Vibrant Communities
TAMARACK INSTITUTE

ENDING POVERTY
DEEPENING COMMUNITY
BUILDING YOUTH FUTURES
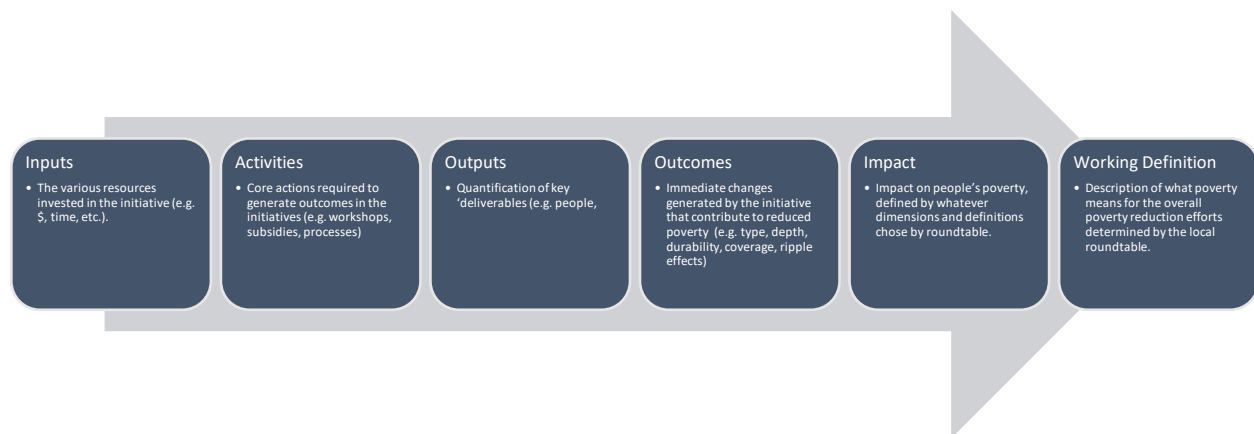CLIMATE TRANSITIONS

APPENDIX | GETTING TO IMPACT: PROGRAMMATIC/NICHE INNOVATIONS

This Appendix supports the exercises in Workbook | Getting to Impact: Niche Innovations by providing examples of how different communities approached our first three challenges.
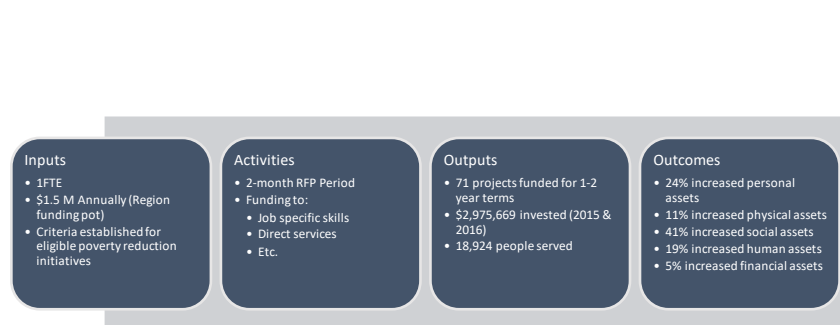
Challenge 1: Line-Of-Sight

How do our interventions lead from activities to outcomes and impact?

Template: Logic Model

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Impact	Working Definition
• The various resources invested in the initiative (e.g. $, time, etc.).	• Core actions required to generate outcomes in the initiatives (e.g. workshops, subsidies, processes)	• Quantification of key 'deliverables (e.g. people,	• Immediate changes generated by the initiative that contribute to reduced poverty (e.g. type, depth, durability, coverage, ripple effects)	• Impact on people's poverty, defined by whatever dimensions and definitions chose by roundtable.	• Description of what poverty means for the overall poverty reduction efforts determined by the local roundtable.

Example: Niagara Prosperity Initiative (Sustainable Livelihoods)

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
• 1FTE	• 2-month RFP Period	• 71 projects funded for 1-2 year terms	• 24% increased personal assets
• $1.5 M Annually (Region funding pot)	• Funding to:	• $2,975,669 invested (2015 & 2016)	• 11% increased physical assets
• Criteria established for eligible poverty reduction initiatives	• Job specific skills	• 18,924 people served	• 41% increased social assets
	• Direct services		• 19% increased human assets
	• Etc.		• 5% increased financial assets

In 2015, 618 testimonials were received; the chart below details how investments have increased assets. From the testimonials, an improvement in social assets was the highest outcome of NPI funding:

2015 NPI Projects
Frequency that Increases in Asset Types Were Mentioned in Testimonials
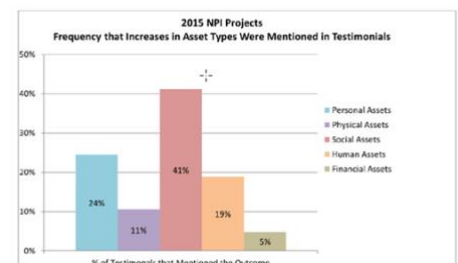
Challenge 2: Measurement

How do we select indicators and a method for measuring outcomes and impact?

