



LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON FATHERHOOD

BAYTOWN FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE



**National
Fatherhood
Initiative®**

www.fatherhood.org

Creating a Successful Community Collaboration to Promote Responsible Fatherhood in Baytown

Overview

- Why do fathers matter in Baytown?
- Focus group insights
- How do we create a successful citywide fatherhood initiative?
- Where are we going?
- How do you fit in?

Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

- 17.8 million children, **1 in 4**, live without a father.
- **9 in 10 Americans agree** there is a father absence crisis.
- Research shows that **when children have involved, responsible, and committed fathers**, they express better socio-emotional and academic functioning and grow up to lead happier healthier lives.

The Strengths of Father Presence

Children with **involved fathers** have a **strong foundation for child well-being.**

They are at **lower risk** for a host of **poor childhood outcomes.**

- ✓ Infant Mortality
- ✓ Low Birth Weight
- ✓ Emotional and Behavioral Problems
- ✓ Neglect and Abuse
- ✓ Injury
- ✓ Obesity
- ✓ Poor School Performance
- ✓ Teen Pregnancy
- ✓ Incarceration as Juveniles
- ✓ Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- ✓ Criminal Activity
- ✓ Suicide

National Fatherhood Initiative
www.fatherhood.org

Source: National Fatherhood Initiative® 2024. *Father Facts: Ninth Edition*. Germantown, MD: National Fatherhood Initiative®.

PO Box 37635, PMB 84123, Philadelphia, PA, 19101-0635 | 301-948-0599 | info@fatherhood.org

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(Source: National Fatherhood Initiative (2024). *Father Facts, 9th Edition.*)

Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

- Research also demonstrates that **father absence is strongly linked to** poverty, teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, abuse, suicide, substance and alcohol abuse, and other issues.
- However, **many of our nation's organizations remain mother-centric** in their family offerings and services.



Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

**Why Involved Dads
are Good for Moms**

**Mothers reap a host of benefits
when fathers are involved
during pregnancy and in
raising their children.**



- ✓ More likely to receive prenatal care
- ✓ Less likely to smoke during pregnancy
- ✓ Healthier births
- ✓ Lower risk of post-partum stress
- ✓ Lower risk of post-partum depression
- ✓ Lower parenting stress
- ✓ More leisure time
- ✓ Higher marital satisfaction

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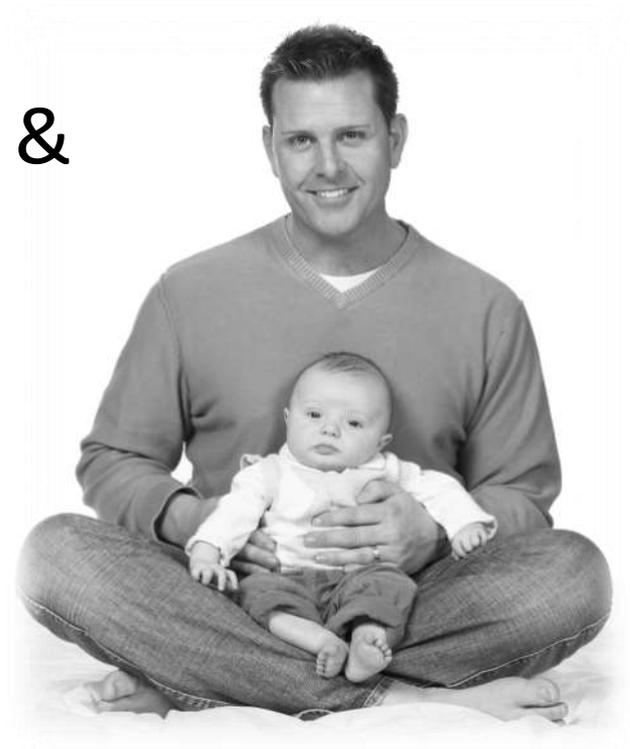
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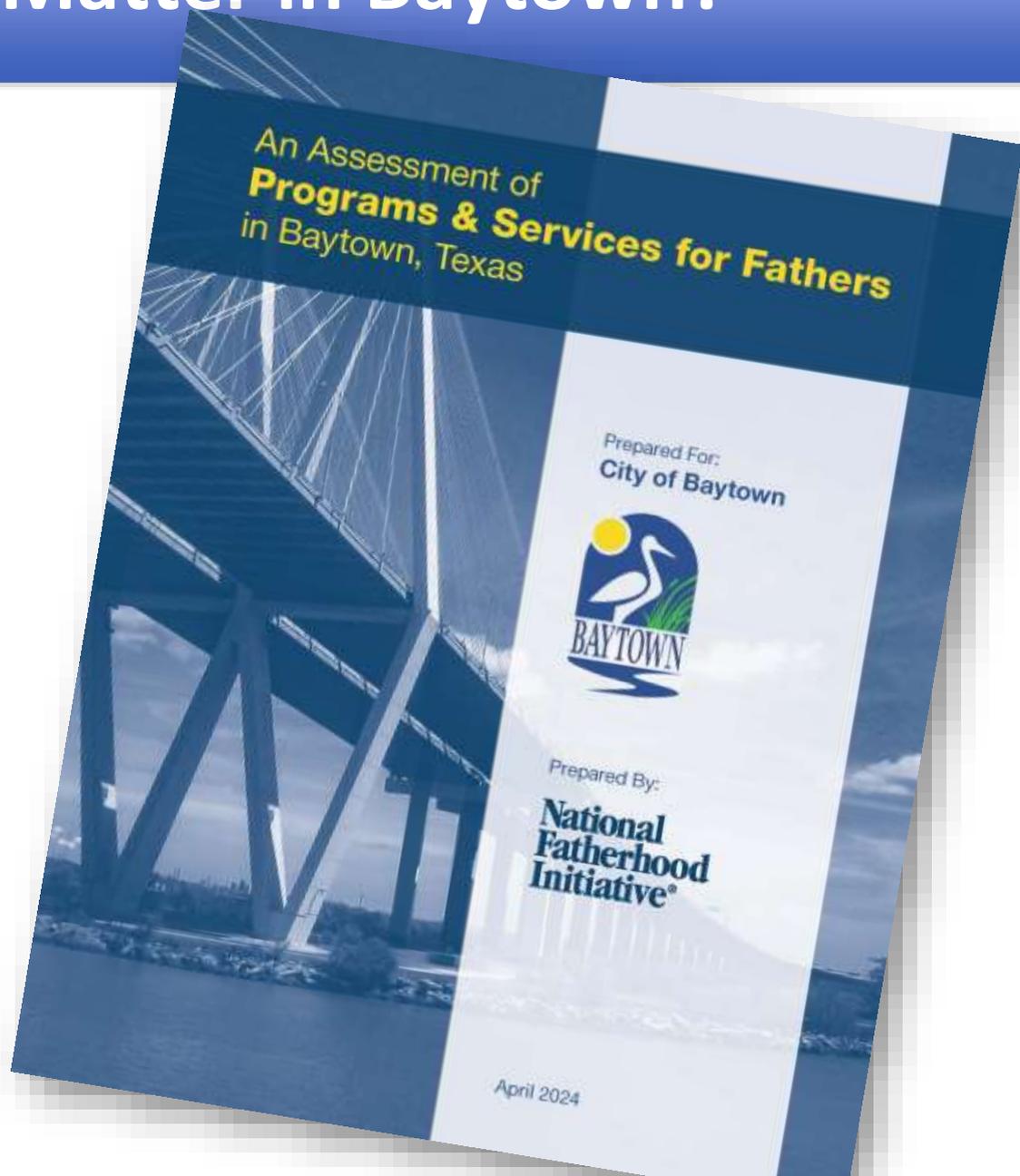
Download these and other free, sharable images at
<https://www.fatherhood.org/father-absence-statistic>

Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

Fathers are Irreplaceable &
an Essential Ingredient
for Child Well-Being



Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?



An Assessment of **Programs & Services for Fathers** in Baytown, Texas

Prepared For:
City of Baytown



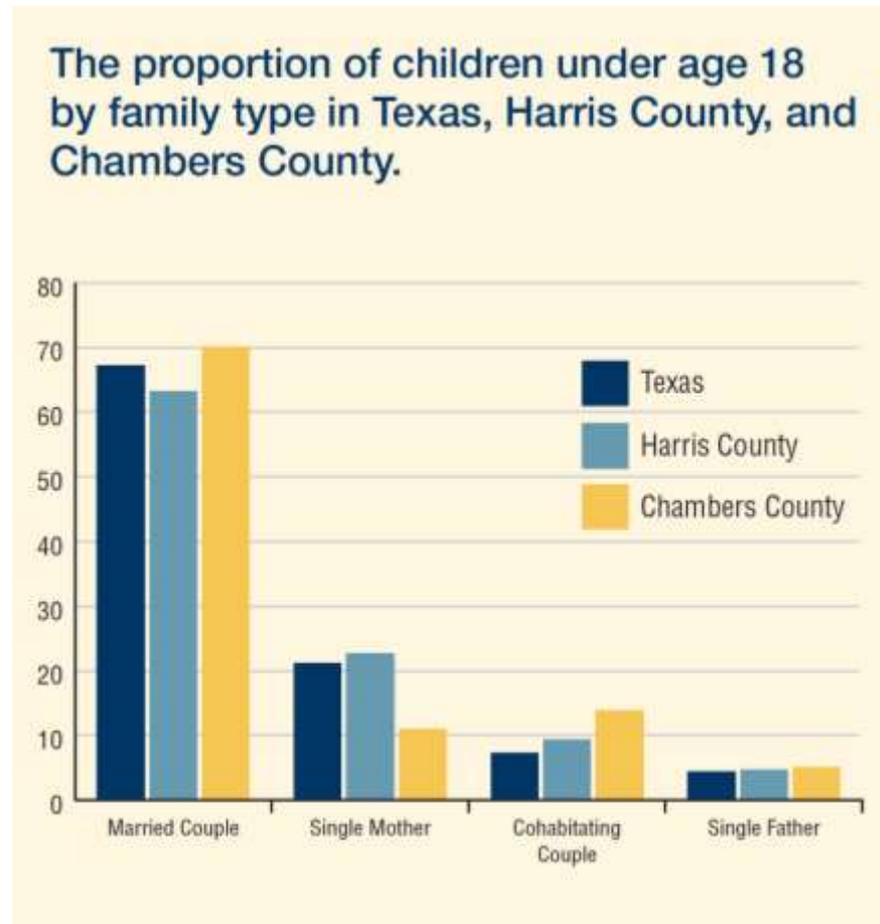
Prepared By:

**National
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April 2024

Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

Father Absence Rates



Source: 2012-2016 American Community Survey

Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

Drug and Alcohol Use

- **From 2016 to 2021, overdose deaths in Harris County increased by 78%**, with opioid-involved and methamphetamine-involved overdose deaths occurring most frequently.
- Family structure impacts adolescent substance and alcohol use significantly, particularly for young men.
- Children from father-absent homes are more likely to use substances or alcohol.
- Research points to the importance of paternal involvement as a protective factor against alcohol and substance abuse.



Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

The Causal Effects of Father Absence

- Published in the Annual Review of Sociology in July 2013
- Researchers reviewed nearly 50 studies that employed innovative, rigorous designs to examine the causal effects of father absence



Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

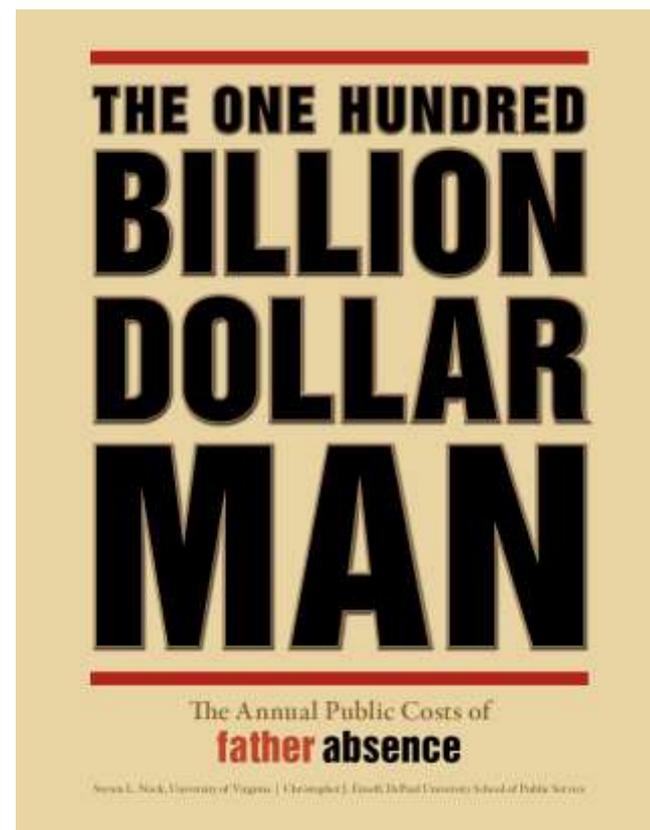
The Findings & Implications

- Although these studies varied in the use of analytical approaches and found different effect sizes, they prove beyond reproach that father absence causes poor outcomes for children in the areas of educational attainment, mental health, relationship formation and stability, and labor force success
- The old adage, “correlation does not imply causation,” does not apply to the effects of father absence on children



Why Do Fathers Matter in Baytown?

