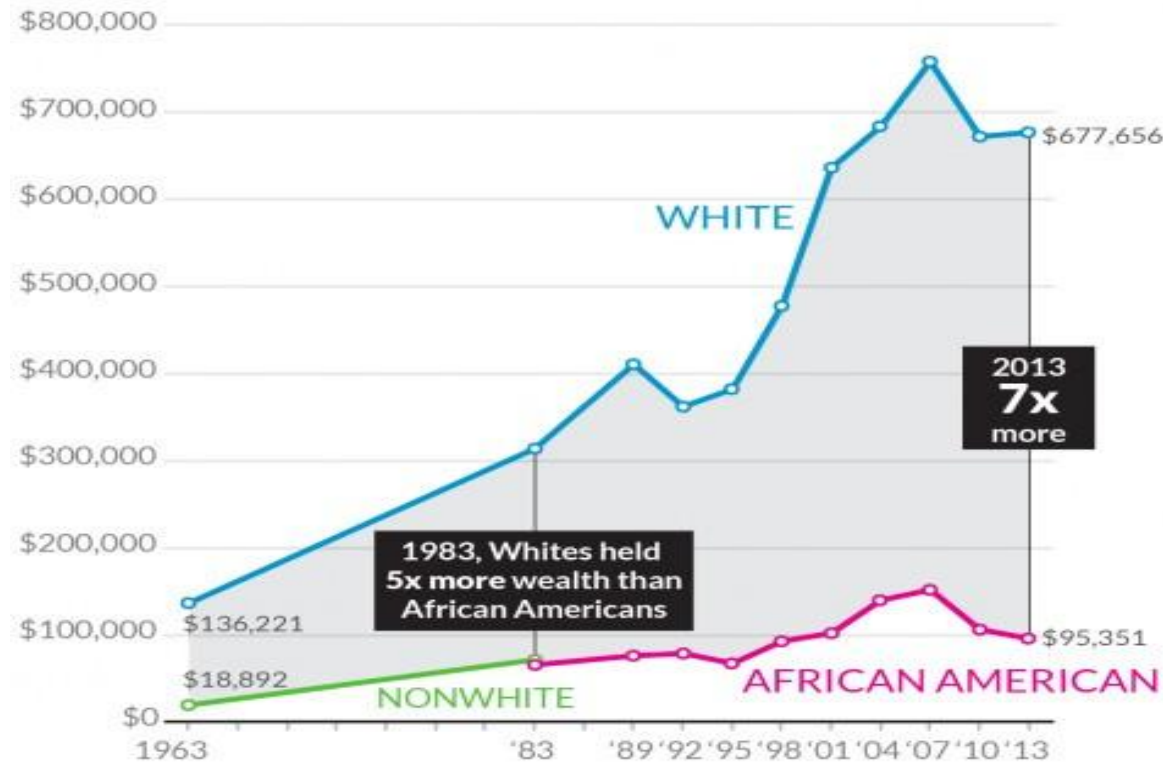
Business Productivity by Race



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Average Family Wealth by Race/Ethnicity, 1963–2013



Sources: Urban Institute calculations from Survey of Financial Characteristics of Consumers 1962 (December 31), Survey of Changes in Family Finances 1963, and Survey of Consumer Finances 1983–2013.

Notes: 2013 dollars. No comparable data are available between 1963 and 1983. African American/Hispanic distinction within nonwhite population available only in 1983 and later.

