



ROOTS76: PIONEERING THE FUTURE OF WORKFORCE TRAINING



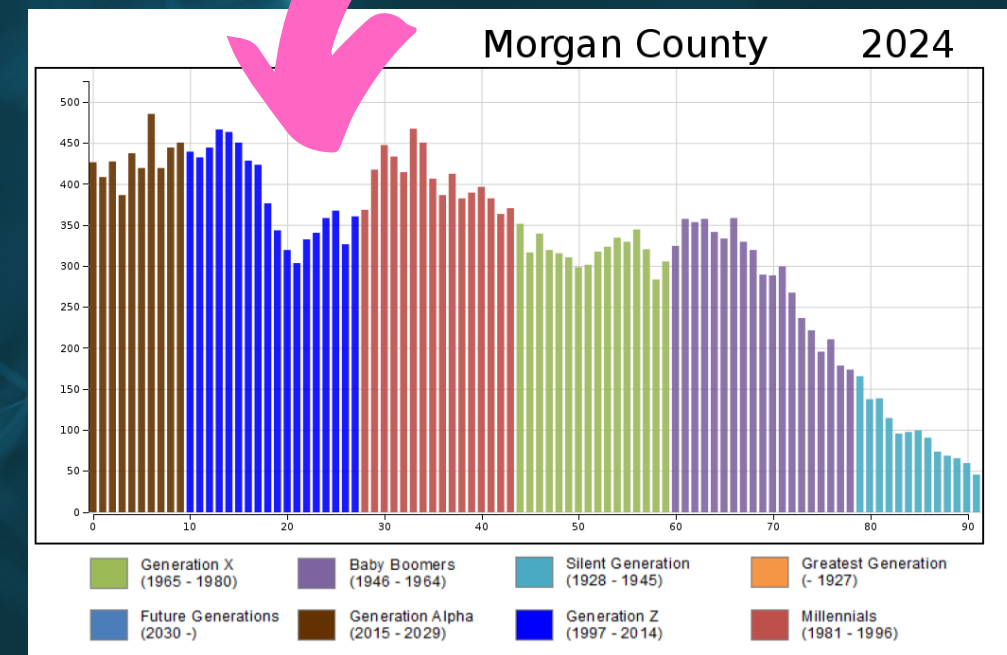
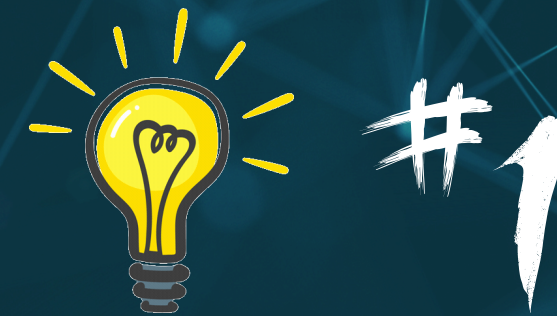
ORIGIN STORY:

How the Program Came About



AN MCEDC COUNCIL:

a collaborative and diverse advisory group, representing various perspectives, working together to provide strategic guidance and drive consensus-based decision-making for the success of a project or organization.