- In 2006, the federal government spent \$100 billion on 13 means-tested benefits programs and child support enforcement to support father-absent homes – this is nearly 4% of the entire federal budget



Focus Group Insights

14 Baytown leaders participated in focus groups representing the following sectors:

- Social Service
- City/County Government
- Health
- Faith
- Law Enforcement
- Education
- Business
- Media



Focus Group Insights

Most pressing needs surrounding fatherhood in Baytown

- Understanding the causes of father absence
- Raising awareness of the important role dads play in their child's well-being
- Breaking the intergenerational cycle of father absence
- Economic challenges households experience when the father is not there



Focus Group Insights

Most pressing needs surrounding fatherhood in Baytown

- Removing barriers for fathers trying to turn their lives around
- Helping dads co-parent
- Free counseling and resources for dads
- Create a safe place for dads to open up
- Education for dads on child support and visitation
- Education for moms on why dads are so important



Focus Group Insights

Types of fathers in most need of being a responsible father

- Young fathers
- Single fathers
- Fathers with financial challenges
- Incarcerated fathers
- Fathers with criminal history
- Fathers who grew up in father-absent homes
- Fathers dealing with children to multiple partners
- Fathers with substance abuse
- Homeless fathers



Focus Group Insights

Do other leaders in Baytown believe there is a need to address father absence?

- I've never heard anyone ask, "what are we going to do about the father absence situation?"
- There's usually a discussion about what we can do about the family unit as a whole. I've never isolated it to just fathers
- Leaders are not typically thinking about how to get the father involved
- We've known there's a need for a long time but nobody has said it until now with the city putting it out there.



Focus Group Insights

Fatherhood services or programs that don't exist and are needed

- A program for teen dads
- Being more intentional in promoting fatherhood
- Engaging dads in something they want to do
- A resource list for father-specific support and services
- Counseling
- Mentorship
- Any type of program that can remove barriers



Focus Group Insights

1. **David Crockett Elementary – WATCH D.O.G.S.**
2. **Hopper Preliminary – WATCH D.O.G.S.**
3. **Peter E. Hyland Center – Support for teen dads**
4. **Perry W. and Lou F. Britton Family Center – Comprehensive transitional housing services**
5. **MET, Inc. Pathways to Responsible Fatherhood Program – Vocational training, educational intervention, and employment opportunities**
6. **DePelchin – All Dads Succeed Program – Fatherhood groups, co-parenting sessions, Fathering in 15™ program**
7. **Horizon Outreach: Horizon Eagle Fatherhood Program – evidenced-based programming that teaches healthy relationship & healthy parenting education as well as resources to increase their economic stability**
8. **University of Houston: Healthy Start Fatherhood Program – information about fatherhood and referrals to other services they may need**
9. **Blocks Fatherhood Initiative**
10. **Moody Early Childhood Center 24:7 Dad® Program**
11. **Family Service Center Fatherhood Program – Free counseling and parenting groups for fathers and their families in Galveston and Wharton Counties**
12. **Pregnancy Help Center of West Houston – Fatherhood workshops**
13. **Care Net Pregnancy Center – Free consultations with male staff, referrals, mentoring, parenting classes**
14. **Memorial Hermann Health System 24:7 Dad® Program**
15. **1RM Project**
16. **Pregnancy Support Center – Resources and parenting classes**

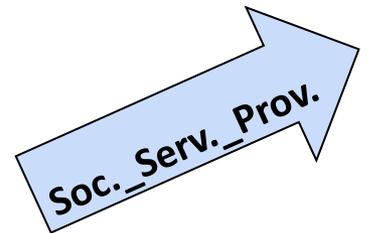


This map indicates that while few father-specific programs and services exist within the City of Baytown, there are many that exist within the greater Baytown area.

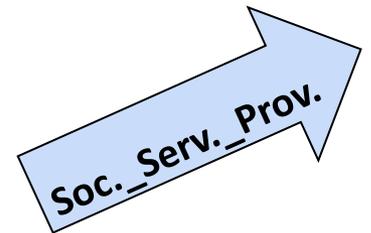
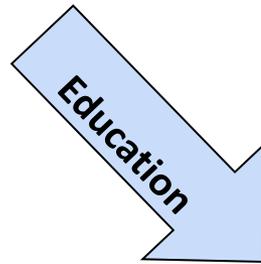
How Do We Create A Citywide Initiative?



