

# Ice-breaker

What is something kind that someone else has done for you recently?

What is difficult for you now, but was easy when you were a child?

If you could give one piece of advice to a large group of people, what would it be?

Source: [www.weand.me](http://www.weand.me)

# **Rural Community Resilience**

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“...rural and isolated communities face wrenching transition with few obvious solutions... a solution to uncertainty is to focus on resilience...”

Mark Haggerty and Julia Haggerty, 2019

# Overview

- Talk about Iowa communities and community resilience
- Quick look at the research on rural and community resilience
- Discuss why this is relevant to what we *all* do in ISU Extension and Outreach

# What do we mean by community?

## Community of place:

Locality where people live and interact

Rural communities are typically geographic

Characterized by specific resources, or capitals

## Community of interest:

- Groups of people organized around common interests
- May be formal or informal
  - Faith community
  - Business associations
  - Producer associations
  - Monday morning coffee
- Not place specific
- Same principles of interaction apply

# What is community resilience?

## Adaptive capacity

Ability to respond to **shock** and continue functioning and mobilizing resources for desired outcomes

Shock can be caused by natural disasters or other forms of dramatic change that have significant negative or positive impacts on a local economy.

# **So what? Why are we (Extension) talking about this?**

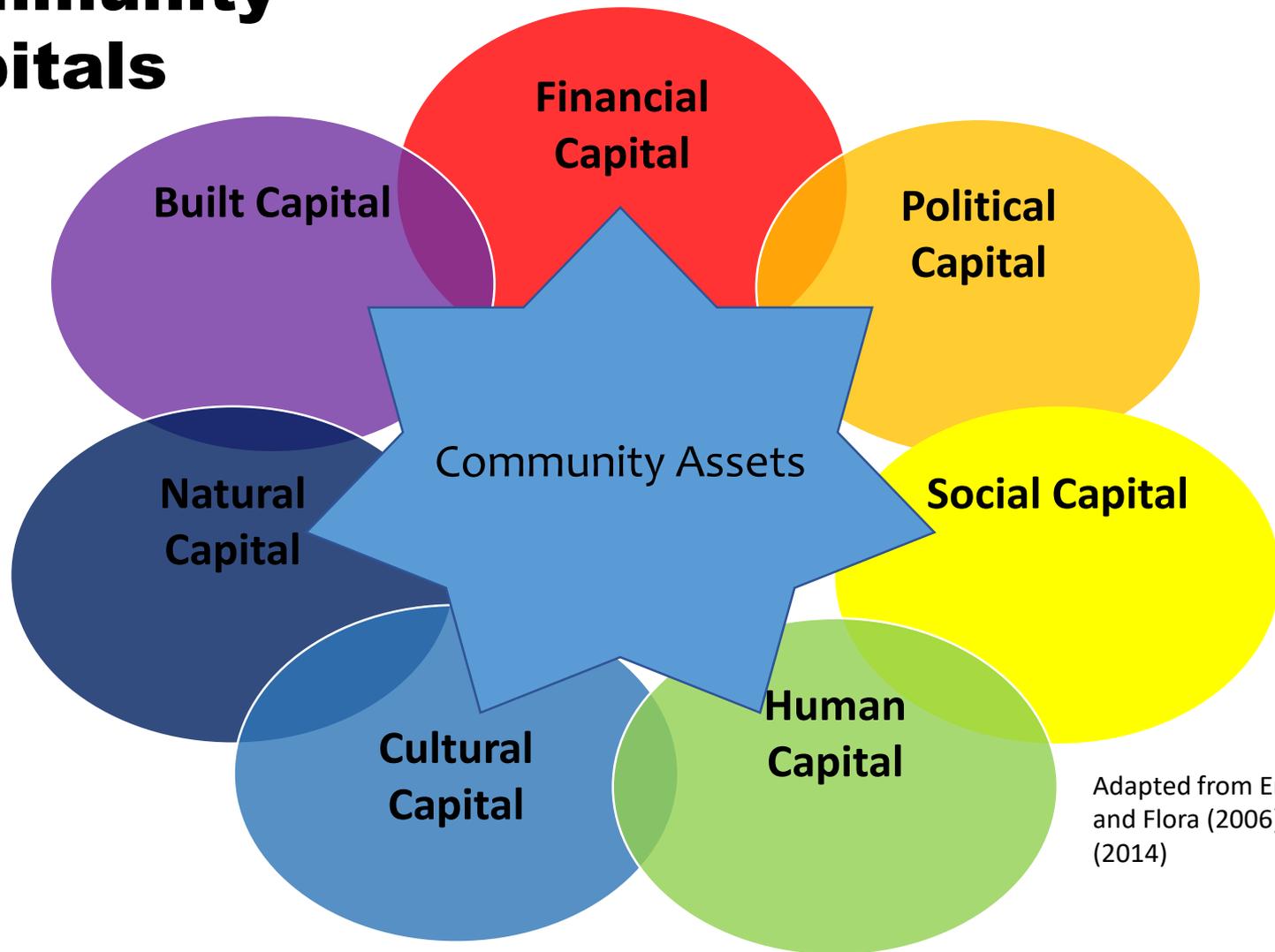
- Iowa communities (rural, especially), struggling to adapt to change (farm economy, population, employment, climate)
- ISU Extension and Outreach (all program areas) can help Iowa to become more resilient
  - Rural communities and small cities
  - Farming communities and farm families
  - Local retailers and businesses