County of New Haven Population Breakdown

860,435
-2,554

Population Size;
Change since 2010

11%
\$86,424

Percent in Poverty;
Median Family Income

91%
34%

Percent HS, higher;
Percent BA, higher

12%

Residents that
are Foreign-born

22%

Speak Language
Other Than
English at Home

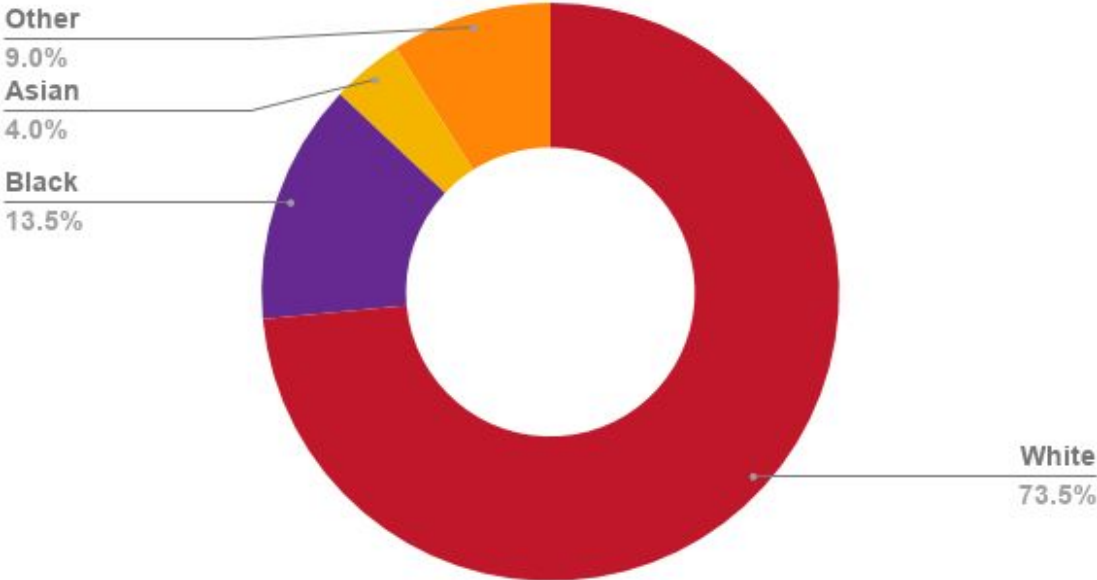
US: 13%
\$60,336

US: 88%
32%

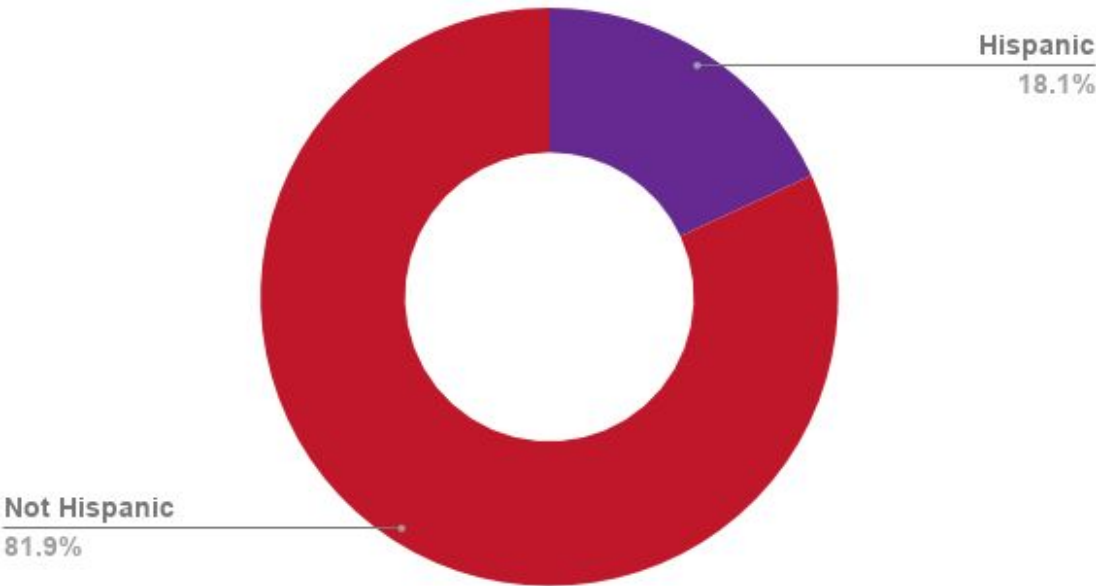
US: 14%

US: 22%

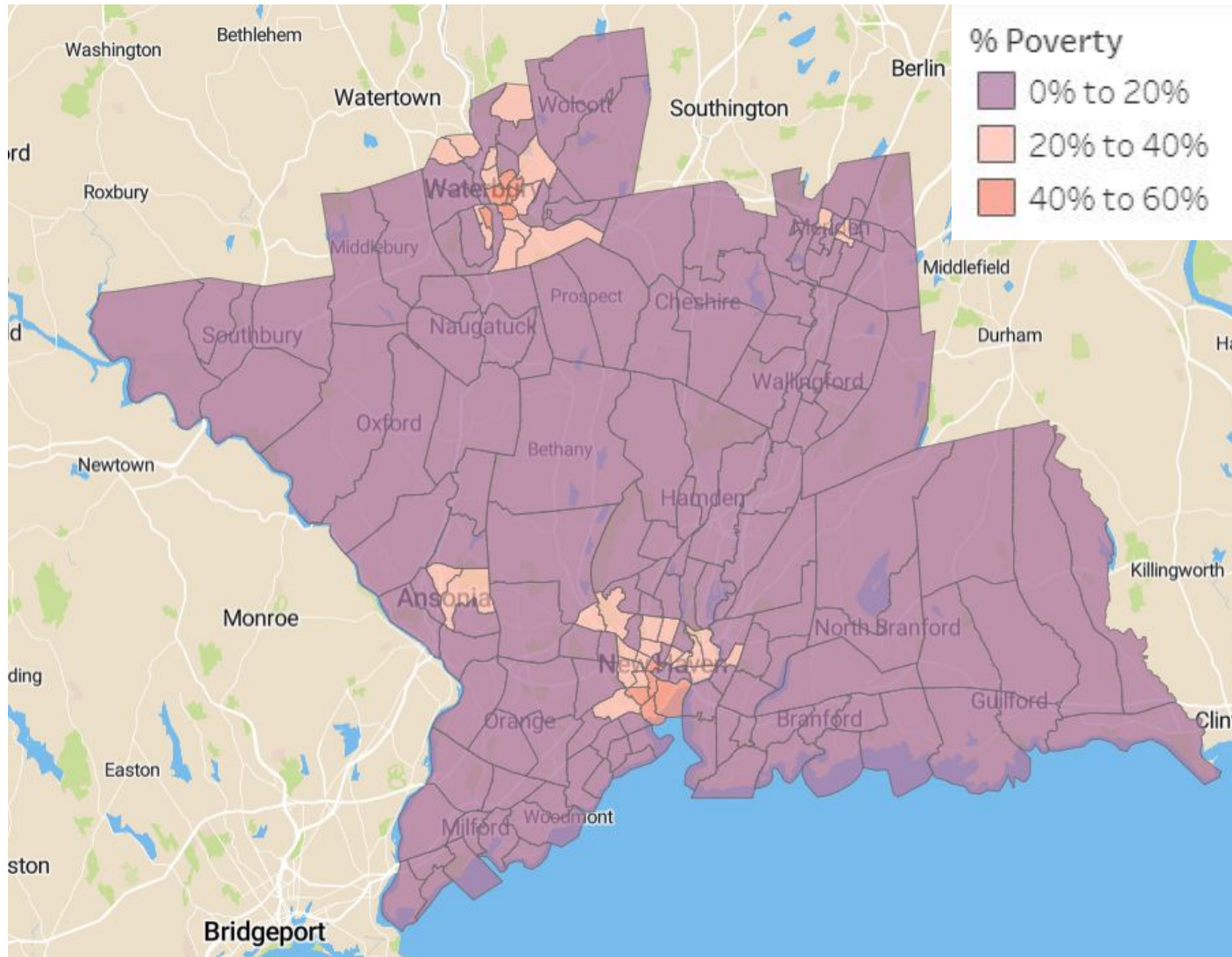
Race



Ethnicity



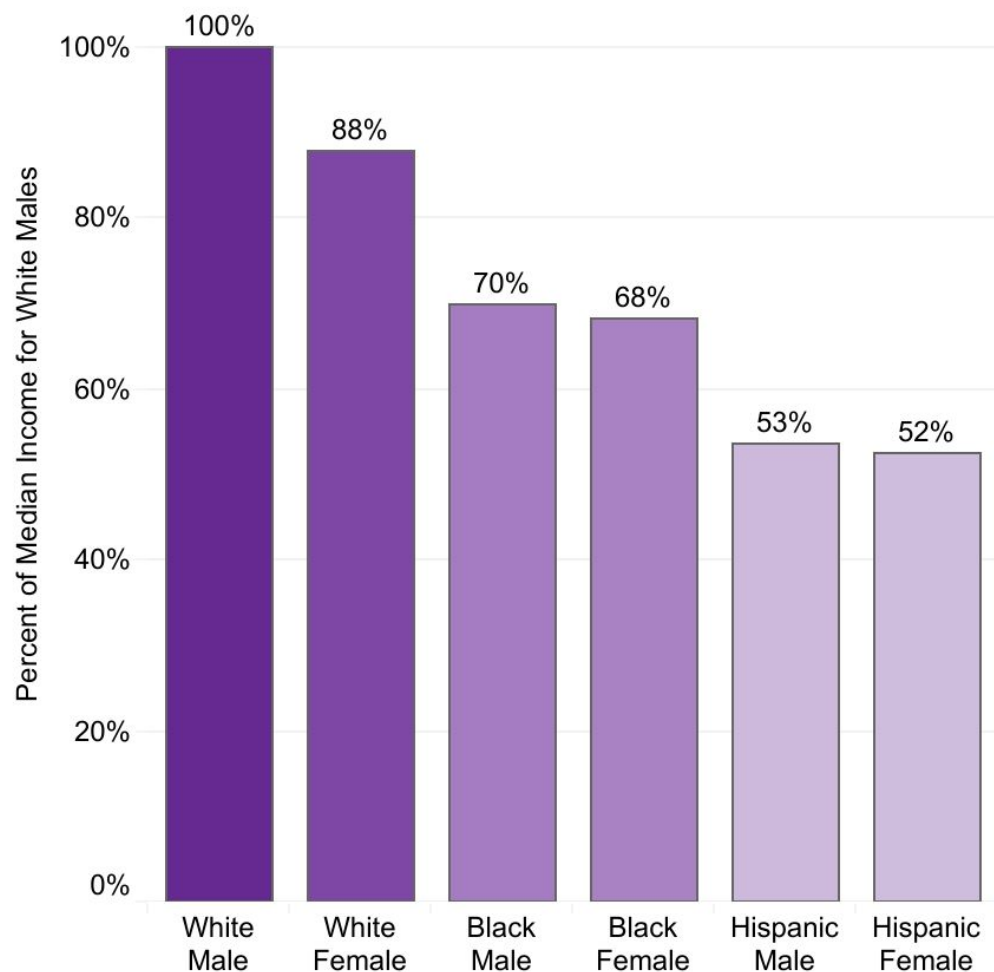
Poverty Rates



Poverty rates are not evenly distributed in the New Haven area, with much higher rates seen in downtown New Haven and Waterbury.