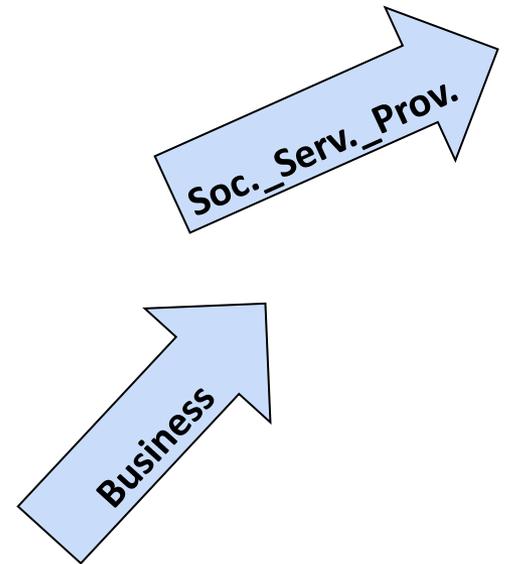
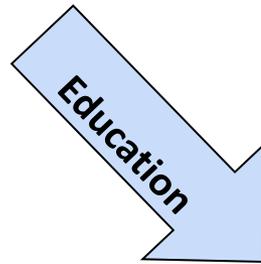
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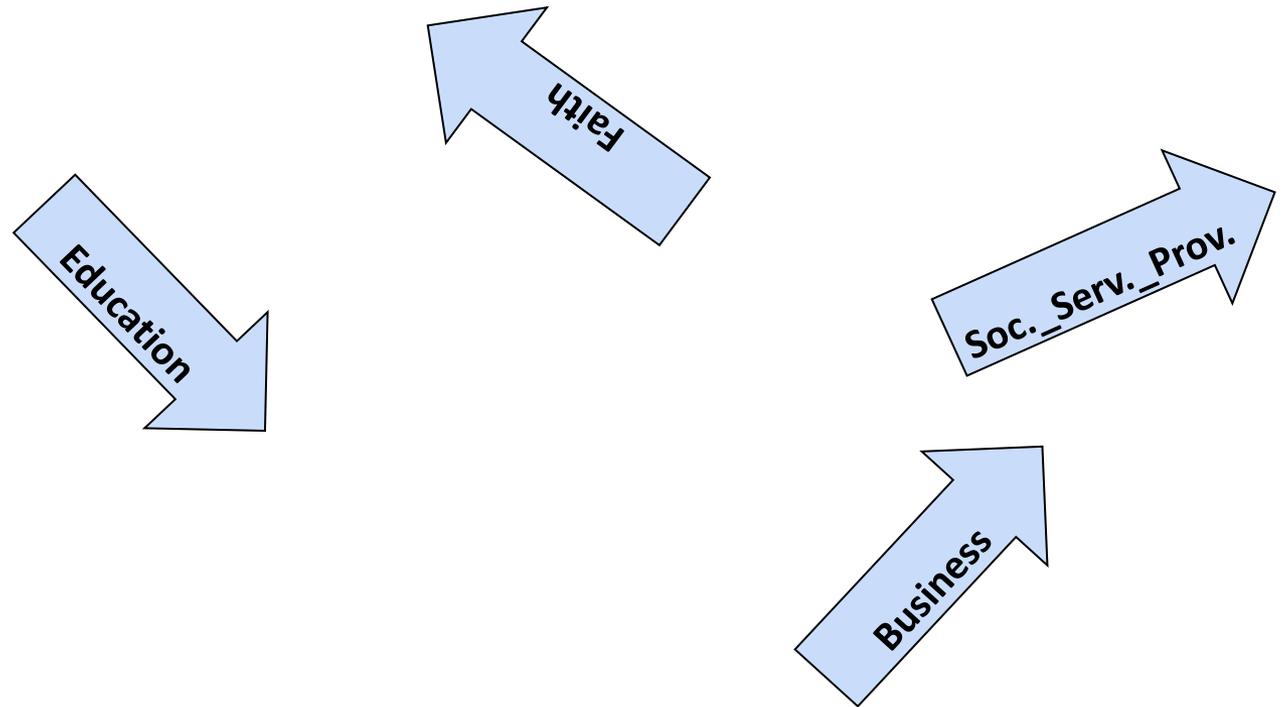
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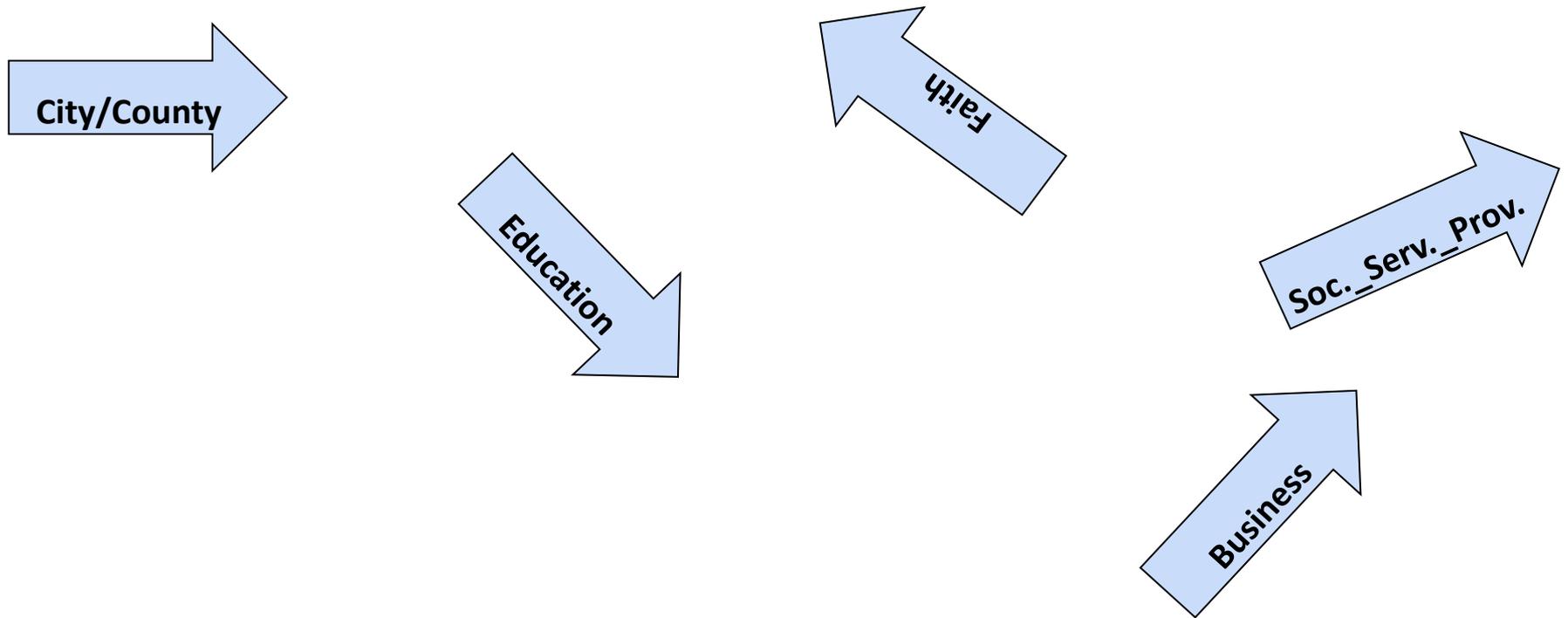