**To know how  
ISU Extension and Outreach  
can help Iowans, we must  
understand the factors that  
make communities  
“resilient”**

# The research

- Resilience tied to assets and resources
- How a community responds to shock can depend on its stock of assets and resources, known as “capitals”
- All capitals are important, but not all communities have equal amounts of all capitals

# Community Capitals



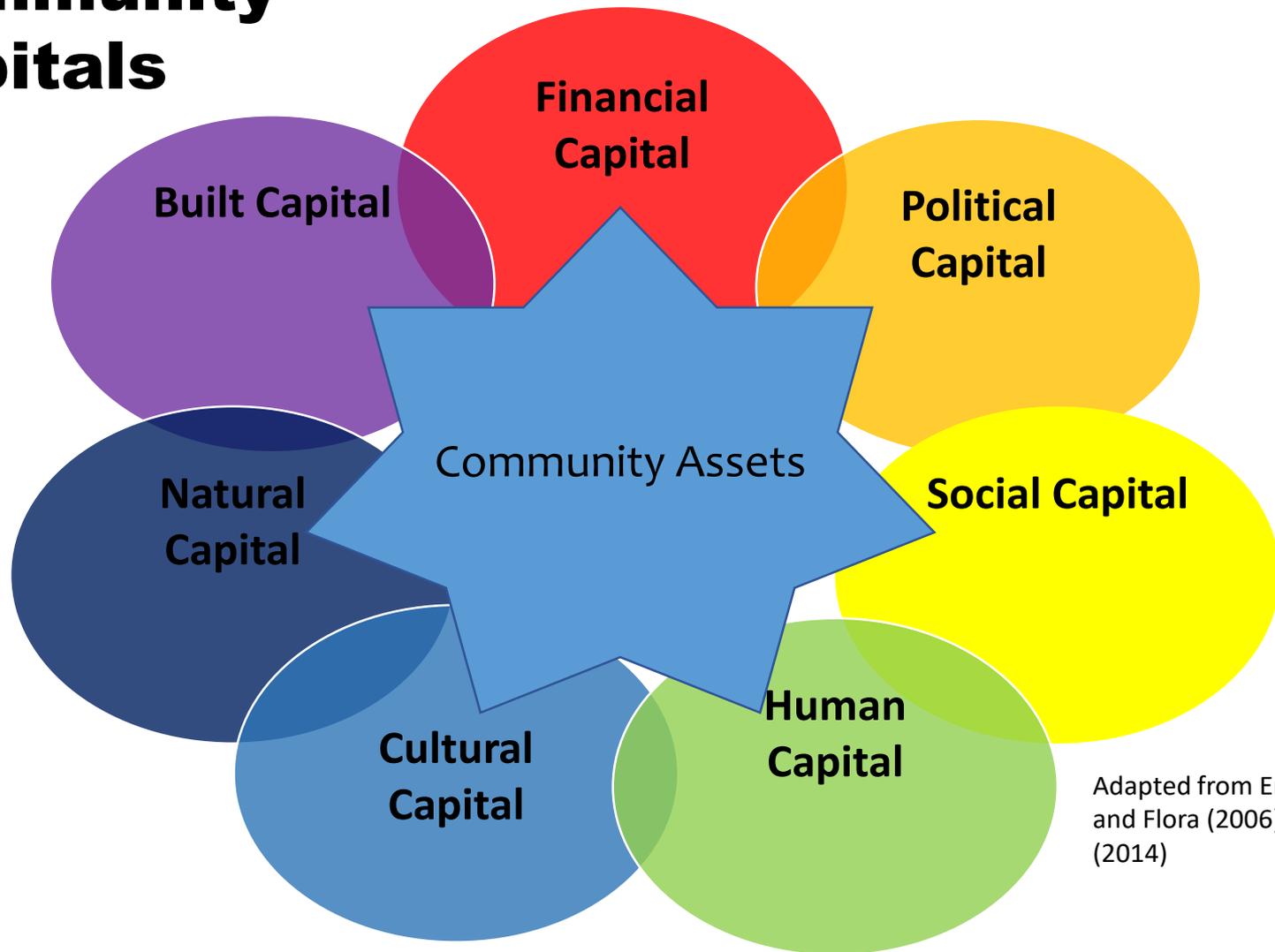
Adapted from Emery, Fey and Flora (2006), Beaulieu (2014)