City of New Haven Earnings Gap

Earnings gap for *full time workers*, 2017



For every dollar a White male makes:

- A Hispanic female makes **52 cents**
- A Hispanic male makes **53 cents**
- A Black/African-American female makes **68 cents**
- A Black/African-American male makes **70 cents**
- A White female makes **88 cents**

Compared to New Haven County:

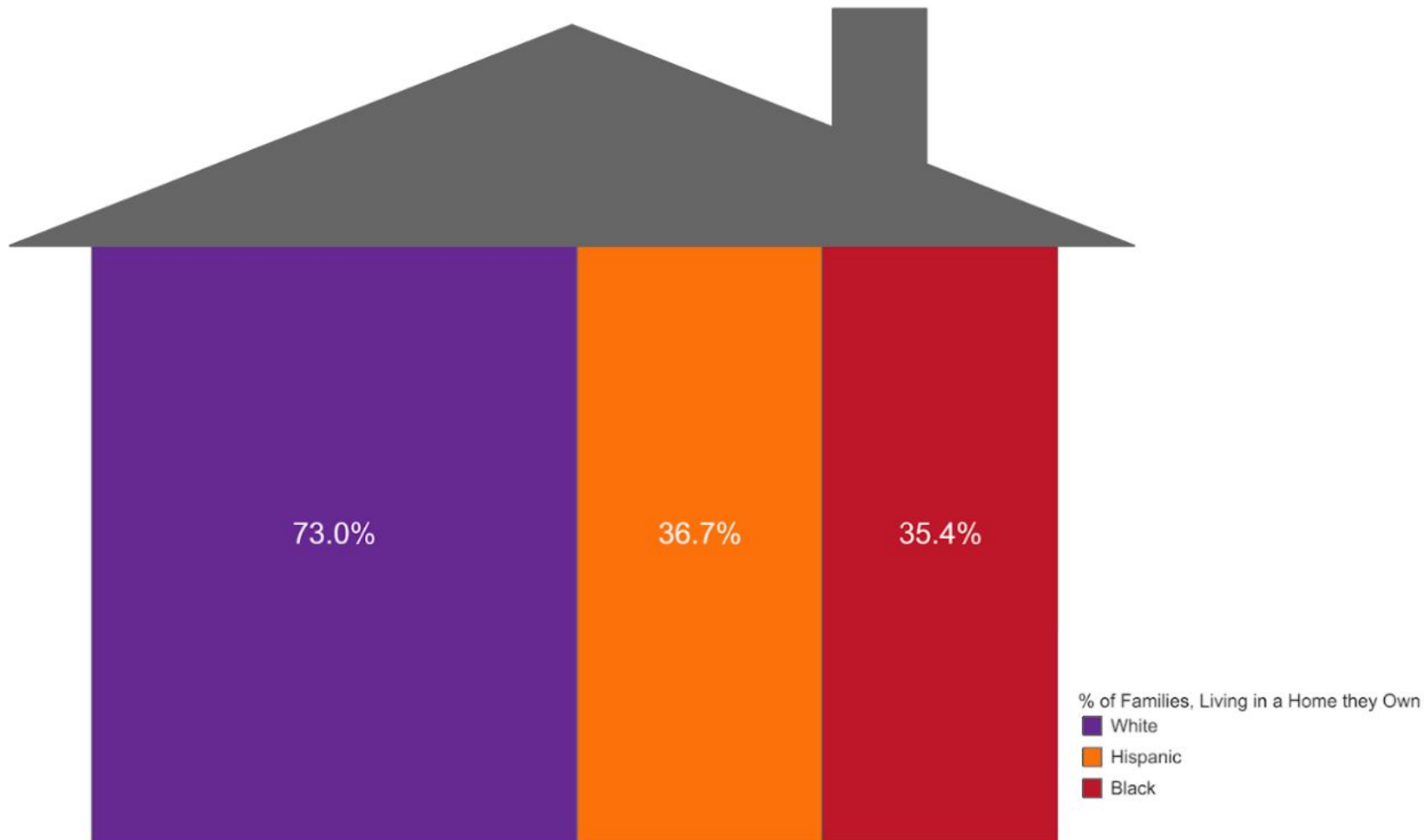
Women make more

Black/African-American males make less

Hispanic males and females make less

Wealth Gap in County of New Haven

Percent of households living in a home they own in 2017, by population subgroup



**Using homeownership
as a proxy for wealth:**

Nearly three in four
White families live in a
home they own.

Just over three in 10
Hispanic and
Black/African-Americans
live in a home they own.

Entrepreneurship Indicators

30,529 (8% of total) N. Haven
36,656 (7% of total) Buffalo
14,527,648 (10% of total)
Pittsburgh

Self-Employment

Number and
percent of
self-employed New
Haven County
residents



9,855
+31

Low Small Business Density and Dynamism

Number of businesses
with 1-4 employees,
change over last 5 years

2 per 1k people N. Haven
10 per 1k people Buffalo
8 per 1k people Pittsburgh

Entrepreneur Density

Number of State
businesses open less
than 2 years per 1,000
residents ages 16-64

4,897
(7%)

Business Density

Number and percent of
businesses that have
been in business less
than 2 years

1 per 1k female N. Haven
4 per 1k female Buffalo
3 per 1k female Pittsburgh
0.3 per 1k Black/ AA N. Haven
1 per 1k Black/AA Buffalo
1 per 1 k Black/AA Pittsburgh
1 per 1k Hispanic N. Haven

Entrepreneurial Diversity

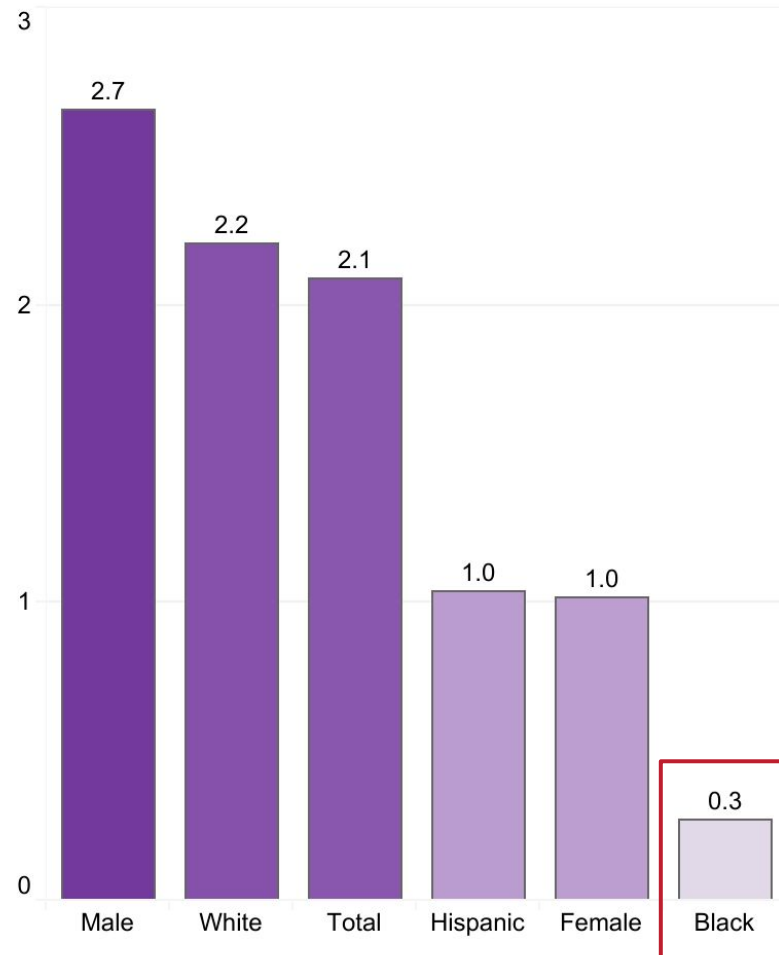
Number of businesses
open <2 years per 1,000
residents ages 16-64



Entrepreneur Diversity

State

Number of new businesses (<2 years) per 1000 adults (16-64) in the labor force in 2016, by race and gender



Just one in about 3,000

Black/African-American Connecticut residents start a small business

One in 1,000 - Buffalo

One in 1,000 - Columbus, OH

A little over two in 1,000 White Connecticut residents start a small business

11 in 1,000 - Buffalo

8 in 1,000 - Columbus, OH

Just one in 1,000 Hispanic or female

Connecticut residents start a small business.