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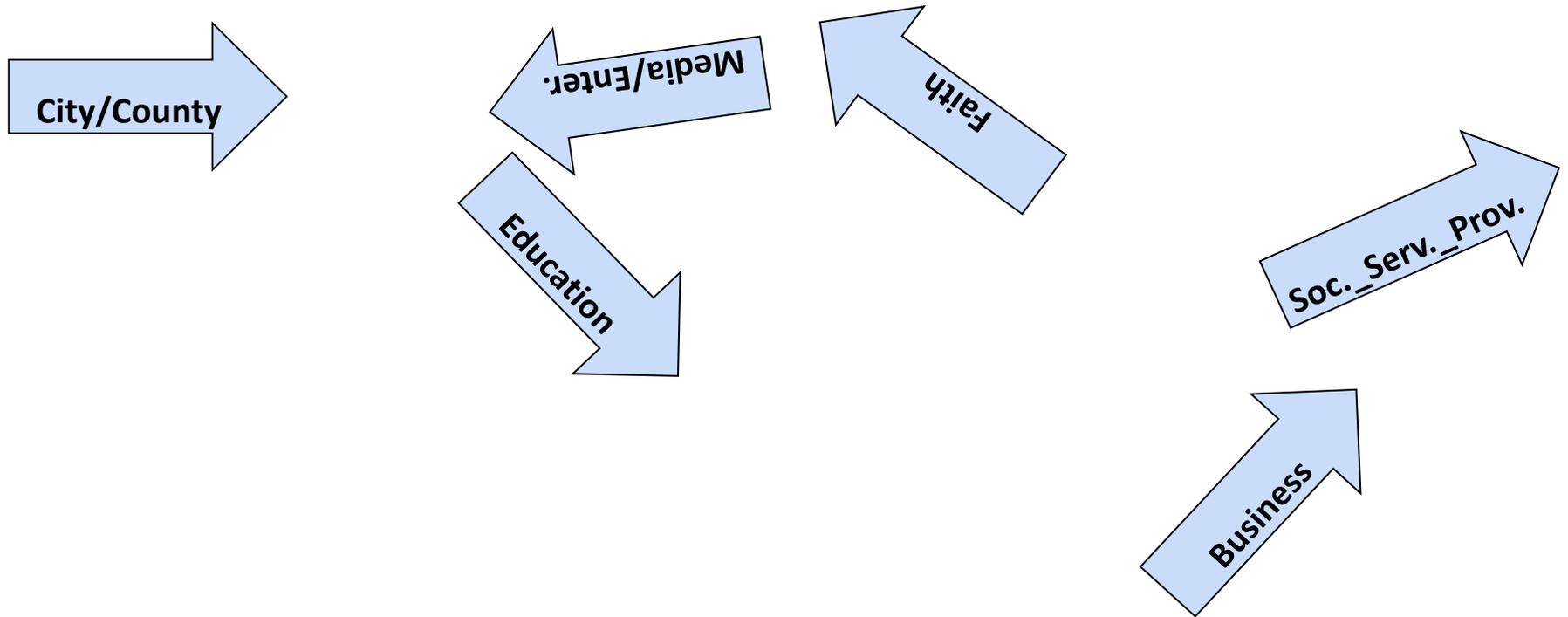
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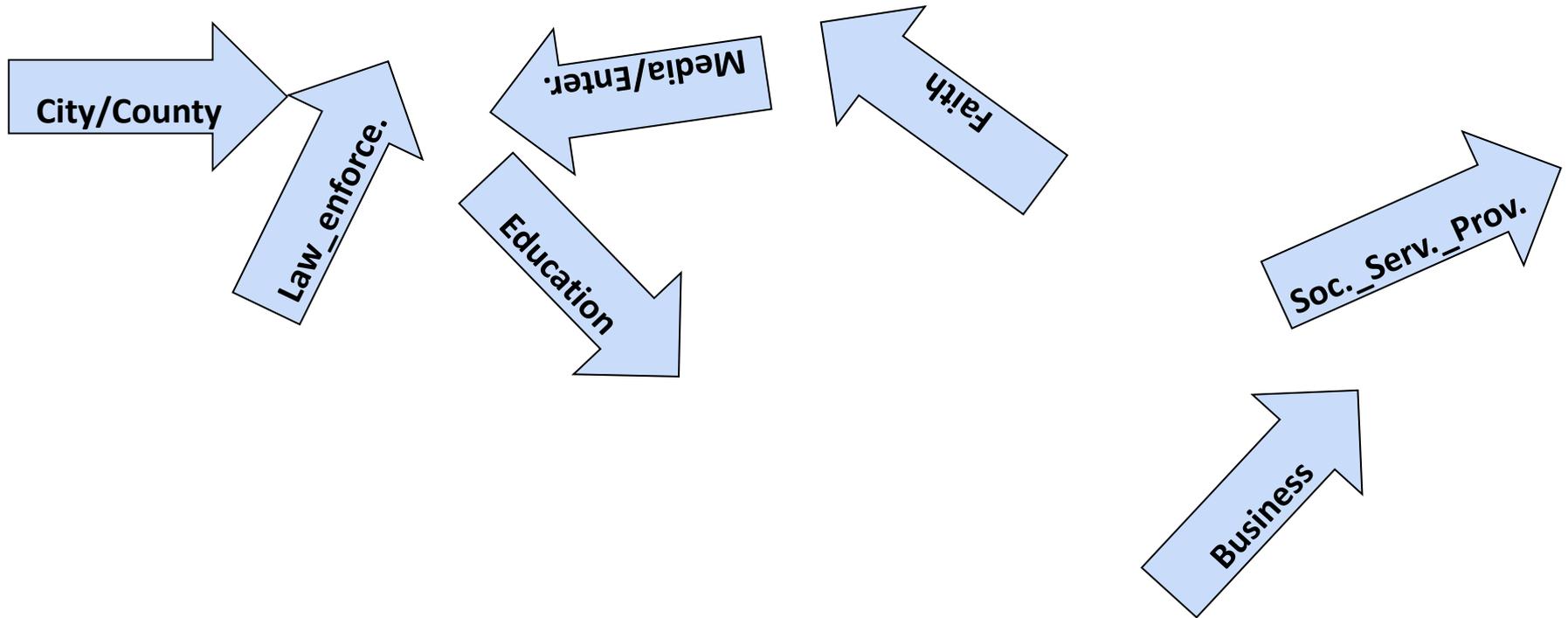
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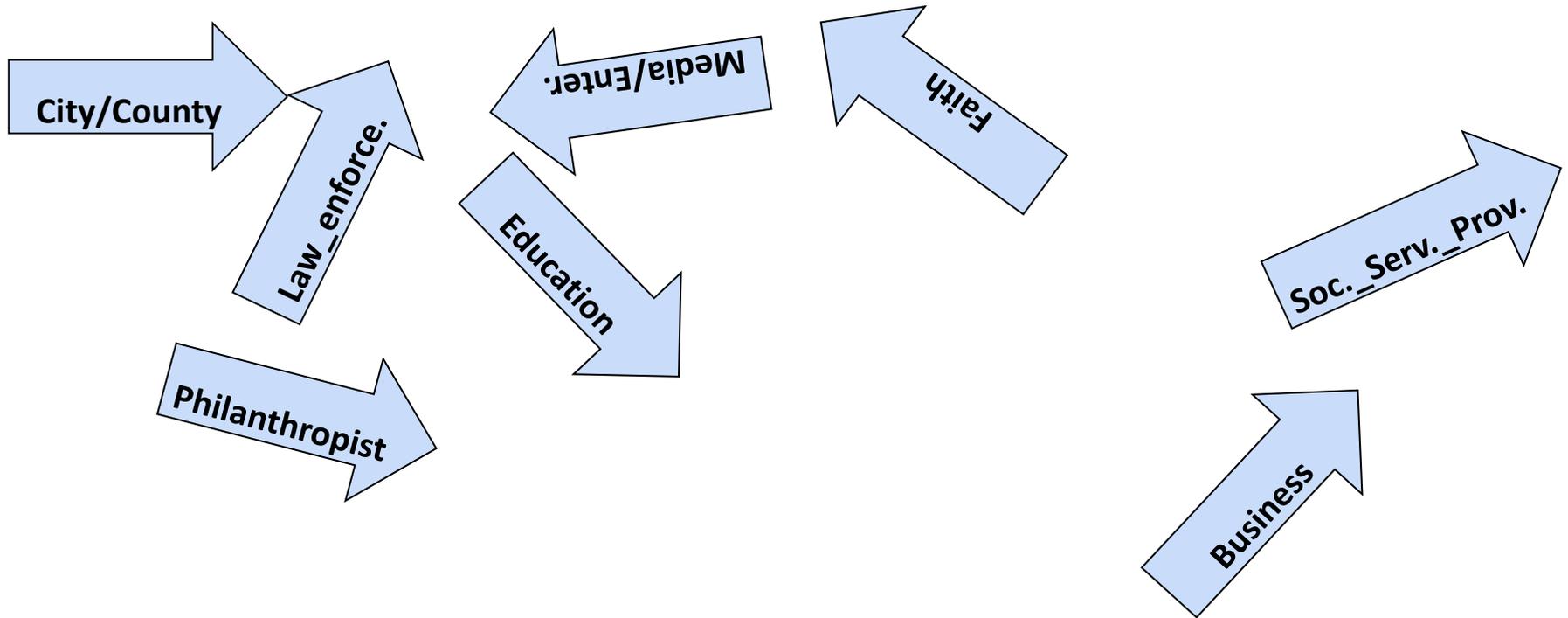