Template: Developing Indicators and Methods/Data Sources Worksheet

Change	Indicator	Method/Data Source	Roles & Resources
Outputs			
Ex. Increased uptake of small loans with a low interest rate	# of loans out	Program financial report	Lead - Finance Department Resource - Accounting Software
Outcomes			
Ex. Reduced borrowing costs	$/% difference in cash crunch versus payday loans	File review	Lead - Frontline staff Resource – Client Baseline Data
Impact			
Ex. Increased assets	Participant rating	Guided self-assessment	Lead - Beneficiaries

Example: Calgary Payday Loans

OUTCOMES	Indicators	Method/Data Source
Reduced Borrowing Costs	$/% difference in cash crunch versus payday loans	File Review
Average amount of savings	Participant Reporting	Interview
Improved Credit Record	Credit Agency Rating	Check Equifax
Increased Financial management	Participant Perception	Interview or survey
IMPACT	**Indicators**	**Method/Data Source**
Increased assets	Participant Rating	Guided Self-Assessment
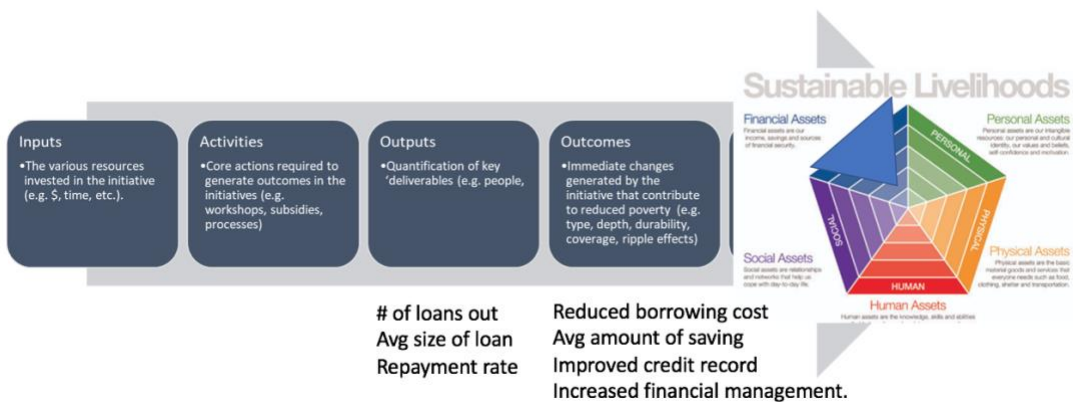
Challenge 3: Influence/Capacity

What strategies can we employ to gather, analyze and communicate programmatic outcomes?

Template: Influence/Capacity Matrix

Influence of Capacity & Role
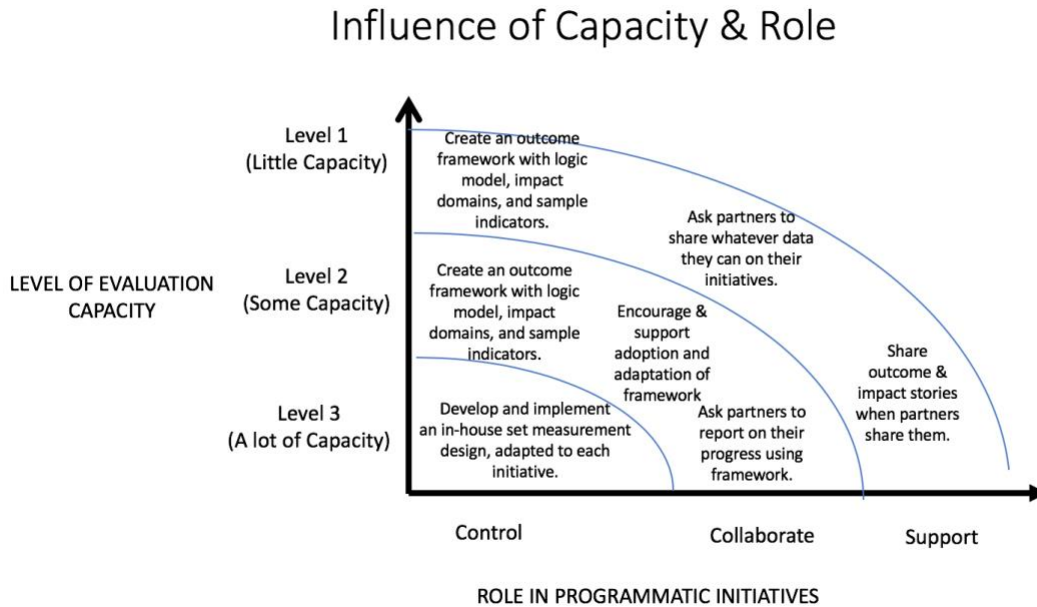
Example: Niagara Prosperity Initiative (Moderate influence and moderate capacity)

Influence of Capacity & Role

TAMARACK INSTITUTE