# Discussion

In groups of six, discuss the following:

- Which capital(s) do you believe your extension work contributes to the most?
- Why?

# Community Capitals

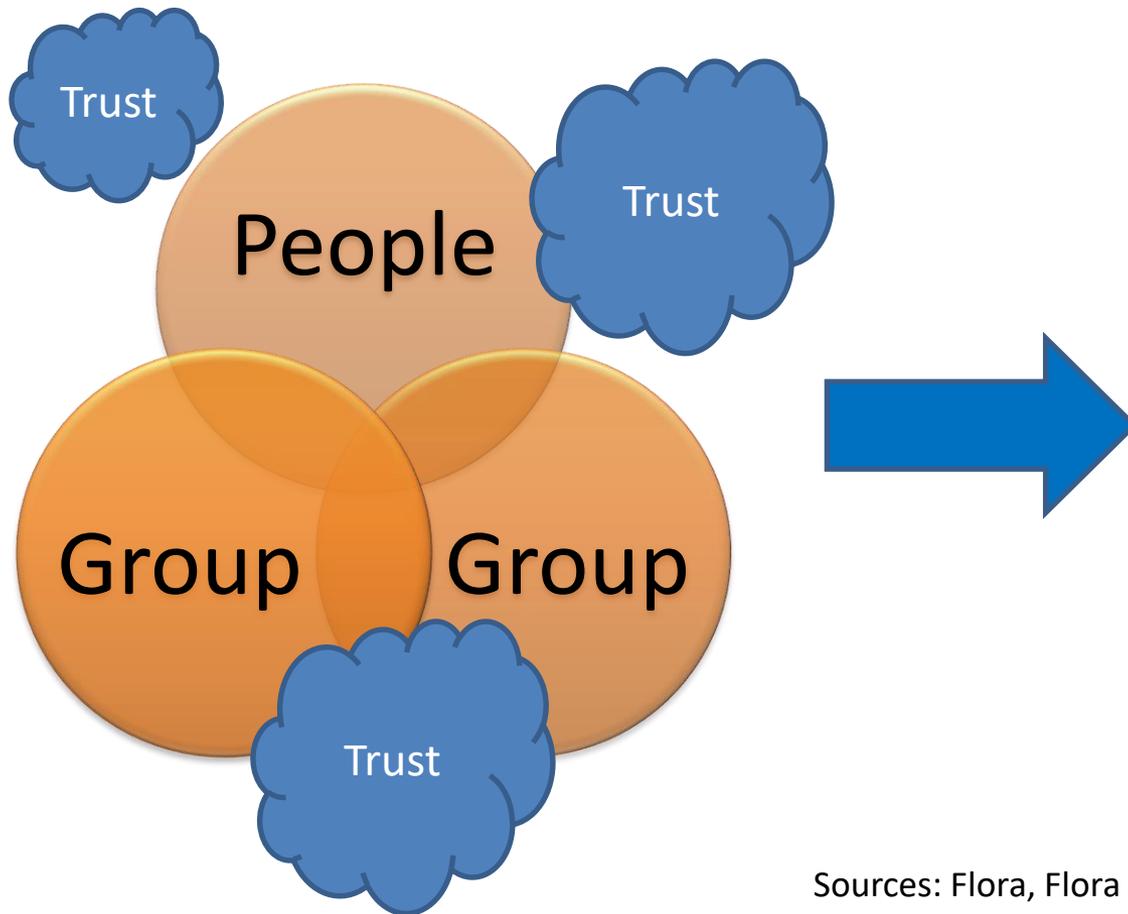


Adapted from Emery, Fey and Flora (2006), Beaulieu (2014)

# Our work in ISU Extension and Outreach

Whether or not we are aware of it, ***everyone in this room*** contributes to a network where social capital is being built.

# Social capital



1. Facilitates cooperation for mutual benefit
2. Enhances investments in other forms of community capitals
3. Lays foundation for individuals' investments in other capitals

Sources: Flora, Flora and Fey (2003); Putnam (1993)

# Example of a social network:

## Story City Greater Chamber Connection

The Story City Greater Chamber Connection is ...comprised of the Story City Chamber and Story City Main Street programs....[T]he GCC is *committed to civic involvement*, image enhancement, historic preservation, and economic revitalization. *Partners* of the GCC consists of business, organizations, and individuals, and *are the essential ingredients in our ability to provide service to the community.*