Four in 1,000 - Buffalo

Three in 1,000 - Columbus

White residents in New Haven are about 19 times more likely to have an employer business than their African-American peers.

Without **intentional strategies** and **investment** to address these challenges, our cities and regions will be less economically competitive and social costs will rise.



GREATER NEW ENGLAND MINORITY SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL - OUR GOALS

Develop Minority Businesses & Advance Economic Inclusion

❖ ***CERTIFY***

❖ ***CONNECT***

❖ ***DEVELOP***

❖ ***ADVOCATE***



CERTIFY

225 Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) Certified in 5 States *Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Hampshire & Maine*

Aggregate Revenue	\$2.275 Billion
Average Revenue	\$10.112 Million
Median Revenue	\$1.840 Million
Total Employees	10,961
# Ethnic Minority Employees/ % of Total Employees	5,416 / 49.16%



CONNECT


Corporate to MBE

Corporate to Corporate

MBE to MBE

DEVELOP

	Category 1 MBEs	Category 2, 3 and 4 MBEs
One-on-one Consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategy ● Creation/Refinement of “Value Proposition” ● Financial Management/Understanding Financial Statements ● Access to Debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Advice ● Financial Management/Understanding Financial Statements ● Advice regarding “Inorganic Growth” (Mergers, Acquisitions, and Joint Ventures) ● Advice/Contacts/Introductions to Debt, Mezzanine and Equity Capital
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Process Improvement ● Financial Management ● Access to Capital (Bank Debt and Finance Companies) ● Cash Flow Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Process Improvement ● Financial Management ● Access to Capital (Bank Debt and Finance Companies) ● Cash Flow Management ● Succession Planning



A group of 12 diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are posing for a photo in a room with a brick wall and wooden floor. They are arranged in two rows, with some standing and some sitting on chairs. The word "COLLAB" is overlaid in large, white, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image. The people are dressed in casual to semi-formal attire. The background features a red brick wall, a staircase on the left, and a colorful abstract mural on the right.

COLLAB



Events



Events



Office
Hours



Events



Office
Hours



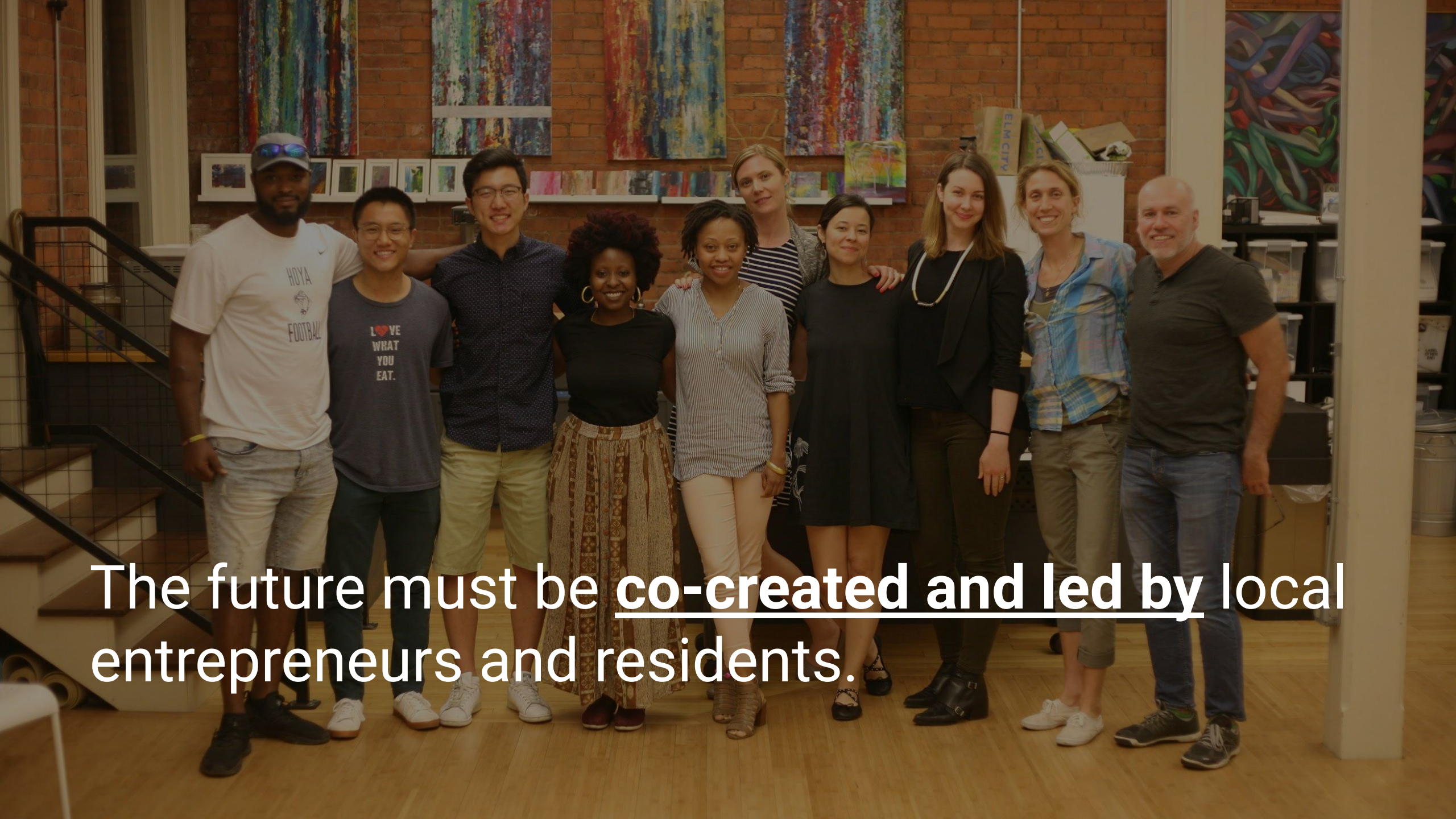
Accelerator



1,649 *at Collab events*

754 *sessions of Office Hours*

41 *ventures in Accelerator*



The future must be co-created and led by local entrepreneurs and residents.

A close-up, profile view of a woman with dark skin and her hair styled in many small braids. She is looking towards the right. She is wearing a red lace top and a large, circular, gold-colored earring. The background is a dark, textured blue-grey.

