

**The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI)  
at the University of Minnesota**

**Engaging communities in collaborative research  
to improve health in rural populations**

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June 29, 2015



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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*Clinical and Translational  
Science Institute*

**Driven to Discover<sup>SM</sup>**

# Population and Community Engagement (PCE) Mission

Transform research relationships between UMN and community to ensure that clinical and translational research is highly relevant to health needs of communities.

Focus on rural and child health, health systems and health equity.

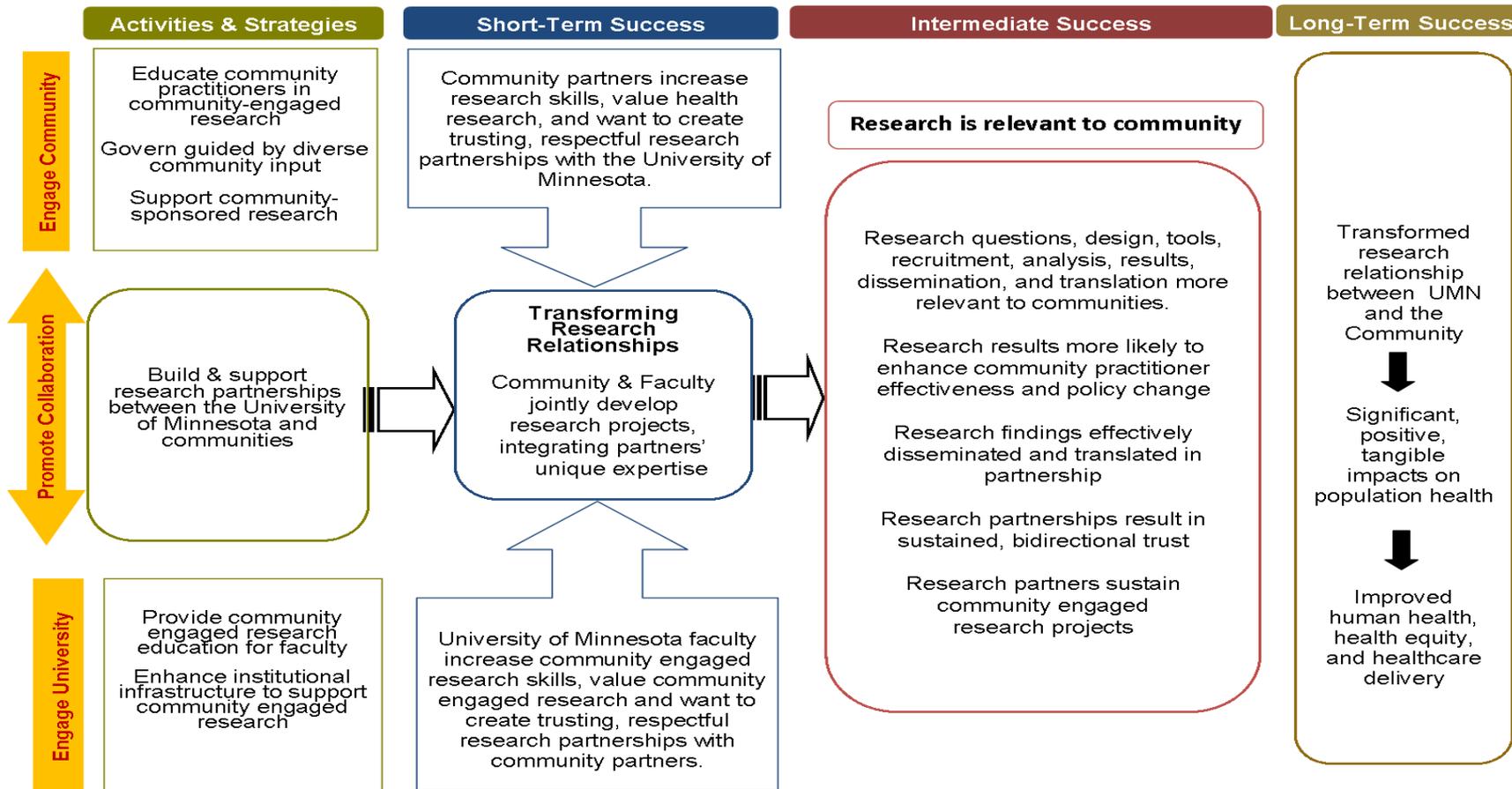
# 2010-2012 Collaborative Pilot Grant Community-University Research Partnership Type Identified by Co-PIs (n=37)