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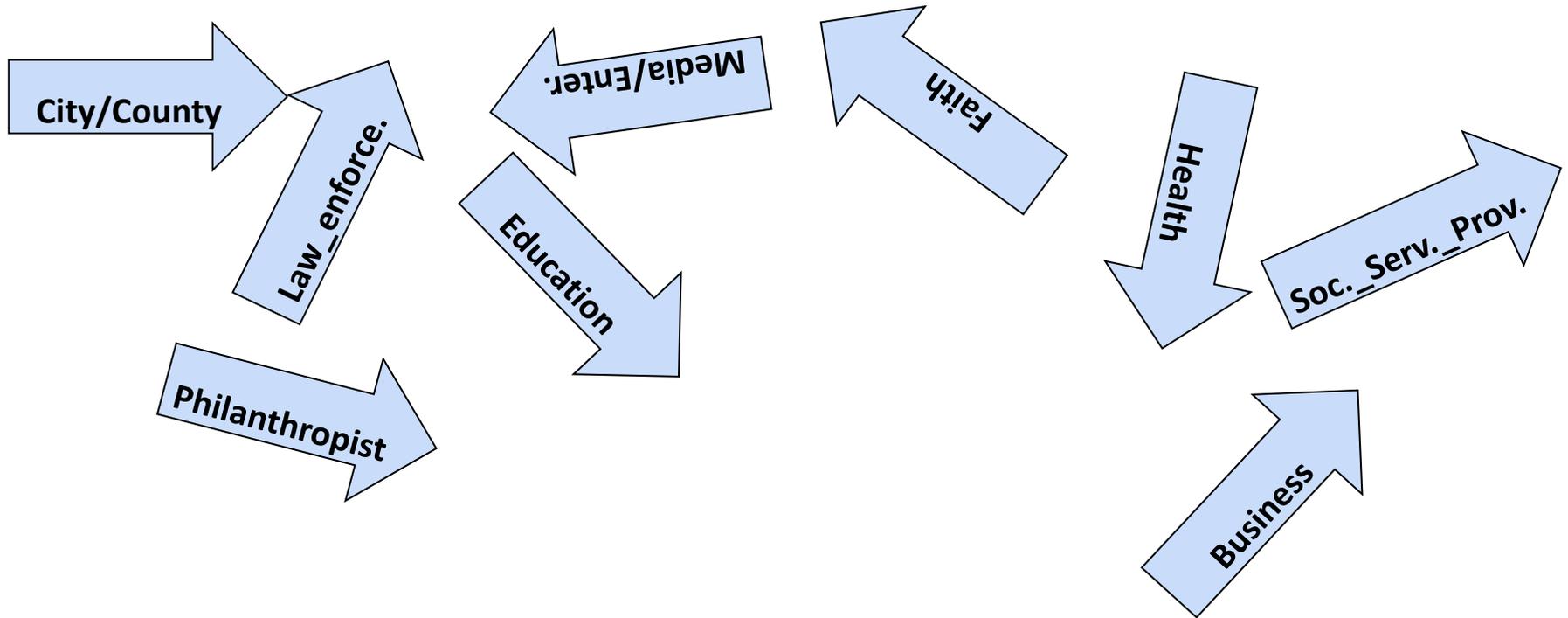
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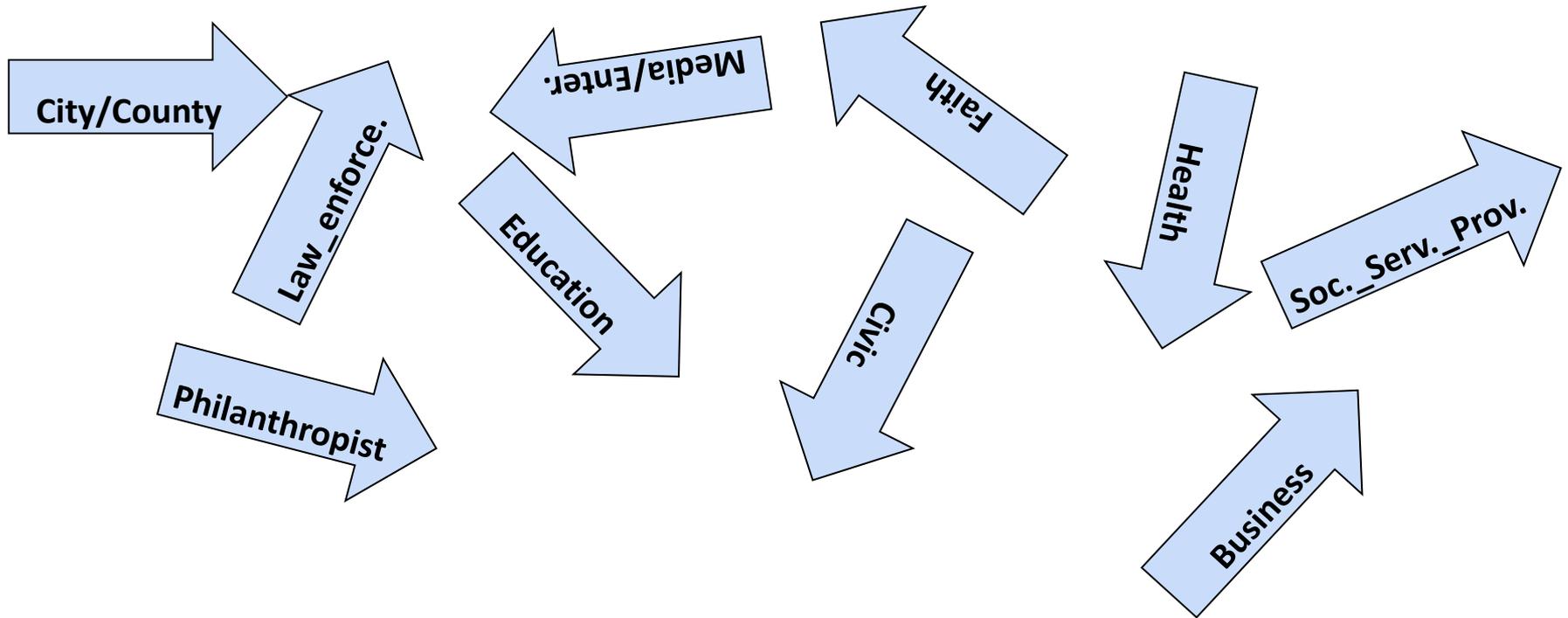
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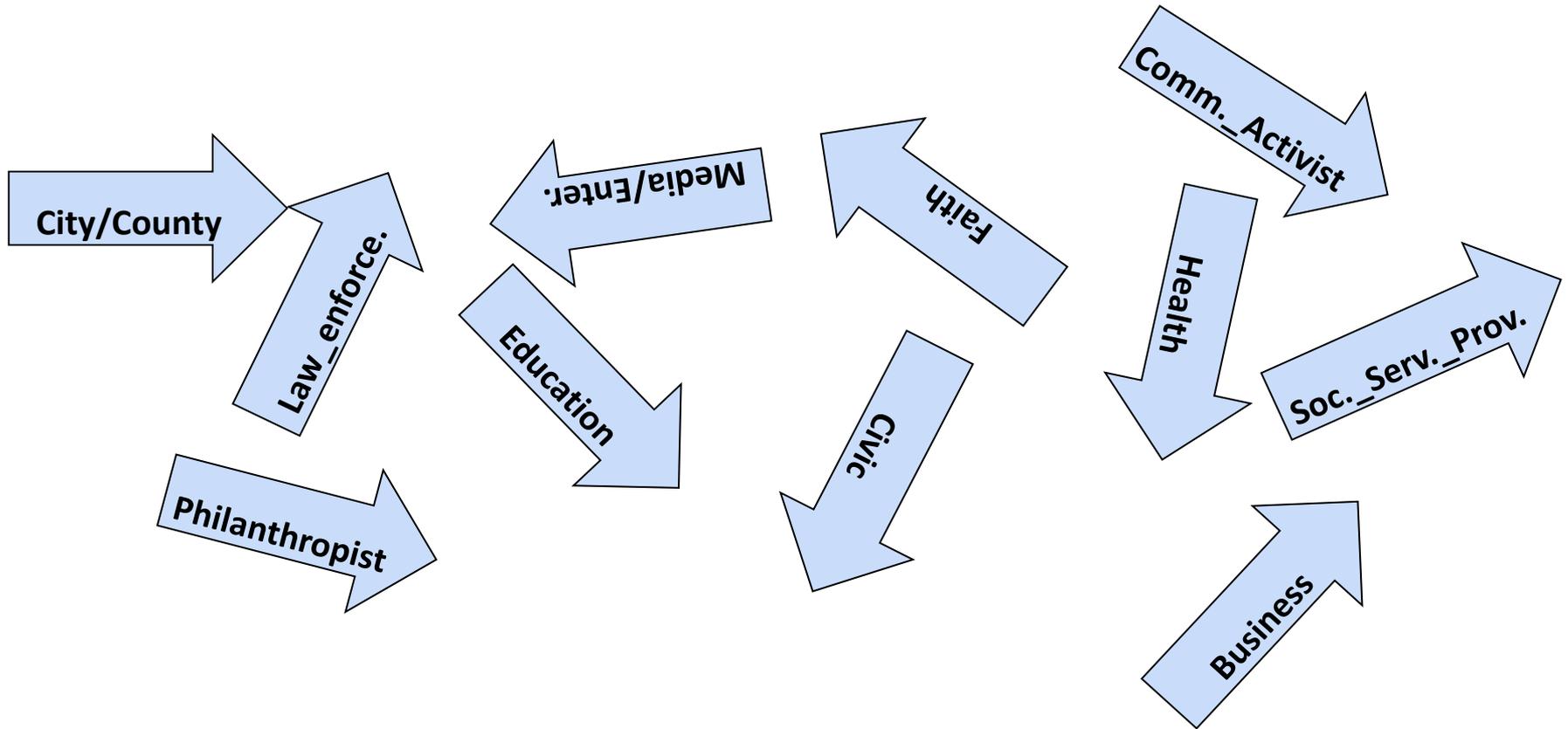