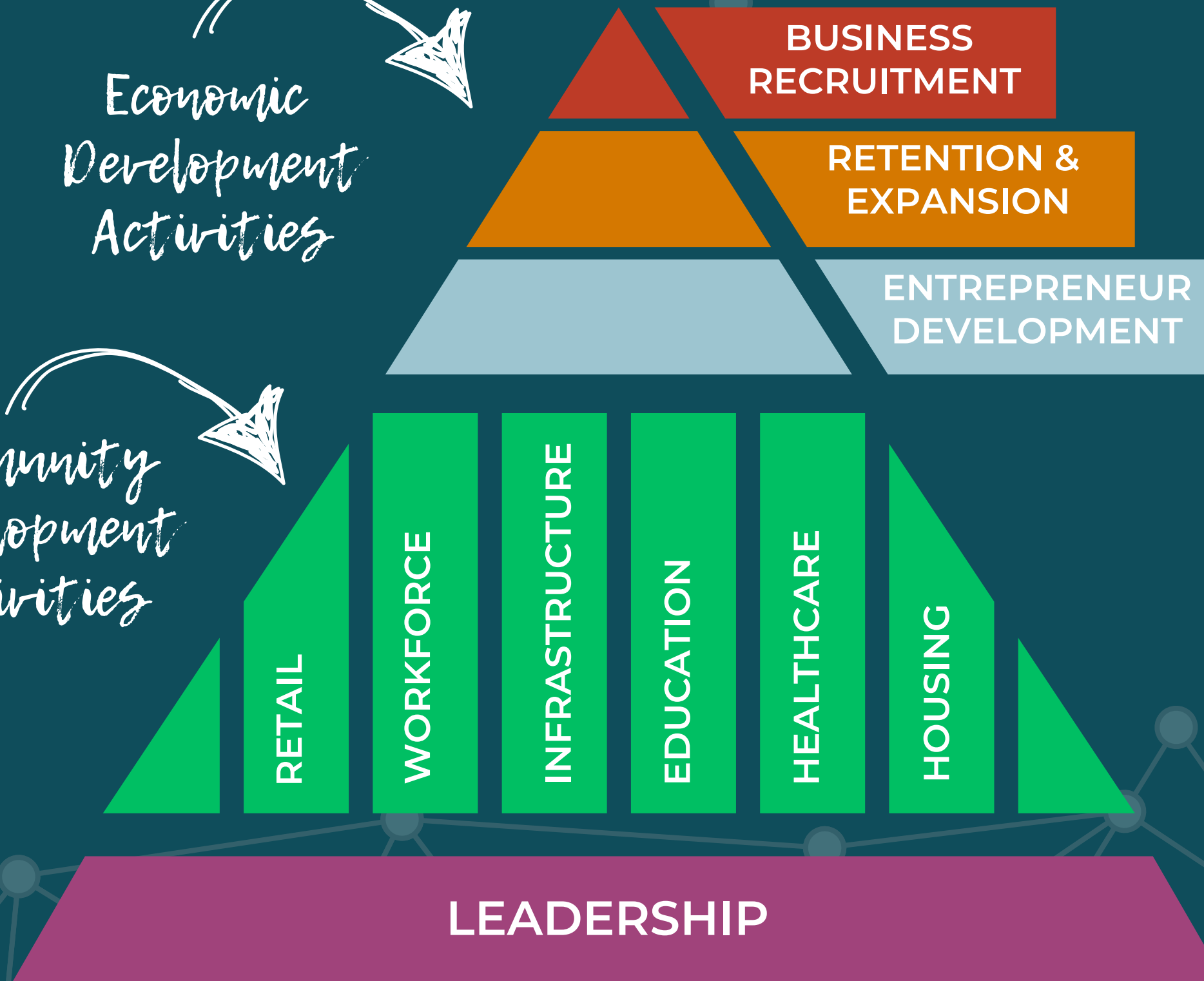
Births, Deaths, & Migration...

WHY?

Responsible
Economic
Development

Economic
Development
Activities

Community
Development
Activities



Increase
Wealth

*Pyramid borrowed from Gordon Ipson CECd, FM



WHO?

- High School Students
 - Direct-to-workforce upon graduation
 - Non college bound or ineligible to attend local community college
 - English Language Learners
 - Individuals with learning disabilities
 - Graduates leaving for a job outside the county

HOW...?

WHY VIRTUAL REALITY?



how do we meet our future workforce where they are?

HIGHLIGHTS OF VR TRAINING



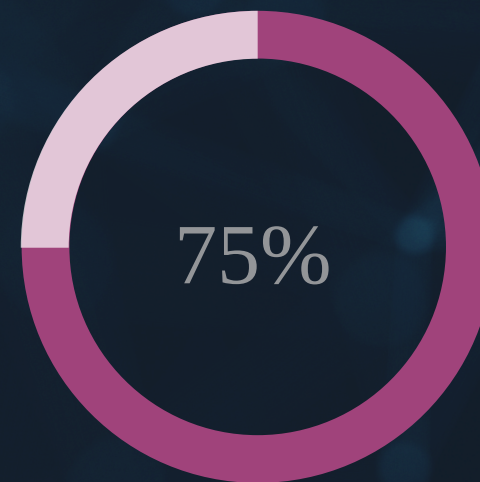
Individuals using VR for learning are more likely to stay focused and engaged compared to traditional learning methods - contributing to a more effective learning process.