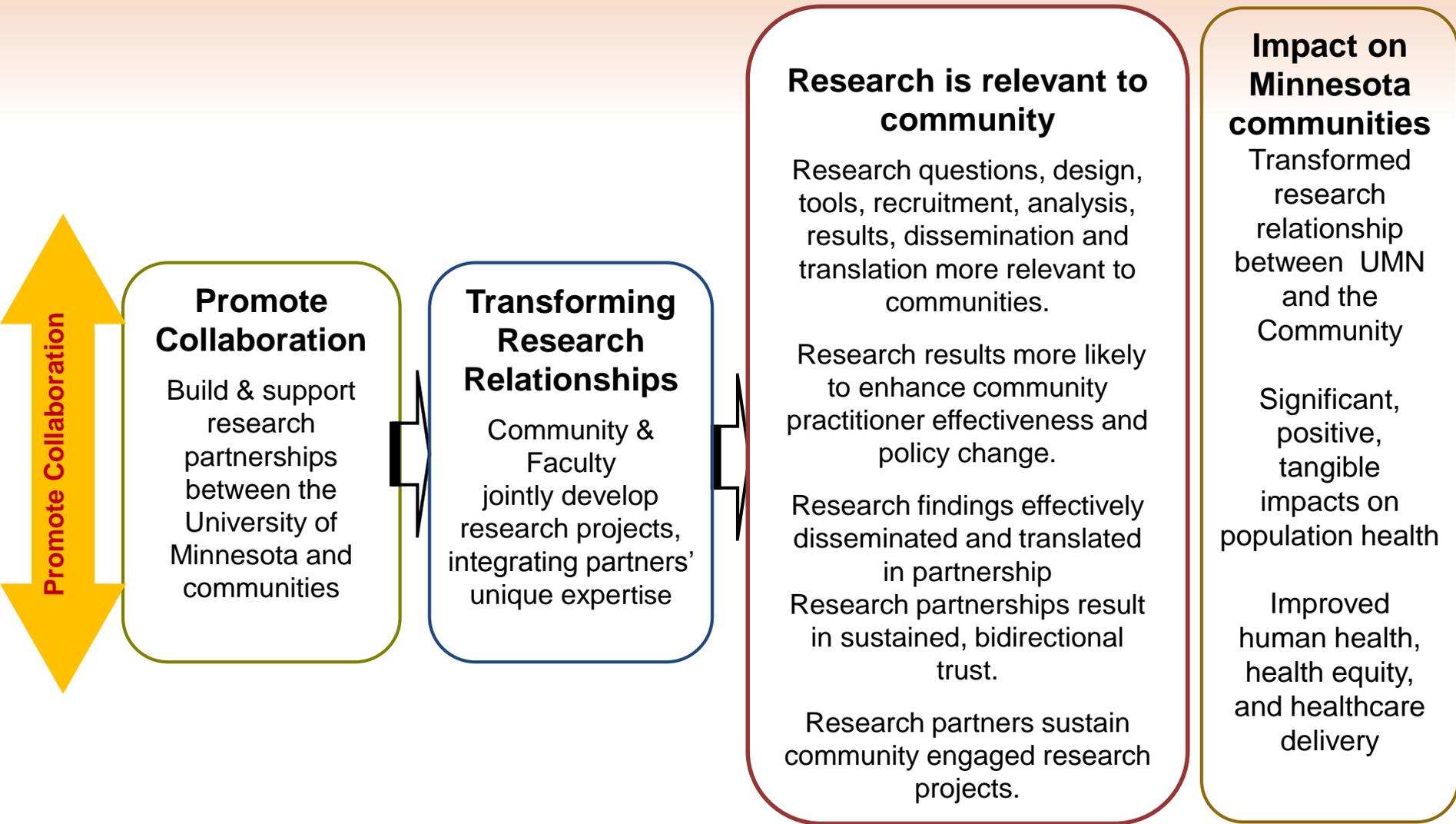
# PCE Logic Model

## Clinical and Translational Science Institute's Populations and Community Engagement Success Roadmap

Transform research relationships between the U of M and community to ensure that clinical and translational research is highly relevant to the health needs of communities.



