

Systems Change & Philanthropy

Also referred to as 'Shifting Systems' or 'Systems Transformation', Systems Change is a phrase used to explain an approach that targets the root causes of social issues instead of directly tackling the issue itself. It aims to alter underlying structures such as policies, mindsets and power dynamics, which enable the system to function in a particular way.

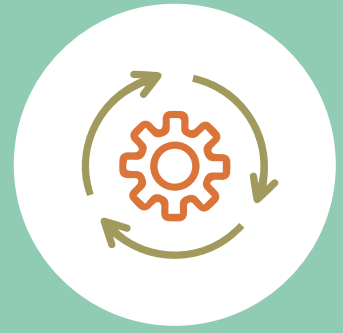
TYPES OF SYSTEMS CHANGE APPROACHES



Incremental Change:
Improving performance within existing rules and norms

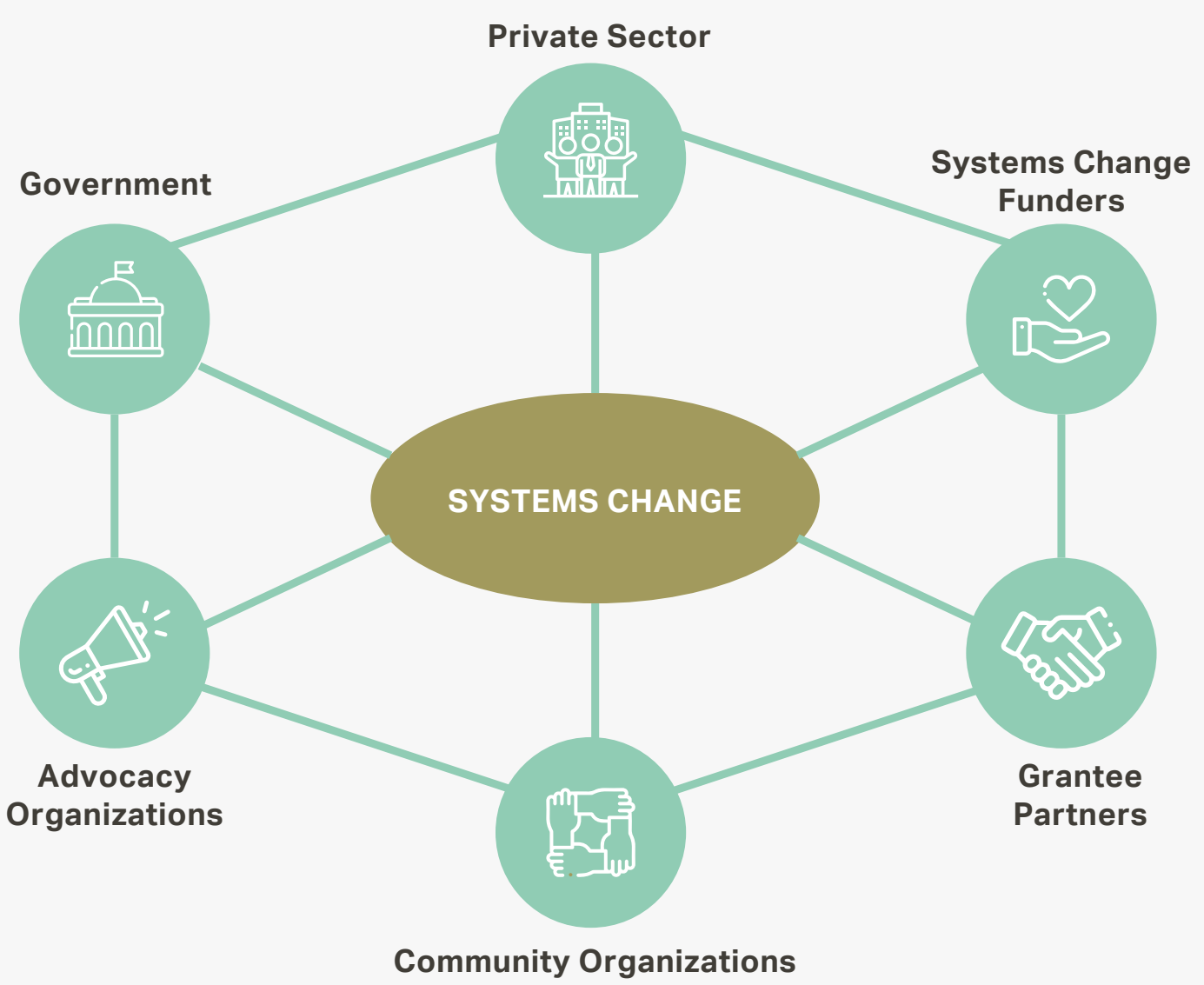


Reform:
Revising structures, rules, and norms to make new types of actions more prevalent



Transformation:
Creating pioneering solutions and new ways of tackling problems

KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN DRIVING SYSTEMS CHANGE



EXAMPLES OF SYSTEMS CHANGE INITIATIVES

A systems change approach can be applied to a diverse range of issues and can take multiple different forms, a few of which are highlighted below:



Harnessing the power of collaboration

Co-Impact is an international funder collaborative that supports partners to understand and target root problems that underlie unjust, ineffective and non-inclusive systems of health, education, and economic opportunity.



Building social movements

The Freedom Fund works to support advocacy, direct grantmaking, and movement building directed at driving systemic change and strengthening anti-slavery infrastructure globally.



Advocating for policy and behaviour change

The Plastic Solutions Fund supports activists to shift how people, companies and cities deal with waste, towards reducing production of single-use plastic and packaging.



Emphasizing community voice

Fund For Shared Insight puts special emphasis on promoting the practice of feedback and listening to communities as an essential component of systems change.

HOW TO GET STARTED



Read about Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors' Shifting Systems Initiative which was created to examine when, how, and why certain solutions achieve system-level shifts, and to share the lessons and recommendations from those successes. Specifically, start by reading the initiative's first two reports, *Scaling Solutions Towards Shifting Systems* and *Seeing, Facilitating and Assessing Systems Change*.

For additional information or help getting started, email info@rockpa.org.