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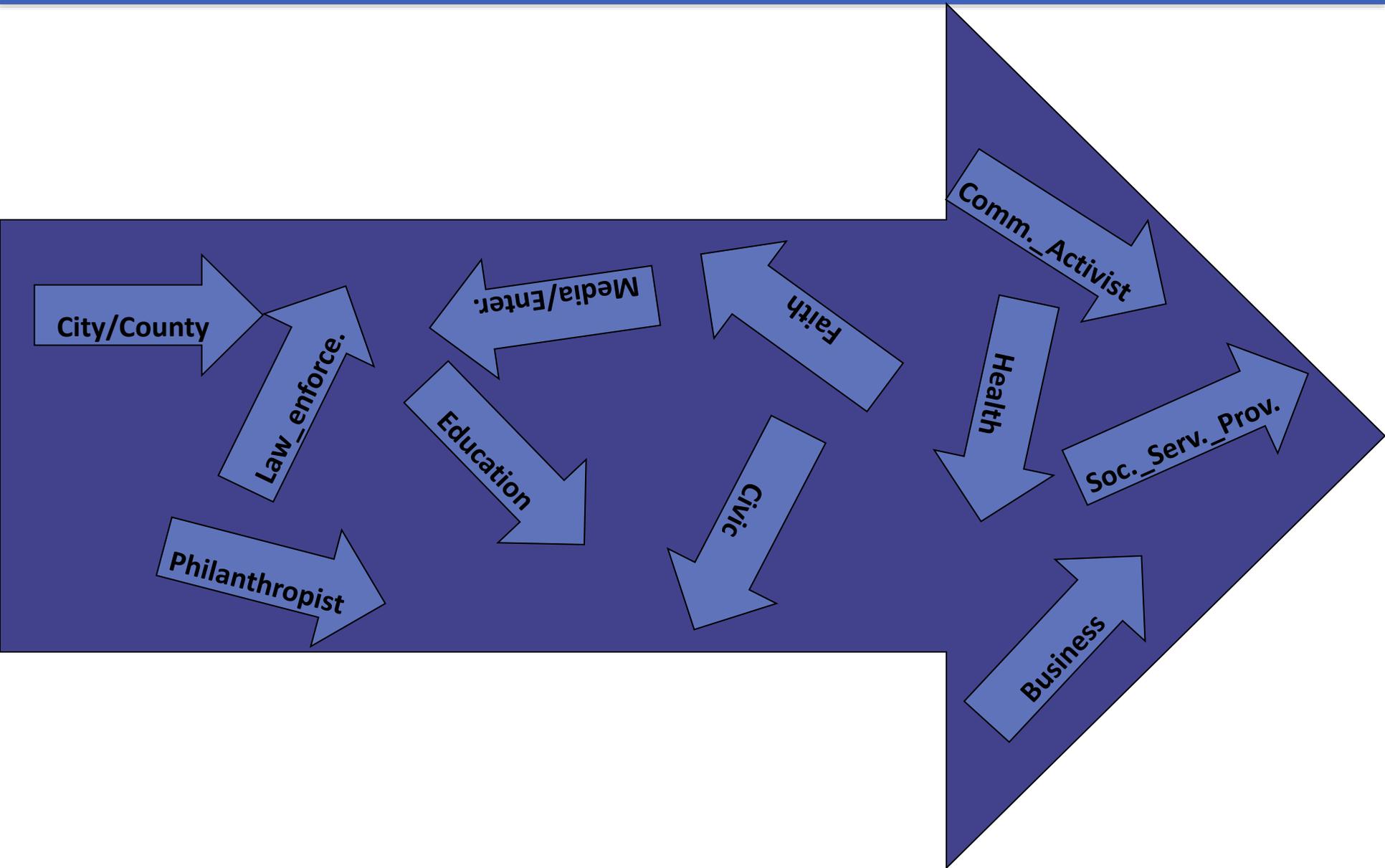
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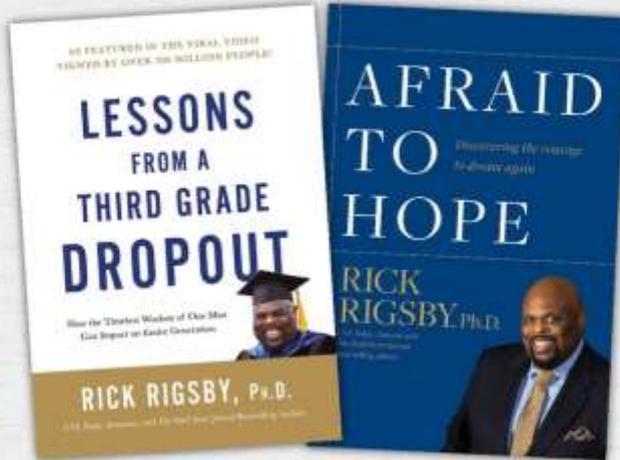
How Do We Create A Citywide Initiative?