# Promoting Collaboration



# Collaborative Pilot Grants

**Primary Goal:** Aim to significantly impact individual and population health in a concrete and tangible way

## Partnerships

- Create solid and sustainable relationships between the community and university

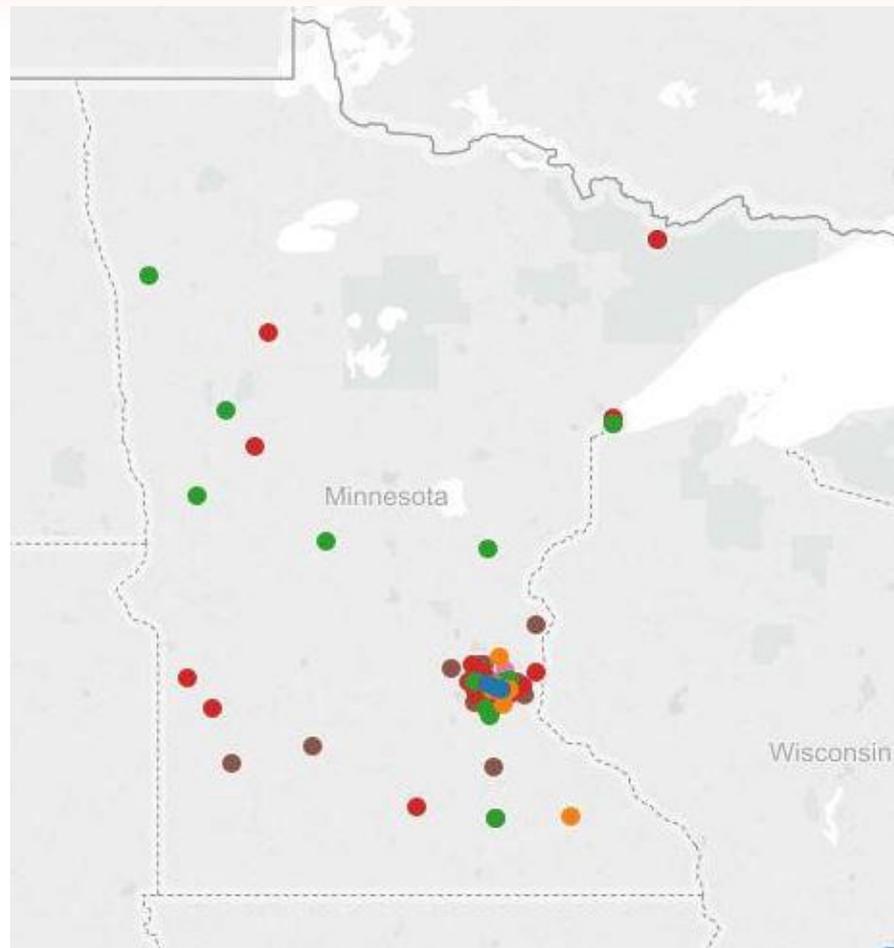
## Community-Engaged Research

- Incorporate community-based knowledge and expertise, and link these perspectives with the skills of researchers/evaluators

## University & Community-Level Outcomes

- Generate long-term research projects that will leverage additional funds
- Develop more efficient translation of evidence-based strategies

# 2010-2014 Collaborative Pilot Grant Statewide Community Partners



# How do we support partnerships?



# Research Partnership Checklist

“The checklist facilitated an initial discussion where we were able to identify similarities and differences on a variety of topics such as data ownership and sharing our findings. The checklist permitted us to define rules of engagement and to better understand each other’s perspectives upfront.”

--Community PI

*The following survey should be completed by you and your research partner separately. Each of the questions in the survey covers one of the main themes in partnership research. You and your research partner may/may not have had discussions about these themes, but the goal of this exercise is to help you begin or continue the conversation with your research partner in order to develop a plan of action.*

1. **Project goal:** From your perspective, in one sentence state the goal of your project.
  