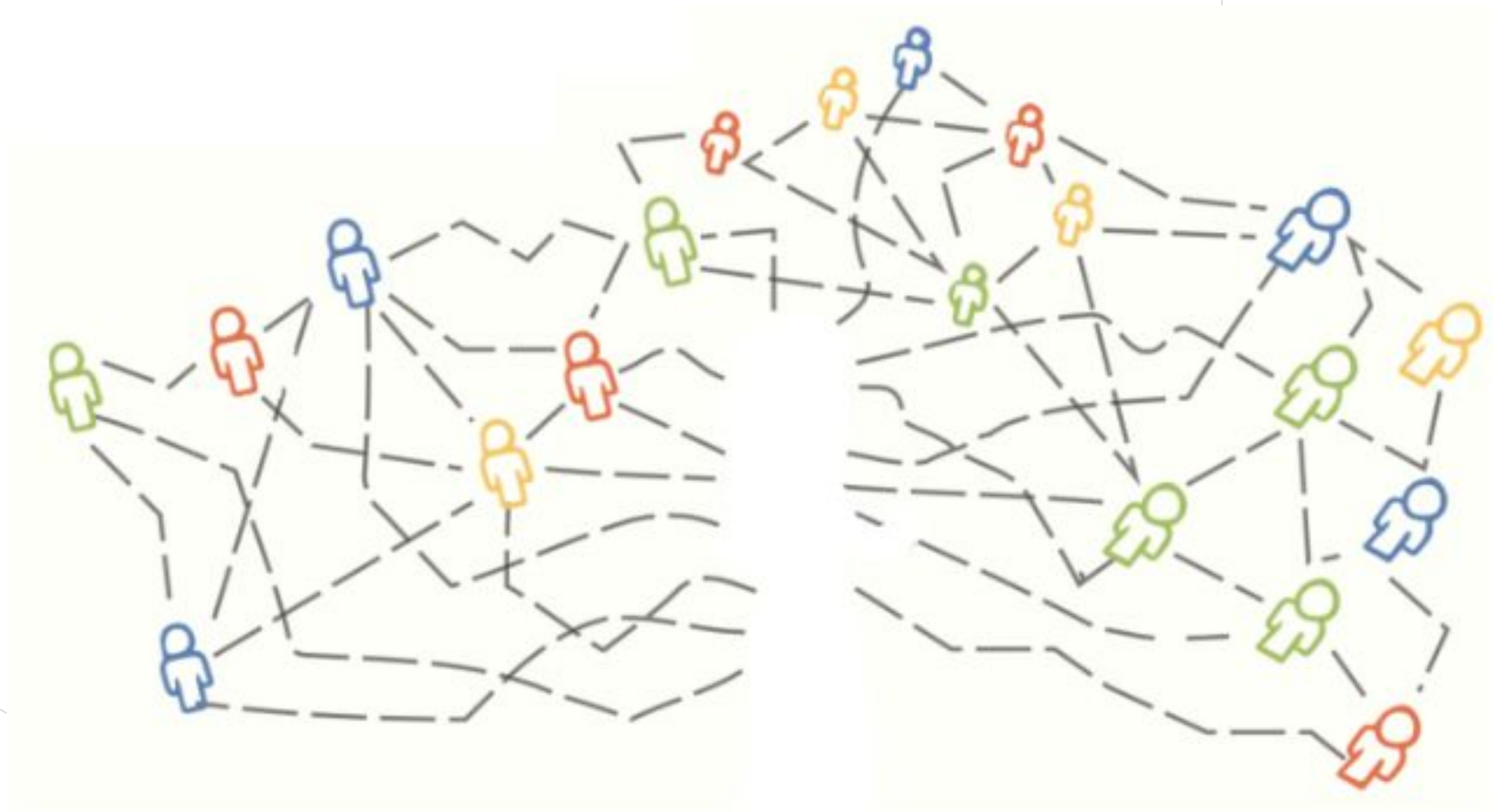
How success is measured must be
broadened and deepened.



A truly inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem
needs a large open door.







INNOVATION THRIVES
IN DENSE NETWORKS.



HEALTHY & INCLUSIVE ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEMS



Trust and collaboration between ESOs



Trust between potential/current entrepreneurs and ESOs



Available to everyone who wants to participate and known to everyone



Accessible, shared, promoted knowledge of resources and state of the ecosystem

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The Developmental Path

Disconnected & Disengaged

Connected & Coordinated

- Cross-sector leadership
- National learning network
- Benchmarked data

Aligned & Acting

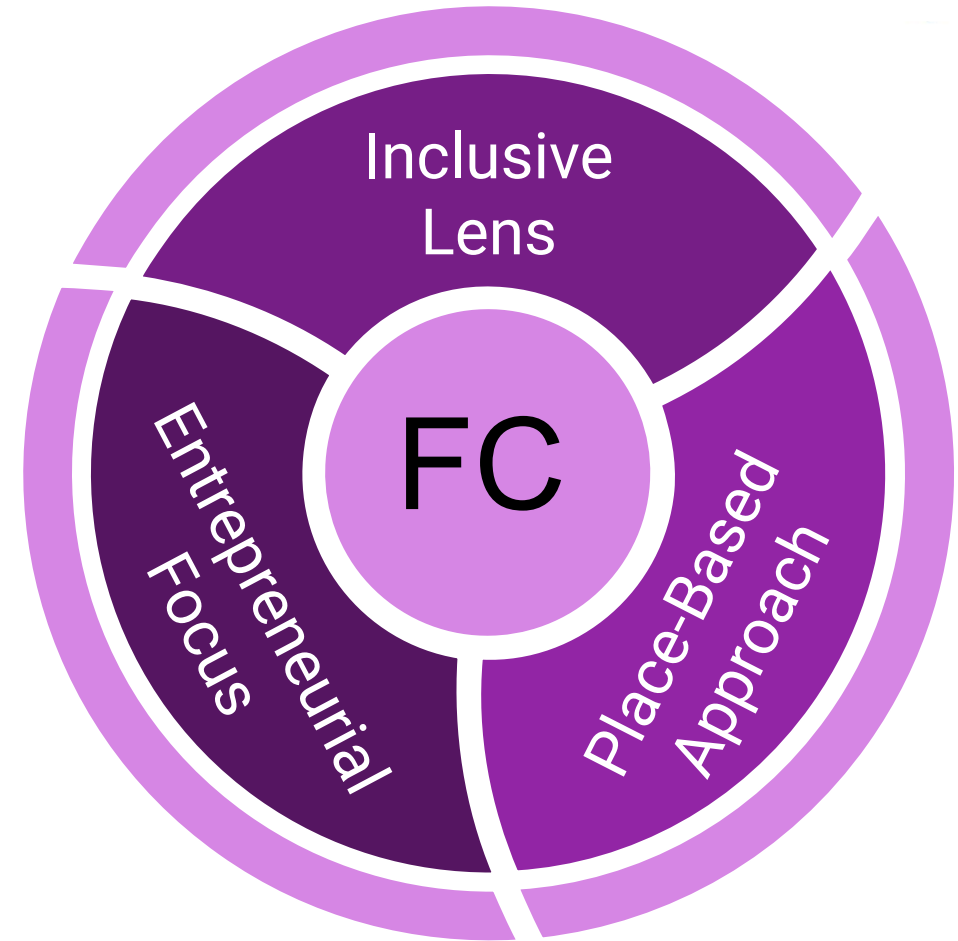
- Target outcomes
- Aligned strategies
- Public/Private investment

Realizing Results

- Measurable progress
- Sustained economic return
- Scalable initiatives
- National contribution

Forward Cities Approach

- Data-informed
- Human-centered
- Community-led
- Action-oriented
- Collaboration-minded



Cities like New Haven can be laboratories of place-based inclusive entrepreneurship:

- Driving intentional strategies for inclusive growth
- Fostering cross-sector/cross-city collaboration
- Removing barriers to entrepreneurship & small business growth
- Connecting to other communities in the region/ state
- Creating replicable models of wealth creation & inclusive competitiveness



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Appendix:



Indicator Choice and Sources (I)