Safe Learning Environment:

VR creates a risk-free space for learners to make mistakes and learn from them without real-world consequences. A significant cost saving measure for employers



Individuals using VR for training can acquire and apply new skills up to four times faster than through traditional methods - catapulting their career readiness and advancement



Virtual Reality learning has a 75% retention rate compared to a retention rate of 10% with classroom learning



VR breaks language barriers, offering immersive learning in English and Spanish, realistic conversations, and inclusive multilingual experiences for users.



Accessible Anytime, Anywhere:

Virtual training is accessible remotely, offering flexibility and convenience for learners to practice skills at their own pace.

Adaptive Learning Paths:

Tailored to individual progress, adaptive VR programs adjust to learners' pace, ensuring personalized skill development with immediate feedback

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Implemented via partnerships with local schools, businesses, and community organizations, the program is designed to be accessible to diverse learners, offering trade skills training addressing various community needs.



**ROOTS76
MONTHLY
MEETINGS**



Interplay Learning

**LEARNING
PLATFORM &
TECHNOLOGY**
(\$1,150 avg/student)



FUNDING
(\$424,000 Grants)



STUDENTS



**JOB
PLACEMENT**

IMPACT

what are the #'s so far?



35
*Students
Enrolled*

Current Enrollments:

Building Engineer
3 Members

Plumbing
2 Members

Career Exploration
1 Member

Residential Construction
4 Members

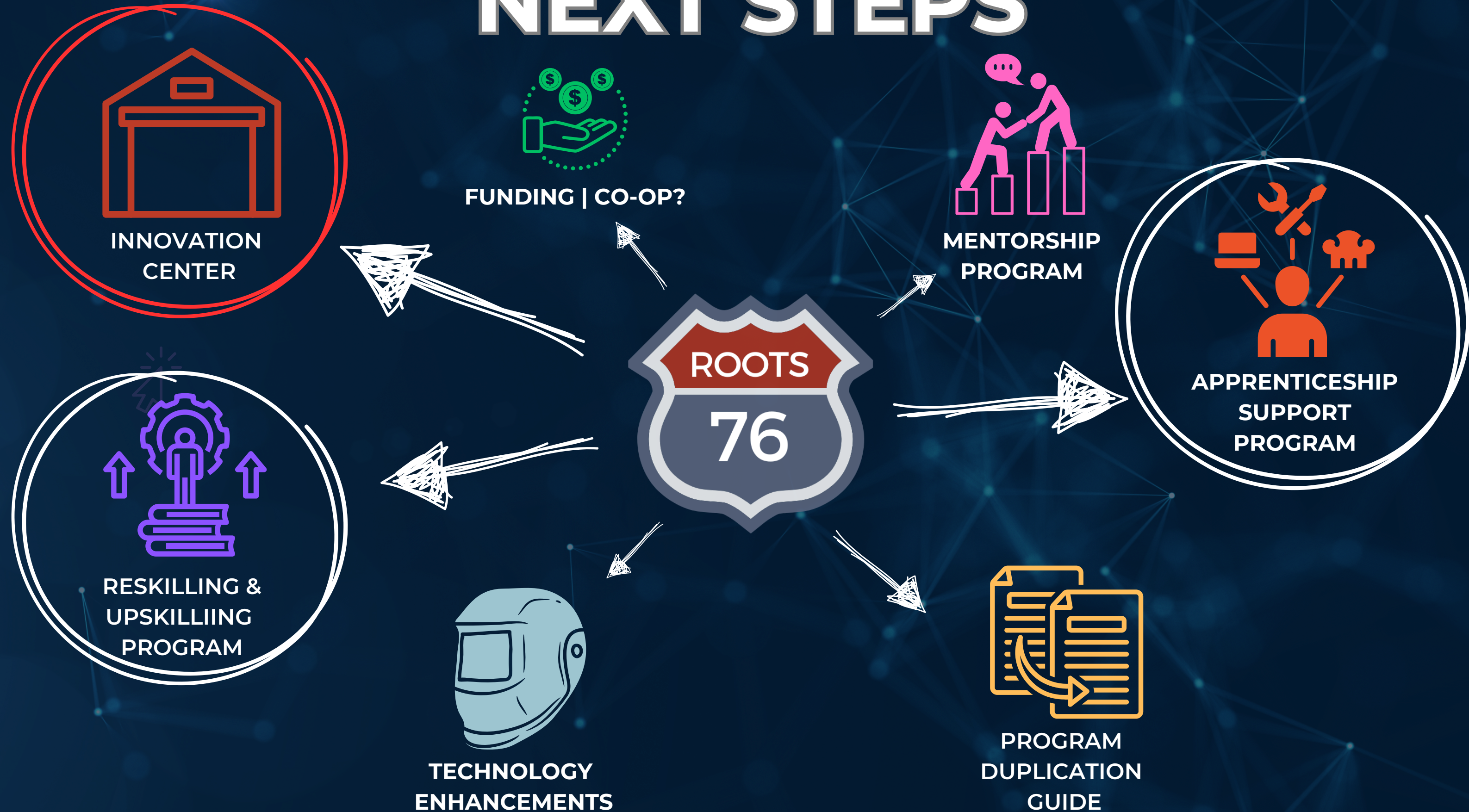
Electrical
17 Members

Solar Maintenance
1 Member

HVAC
1 Member

Welding (OcuWeld)
6 Members

NEXT STEPS



SUSTAINABILITY

SCALABLE MODEL FOR BUSINESS RECRUITMENT:

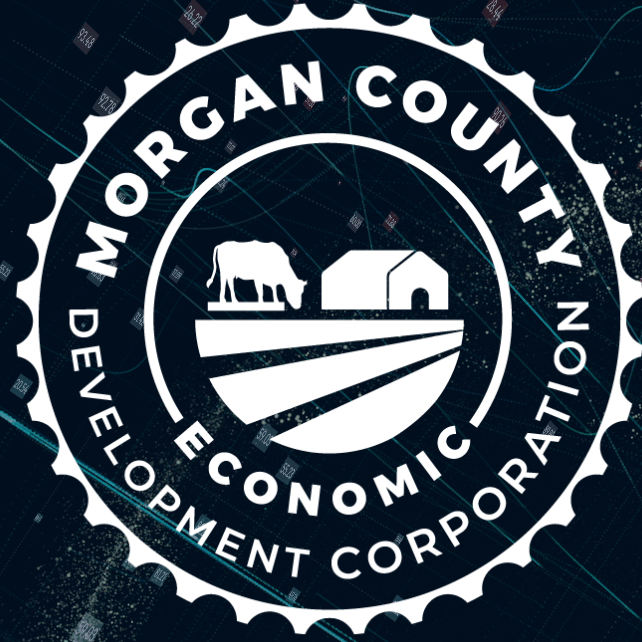