2. **Decision Making:** My preferred decision-making style is... (circle one)
  - a. Consensus (a process that allows the entire group to be heard and actively participate with an ultimate goal of finding common ground. There are no “winners” or “losers” in this process and discussion continues until a consensus is achieved.)
  - b. Democratic (a process that allows for all options to be discussed so as to fully inform decisions made by the group. Decisions are made through a voting process and the “losing” side agrees to abide by the majority decision.)
  - c. Delegation (a process that allows the group to divide up certain decision-making power among subcommittees or individuals within the larger group. These subcommittees may be determined based on specialized expertise/ knowledge of a given subject. The larger group agrees to abide by the decision of the subcommittee or individual.)
  - d. I have not thought about this

# Office of Community Engagement for Health Funding Opportunities for Minnesota communities

Award Title	Purpose
Community Health Collaborative Grant	Community-University partners address significant health issues identified by communities, particularly underserved communities
Driven to Discover State Fair	Improve health of Minnesotans through research projects at State Fair
Dissemination & Implementation	Support development of strategies to translate evidence-based research findings to communities
Community Research Van	Support research using mobile outreach van

# Partnership Example: Transforming Evidence-based Obesity Guidelines into Clinical Practice

## Benefits of partnerships: Community partners understand rural culture

*“Working with a rural community partner you can get access to what’s going on in the community. I don’t know of any researchers who work out of Fergus Falls, MN. And so when you get a community partner involved in research, you have someone who has a heavy influence on the research, knowing the community and the culture of the people.” –Otter Tail County Community Co-PI*

- Partnership with Otter Tail County, MN and UMN School of Nursing
- Evaluated the use of a standardized instrument to document the practice and outcomes of PartnerSHIP 4 Health obesity interventions
  - Used Omaha System as a method for translating system-level interventions and measuring outcomes
- Coordinated mixed method evaluation activities among 4 MN counties in 10 organizations
- Implications for local public health agencies for how to manage and evaluate system-level obesity interventions

# Partnership Example: Children in Nature

## Benefits of partnerships: Expanding services

*“This process was really empowering. This funding really helped our organization expand our expertise and service from a community perspective. I think it really showed that communities and the university can have different roles and responsibilities but really come together to have a really great outcome.”*

--Polk County Community co-PI

- Partnership with Polk County, MN and UMN College of Design
- Community designed nature-based play spaces
- Expanded to other communities; built into SHIP work plans
- Received additional funding to further support project

# CTSI Grantees

- **Sarah Beehler**, PhD, Department of Biobehavioral Health & Population Sciences (UM Duluth), in partnership with the Medical School Department of Psychiatry and the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center

*2014 Driven to Discover State Fair Project:*

Assessing Supportive Resources of Veterans and Their Families in Greater Minnesota

- **Heidi Favet**, CHW, Ely Community Care Team, in partnership with Northern Lights Clubhouse and Essentia Institute for Rural Health

*2012 Rural Community Capacity Enhancement Project:*

Developing Capacity to Address Mental Health Issues

# NEW CTSI Grantees

- **Joann Usher/John Salisbury**, Rainbow Health Initiative in partnership with the Dr. Abel Knochel, Department of Social Work (UM Duluth)

