

### About Us

- The San Diego State University-Imperial Valley Prevention Research Program (SDSU-IV PRC) reflects an academic-community partnership between SDSU and the community environmental justice organization Comité Civico del Valle.
- SDSU-IV PRC goal is to reduce the health impacts of extreme heat in disproportionately impacted communities in Imperial County, California, an agricultural region.



### Why?

- Extreme heat disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, including agricultural workers, children, and older adults.
- The Imperial County, also known as Imperial Valley, is one of California's lowest-income regions, and the California Environmental Protection Agency designated many of its census tracts as highly under-resourced communities.
- The county is projected to see a rise in extreme heat days as the result of increasing temperatures and modification of regional precipitation patterns under climate change conditions.
- We will use Community-Based Participatory Research to understand how selected Evidence-Based Interventions (EBIs) from the Phoenix Heat Action Planning Guide can be implemented effectively in under-resourced communities in Imperial Valley.

### How?

#### The PRC is organized into three components:

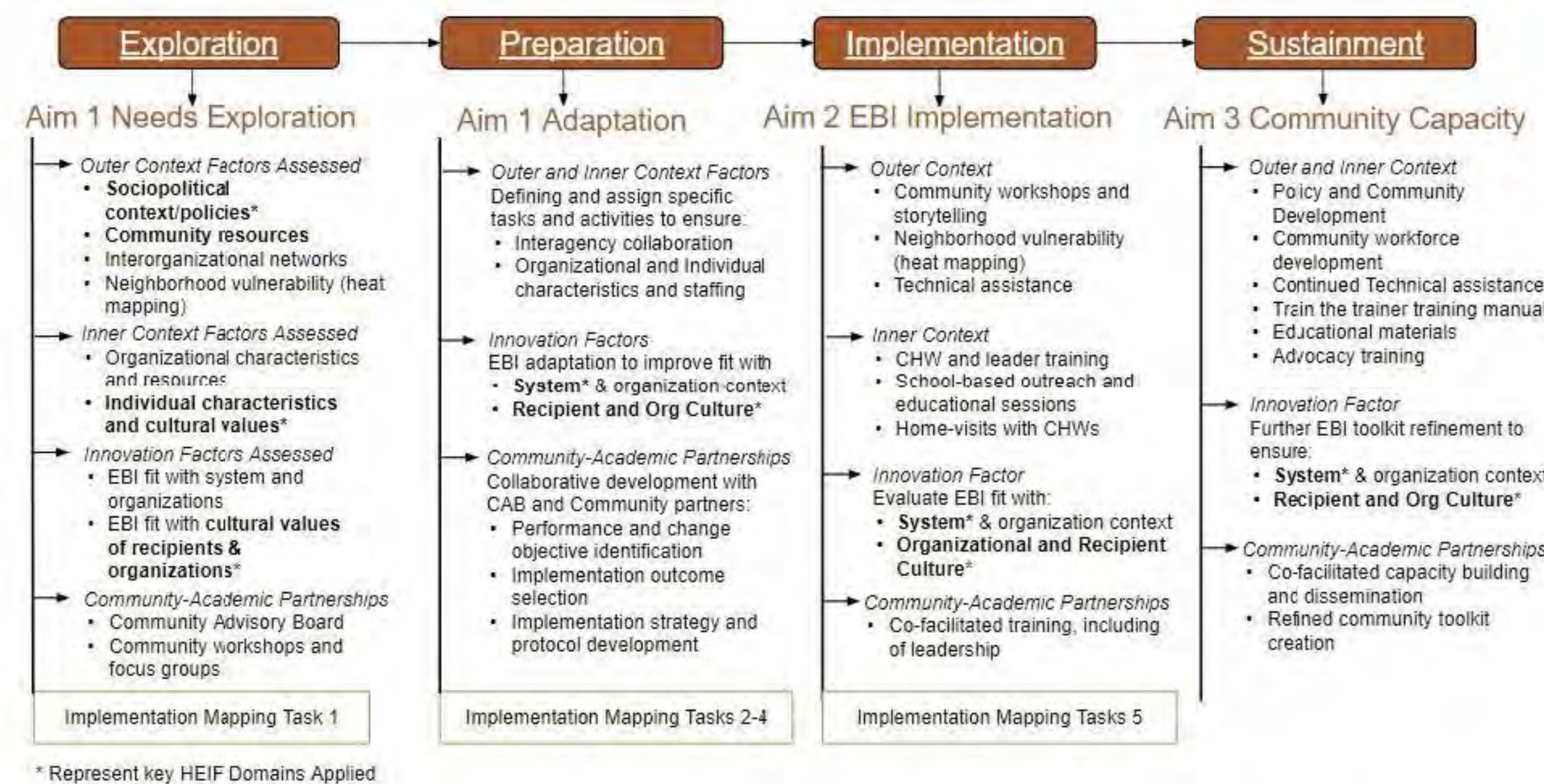
- PRC Center Component - build partnerships and infrastructure
- PRC Core Research Project Component - implement heat mitigation strategies
- PRC Network Component - enhance collaboration and impact

#### Research Project Aims:

- Aim 1.** Adapt the city of Phoenix Heat Action Plan and create a comprehensive plan for community-based initiatives to reduce extreme heat exposure in agricultural areas.
- Aim 2:** Test the short and long-term impacts of community-level strategies on implementation and effectiveness outcomes in IC.
- Aim 3:** Build community capacity to implement specific heat illness prevention strategies.

#### Conceptual Model and Study Design

- Combines the Exploration, Preparation, Implementation, and Sustainment (EPIS) framework and the equity domains of the Health Equity Implementation Framework (HEIF).
- To evaluate effectiveness and scalability, the intervention will follow a phased roll-out across 10 communities, using a stepped wedge design.



### Intervention Strategies



#### Community Workshops

- Two (2) 60-90 min, workshops per community within community's intervention initiation



#### Lived Experiences

- Ethnographic interviews, photos, and temperature tracking to capture past and present lived experiences about temperature



#### Heat Vulnerability Index Mapping

- Geospatial analysis & storymaps will identify heat risk areas, equipping residents with tools to understand and address local vulnerabilities



#### School Outreach

- Community Health Workers (CHWs) will provide information to school personnel & families about the dangers of heat exposure



#### Home Visits

- CHWs will visit homes to share information about the community and educational materials about the heat exposure

### Future Outcome

- The *Taking on the Heat* project focuses on reducing UV overexposure and mitigating the effects of extreme heat in Imperial Valley's vulnerable communities.
- By adapting the Phoenix Heat Action Planning Guide, this initiative ensures the implementation of EBIs that are contextually relevant and community-driven.
- By systematically addressing the health impacts of extreme heat through a participatory approach, the project not only enhances resilience but also creates a replicable model for similar underserved regions.