	Indicator Rationale	Sources for Indicator
Opportunity Gap	This indicator provides a one-of-a-kind lense into how a neighborhood in which children grow up shape their earnings trajectory into mid-age adulthood. The data allows to control for parental income, gender and race of the child, facilitating more instructive comparisons that establish a causal link between neighborhoods, human capital development and social mobility.	2016 The Opportunities Atlas, Opportunity Insights
Earnings Gap	This raw comparison of earnings by gender and race provides a snapshot of the overall disparities in earnings that full-time employees take home. Rather than accounting for occupation, education and seniority differences (in spirit of “equal pay for equal work”) that explain parts of these gaps, this indicator focuses on earnings in their own right as building blocks of wealth.	2016 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau
Wealth Gap	Wealth is hard to measure directly, so researchers interested in neighborhood-level differences have resorted to using proxies like homeownership rates. Homeownership has shown to generate wealth due to tax incentives, financial market advantages and behavioral nudges. The history of systematic discrimination in the housing market further underlines the indicator’s value and perspective in work on inclusive economic development and entrepreneurship .	2016 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau
Growth Industries	The engine of new job growth are small businesses, which together employed 47.5% of all U.S. workers in 2018. A small number of industries concentrate most of the new jobs created. This indicator outlines the industries responsible for half of all net employment growth locally and specifies whether employment growth goes hand in hand with average salary increases or not.	2016 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau
Self-Employment	People reporting to be self-employed, provides the best available, big-picture marker of the number of entrepreneurs in the country. Disaggregating self-employment by gender allows to probe whether the general decline in self-employment affects all groups equally. Evidence that self-employment is more prevalent at the lower end of the income spectrum further reinforces the importance of this indicator for work on inclusivity.	2016 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau 2012 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau 2016 Nonemployer Statistics, United States Census Bureau

Indicator Choice and Sources (II)

	Indicator Rationale	Sources for Indicator
Entrepreneurial Density	Research on entrepreneurship mandates to take a close look at the number of entrepreneurs that call a given community home. The number of small businesses (<4 employees) as a share of the local population “is the statistical corollary of the number of entrepreneurs you will run into walking across the street” and a measure that is comparable across communities. We include the rate for specific population subgroups as an indicator of diversity.	2015 Policy Map 2016 Survey of Entrepreneurs, United States Census Bureau 2012 Survey of Entrepreneurs, United States Census Bureau
Entrepreneurial Dynamism	Static measures of representation by entrepreneurs in a community only provide us with a snapshot picture about density. Probing into changes over time as well as evolutions in salaries paid by small businesses (<4 employees) paints a increasingly dynamic picture of the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.	2016 Survey of Entrepreneurs, United States Census Bureau 2012 Survey of Entrepreneurs, United States Census Bureau 2015 Policy Map
Jobs at Risk of Automation	Predictions abound about widespread job displacement and the overhaul of labor markets due to increasingly sophisticated artificial intelligence. Deconstructing the critical tasks that each occupation needs to perform on the job and assessing their ease of computerization provides a bottom-up accounting of an occupation's risk to be automated. Aggregating how many of these jobs exist in a community creates profiles of exposure to automation.	2017 American Community Survey(5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau Brookings Report “Automation and artificial intelligence: how machines affect people and places.”
Workers in Alternative Work Arrangements	The contingent and alternative workforce, defined here as temporary help-agency workers, on-call workers, contract company workers, independent contractors and freelancers, has grown in leaps. Given persistent data gaps at the local level we need to resort to national estimates, available by occupation, to approximate the scale to which local labor markets are already restructured.	2017 American Community Survey (5 year estimates), United States Census Bureau 2005 American Community Survey, United States Census Bureau 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics 2005 Bureau of Labor Statistics
Entrepreneurial Diversity	Understanding the share of non-white and non-male entrepreneurs is central to the work of promoting equitable entrepreneurial ecosystems.	2014 and 2016 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs

Community Entrepreneurship Accelerator | Discover



Community Entrepreneurship Accelerator | Design

Convening

Coordinate and align a diverse set of ecosystem decision-makers, stakeholders, and participants on target outcomes and strategies;

Alignment

Identify and leverage local assets as well as national best practices to create high-impact results;

Plan

Form working groups of aligned, interested and connected parties to develop viable ecosystem-strengthening solutions;

Socialize

Convene the local community to share the minimum viable solutions, and receive feedback as final input on the strategies;

Test

Test minimum viable solutions to address barriers identified by research process to identify programs with the most potential;

Community Entrepreneurship Accelerator | Deliver | Month 6-24 & Ongoing

Testing | Months 6-12

Launch and test minimum viable solutions to address barriers identified by research process to identify programs with the most potential;

Scaling | Year 2

Evaluate results and scale what is working beyond the individual neighborhood level.

Storytelling | Ongoing

Tell the stories of the entire process through the lense of a storytelling committee and local media partners, supported and distributed by the FC Marketing Communications team.

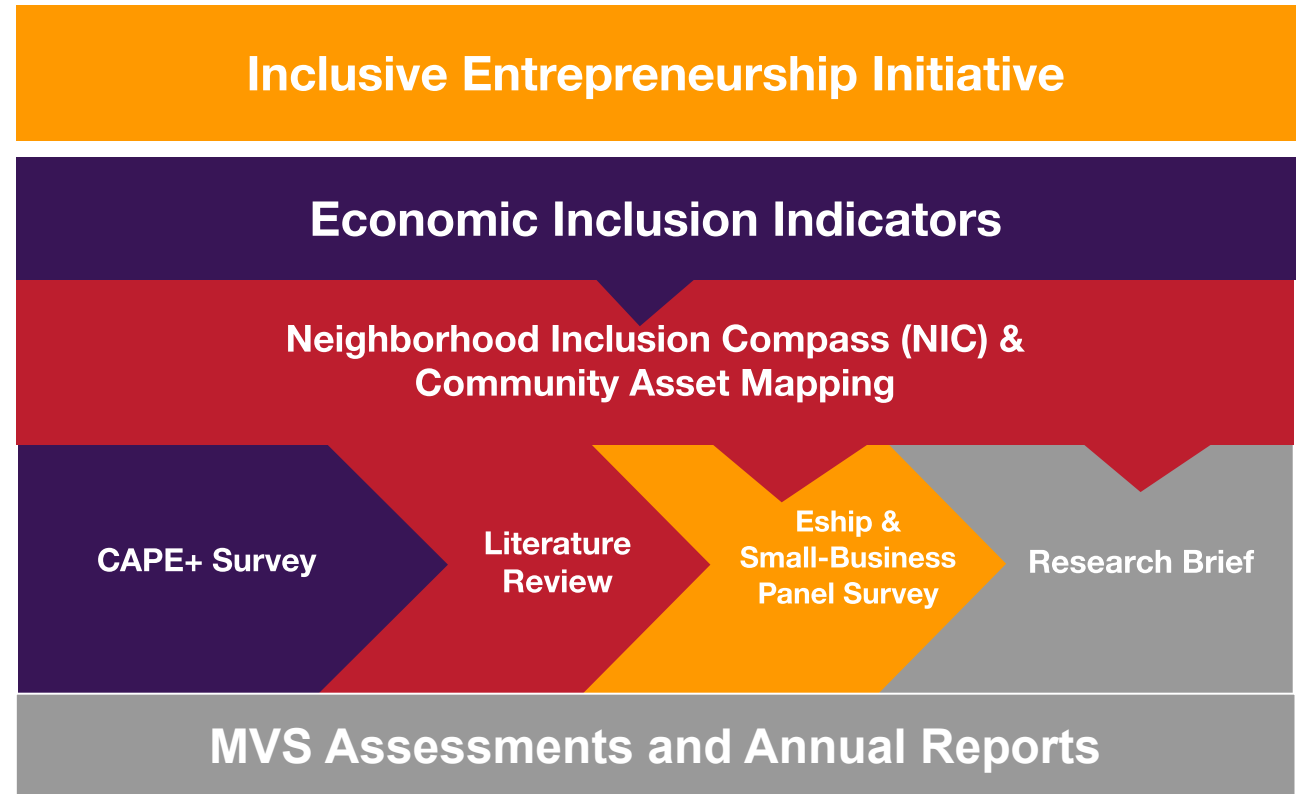
Networking | Ongoing

Connect with a national network of other cities and partners to share and strengthen the work.