*2015-16 Community Health Collaborative Grant:*

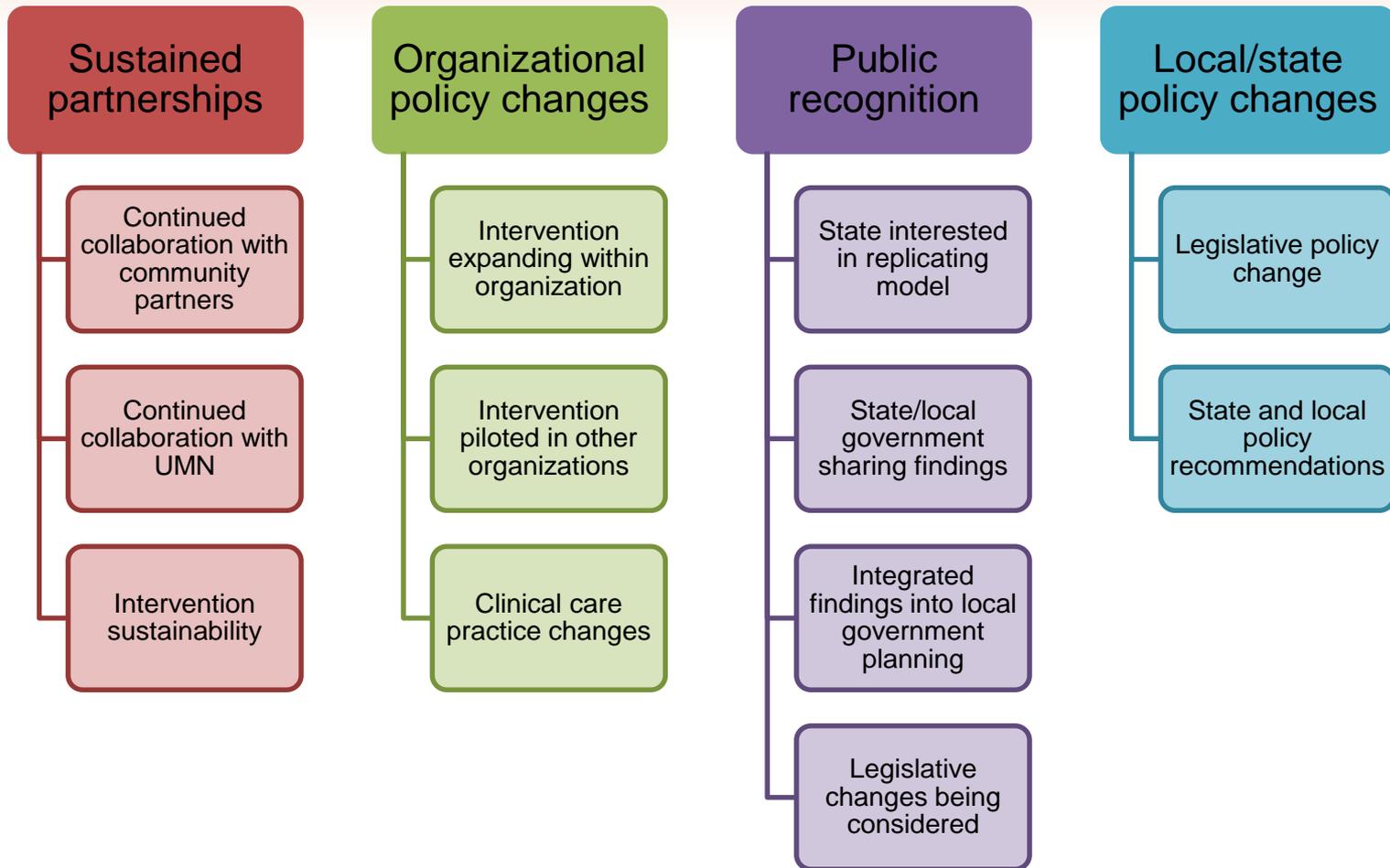
Minnesota's Transgender Older Adults: Locating a Hidden Population and Identifying Unmet Service Needs