What Will This Become In Baytown?



MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY



Available at Amazon.com

FOLLOW AND TAG



@DrRickRiggsby



Where Are We Going Today?

Facilitated Discussions

- Break out into groups by sector
- Produce a list of actions/strategies that will have the greatest impact on promoting responsible fatherhood in your sector
- These actions will be included in an action plan for promoting fatherhood in Baytown



Where Are We Going Today?

Facilitated Discussions

- Part 1 – Brainstorm strategies using a round-robin format (30 seconds per turn)
- Part 2 – Multi-voting to establish top 3 strategies
- Time allotment
 - Brainstorming – 30 minutes
 - Voting – 20 minutes
 - Select top 3 strategies – 10 minutes



Where Are We Going Today?

Facilitated Discussions

- What will have the greatest impact on promoting responsible fatherhood in your specific sector?



Where Are We Going Next?



How Do You Fit In?

- Participation in today's breakout session
- Be a fatherhood champion in your sector
- Take the Father Friendly Check-Up™ (www.fatherhood.org) and create your own organizational father-friendly action plan
- Join the multi-sector advisory committee to help shape the citywide action plan
- Help with specific tasks targeted in your respective sector



The Importance of the Lead Agency



The Attributes of A Strong Lead Agency

- Designated staff
- Strong network of partners representing different sectors
- Involvement in a community collaborative
- Experience in family support and community engagement



What Does the Lead Agency Do?

- Identifies the right leaders to take the CMA workshop
- Coordinates the gathering of secondary data and focus groups
- Oversees completion of the needs & assets assessment
- Coordinates a Leadership Summit on Fatherhood



What Does the Lead Agency Do? (Cont.)

- Assembles the multi-sectoral planning committee and coordinates the planning committee meetings
- Ensures that an Action Plan to Promote Responsible Fatherhood is created and monitored for follow through



What Does the Lead Agency Do? (Cont.)

- Develops & manages a sustainability plan
- Creates the initiative's structure
 - Initiative's name
 - Distinct 501c3 or a part of the Lead Agency
 - Staff allocation





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Erik Vecere

Chief Partner Success Officer

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