ROOTS76's VR Program is not just a training tool—it's a powerful mechanism for business recruitment. By bringing cutting-edge technology to rural and underserved communities, the program creates an attractive environment for businesses looking to invest in regions with a skilled, adaptable workforce. The VR model is easily scalable and can be replicated across various communities, allowing businesses to tap into a pipeline of highly trained workers in critical trades. This flexibility enables ROOTS76 to be a driver of local economic development, positioning the community as a hub of innovation and skilled labor.

ROBUST COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS:

ROOTS76 thrives on strong, multi-sector partnerships. Close collaboration with local schools, businesses, and community organizations ensures ongoing support. Local businesses are not just stakeholders—they are active partners who benefit from the program by having access to a workforce trained in the exact skills they need. These partnerships provide a foundation of financial and logistical support, while also fostering a shared commitment to economic growth. With continued buy-in from key stakeholders, including government agencies and private enterprises, the program is designed for long-term sustainability and community-wide impact.

AFFORDABILITY AND DIVERSE FUNDING SOURCES:

ROOTS76 is a cost-effective solution for workforce training, making it accessible for participants and attractive to businesses looking to lower their hiring and training costs. Leveraging grants, public-private partnerships, and state or federal funding, the program maintains affordability while expanding its reach. This approach not only sustains the program but makes it a smart economic choice for regions focused on building a competitive workforce.



Thank you!

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