# Co-PI Perceived Community-Level Outcomes

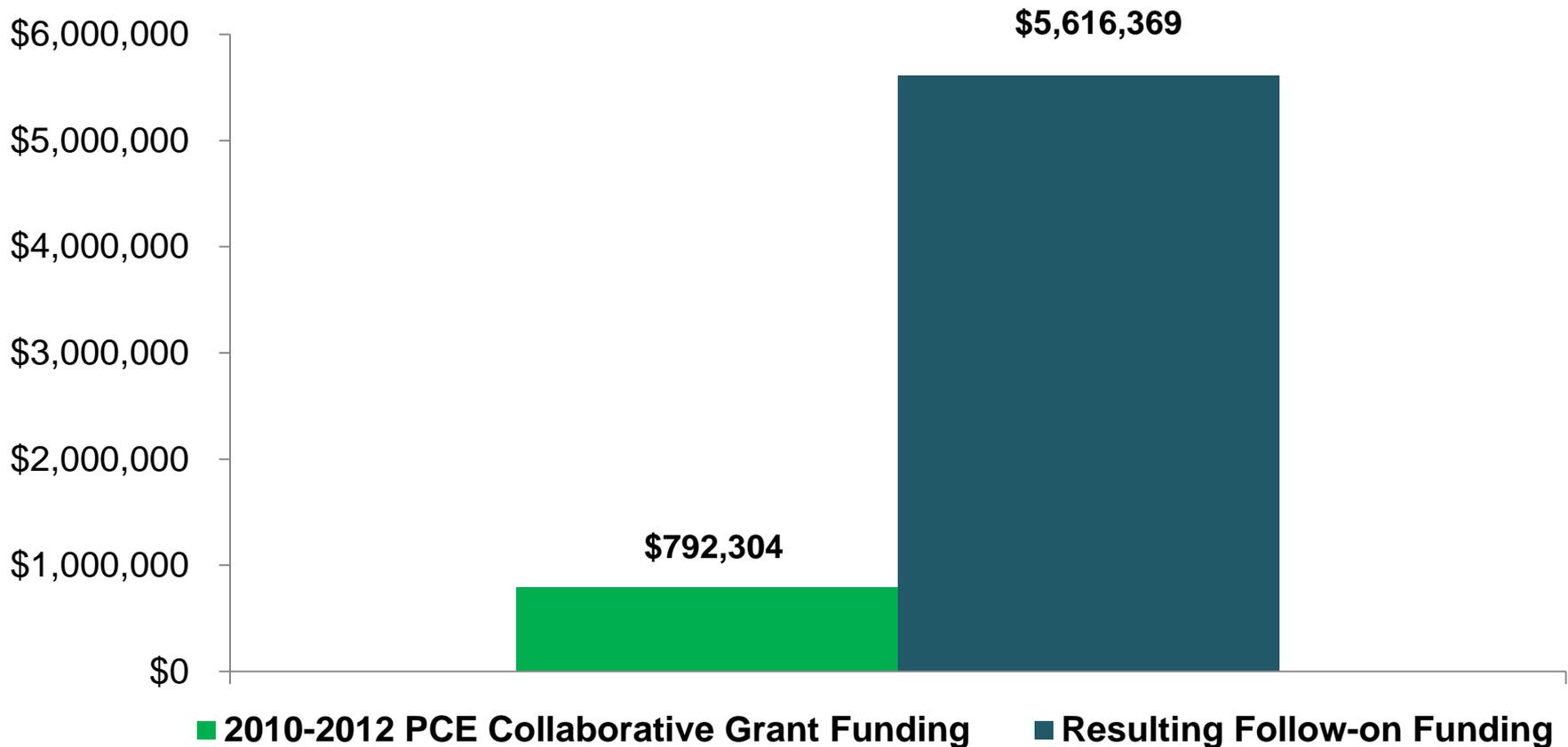
<b>Co-PI Self-Reported Community-Level Outcomes of 2010-2012 Collaborative Pilot Grant Projects*</b>	<b>n=38</b>
Sustained partnerships with community partners	86%
Organizational policy changes	59%
Public recognition from local policy makers	59%
Acquisition of funding for community organization	54%
Local, state, or national policy changes	27%
No outcomes	5%

\*Self-reported outcomes reported by both community and university co-PIs counted as one outcome.

# Interview Findings: Co-PI Perceived Community-Level Outcomes



# 2010-2012 Collaborative Pilot Grant Follow-on Funding Received



# 2010-2012 Collaborative Pilot Grant Academic Dissemination

**19** peer-reviewed journal  
publications

**98** presentations

**45%** of grants  
disseminated findings  
through peer-reviewed  
journal publications

**75%** of grants  
disseminated findings  
through presentations at  
international, national and  
local levels

# Discussion 1

- How can we move from where we are today increase community collaborative research relationships in rural Minnesota?
- Ideas for creating rural health research partnerships?
- Ideas for sustaining rural health research partnerships?

# Discussion 2

- What are your top rural health research priorities?
- How can the CTSI play a role in advancing and supporting these rural health research priorities?

# THANK YOU

**For more information about the CTSI contact:**

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