Forward Cities Research Contributions | Discover | Months 1-2

Objectives:

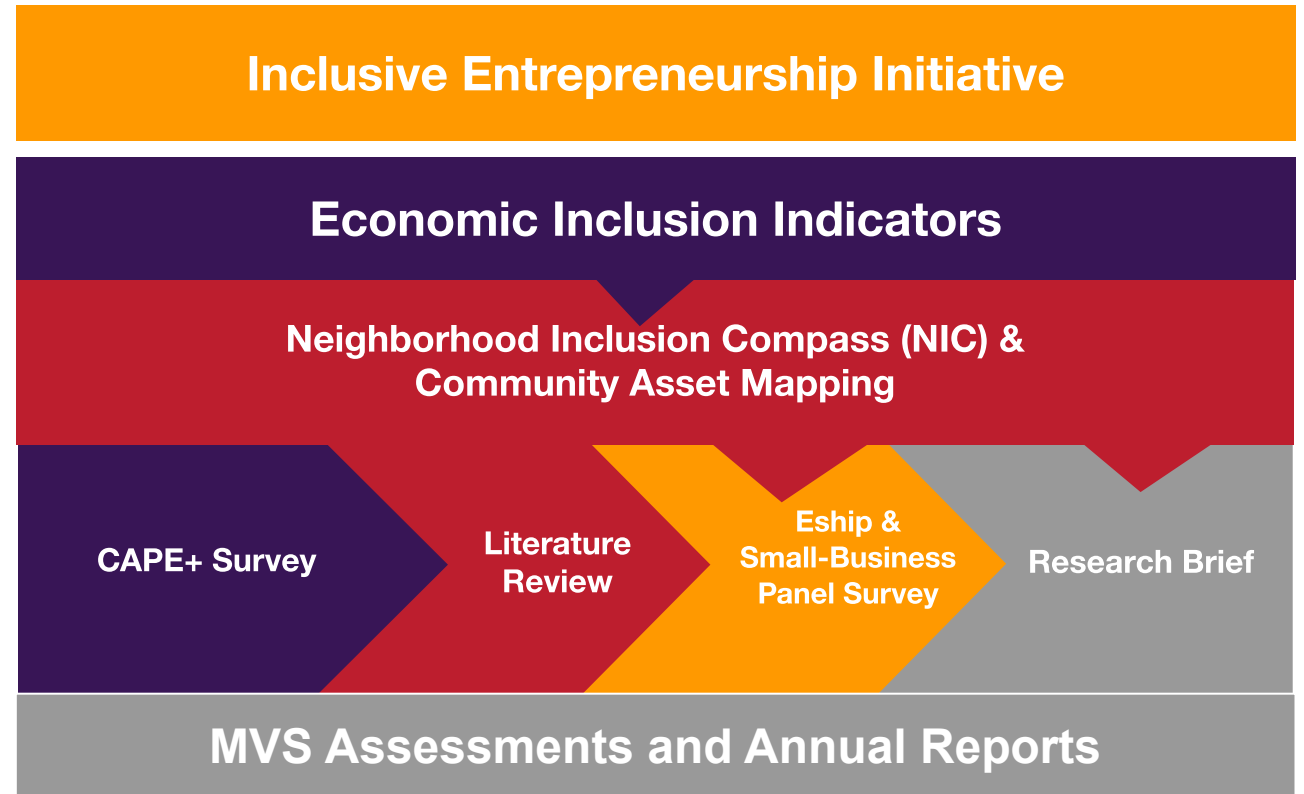
- **Economic Inclusion Indicators**
 - Highlight place-based and socio-demographic inequities across the city
- **CAPE+ Survey**
 - Council's attitudes and perceptions around entrepreneurship; barriers and drivers of entrepreneurship as perceived by community leaders



Forward Cities Research Contributions | Discover | Months 1-2

Objectives:

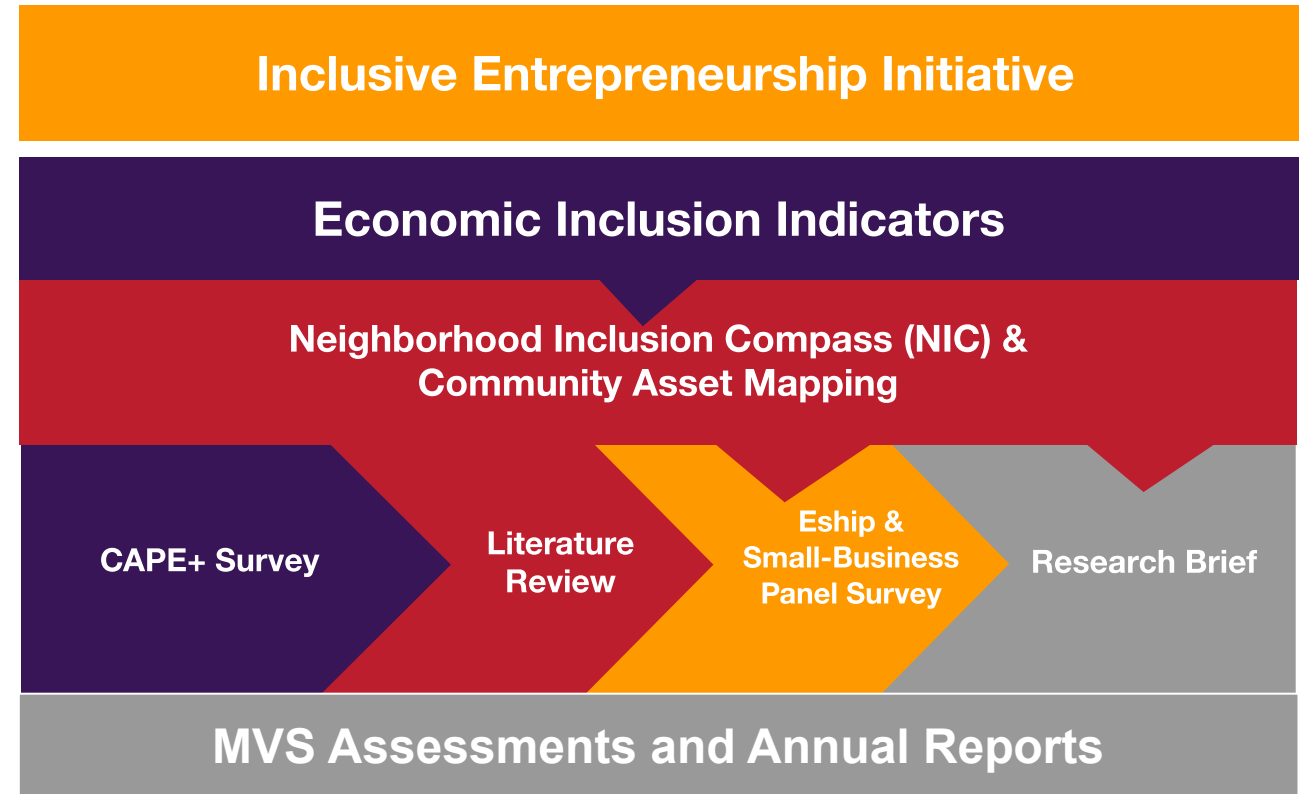
- **Neighborhood Inclusion Compass**
 - Recommends low-income Census tracts (neighborhoods) that are suitable sites for 1st year pilots (MVS's)
 - Prepares Council for community asset mapping of shortlisted tracts
- **Literature Review**
 - Uses existing research to contextualize barriers and drivers of entrepreneurship in Franklin County



Forward Cities Research Contributions | Discover | Months 1-2

Objectives:

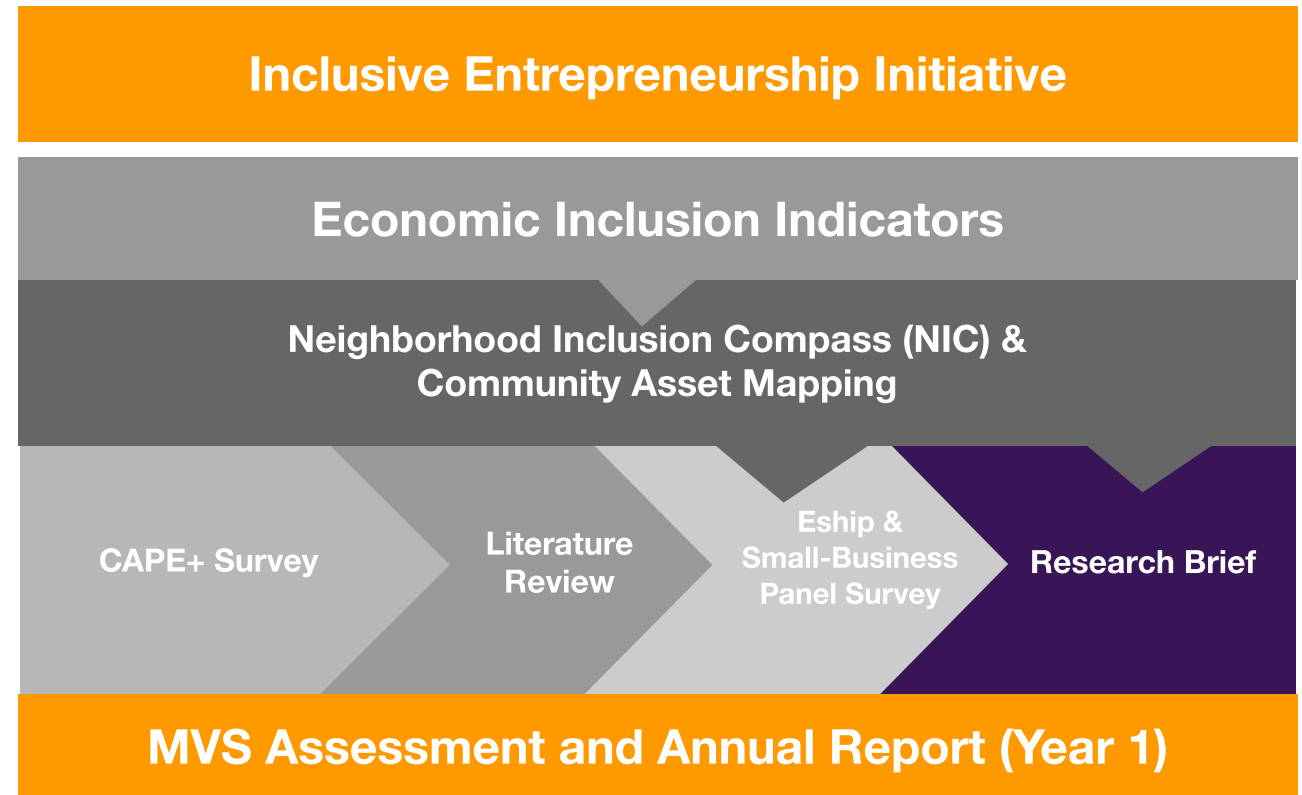
- **Eship & Small-Business Panel Survey**
 - Validates or refutes barriers and drivers of entrepreneurship
 - Gathers data on entrepreneur's utilization and familiarity with community assets



Forward Cities Research Contributions | Design | Months 3-12

Objectives:

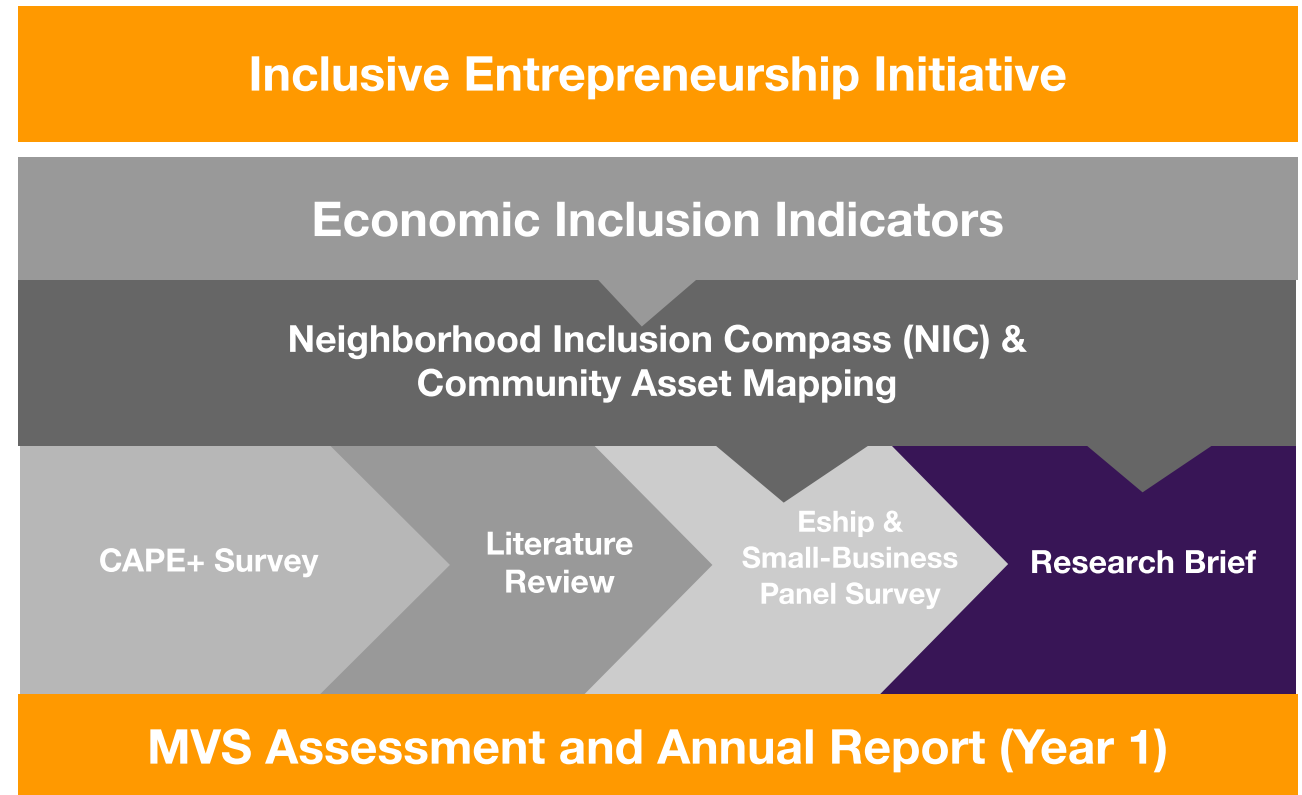
- **Research Brief**
 - Summarizes and relates various research inputs to one another
 - Traces evolution of hypotheses about ecosystem barriers and drivers
 - Provides reference point for strategic plans, which WGs will develop around individual MVS's



Forward Cities Research Contributions | Design | Months 3-12

Objectives:

- **MVS Assessment & Annual Report**
 - Outlines preliminary and/or final evaluation findings of individual MVS's
 - Suggests paths forward for evaluated MVS's
 - Reflects on community feedback, implementation successes and challenges
 - Integrates results from second waves of Panel and CAPE+ surveys



Forward Cities Research Contributions | Deliver | Year 2 & Ongoing

Objectives:

- **Research Brief Addendum**
 - Updates individual research inputs where appropriate
 - Provides rationale for suggested neighborhood expansion based on NIC, Community Asset Mapping and MVS Assessment of Year 1
- **MVS Assessment & Annual Report**
 - As in Year 1