# Another example:

## American Farm Bureau Federation Mission Statement

“AFBF is the unified national voice of agriculture, *working through our grassroots organizations* to enhance and strengthen the lives of rural Americans and to build strong, prosperous agricultural communities.”

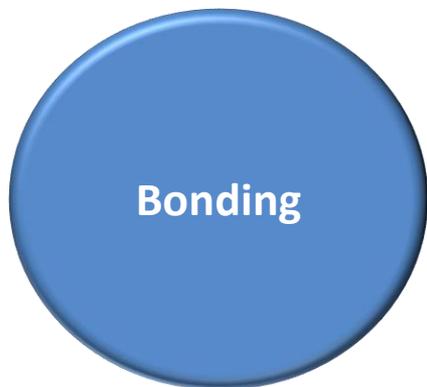
# Social capital and resilience

- Research suggests that social capital may be most important of the “capitals” in terms of:
  - Increasing community resiliency before shocks occur
    - Promotes planning in anticipation of natural disasters – emergency response
    - Lobbying/networking by trade associations
    - Beginning Farmer Center
  - Reversing community decline after a shock
    - Strengthening and speeding up recovery processes
  - Improving quality of life generally

Sources: Besser, Recker and Agnitsch (2008), Brown, Dorius and Krannich (2005), Emery and Flora (2006).

# Why?

- The “glue” that holds communities (place or interest) together
- Two (major) types:



# Bonding social capital

- Close relationships among individuals and groups with similar backgrounds
- Important for building community cohesion
- Critical during early stages of shock, especially natural disasters (neighbors helping neighbors)
- Examples?

# Bonding social capital

Example: Spring floods of 2019 – SW Iowa

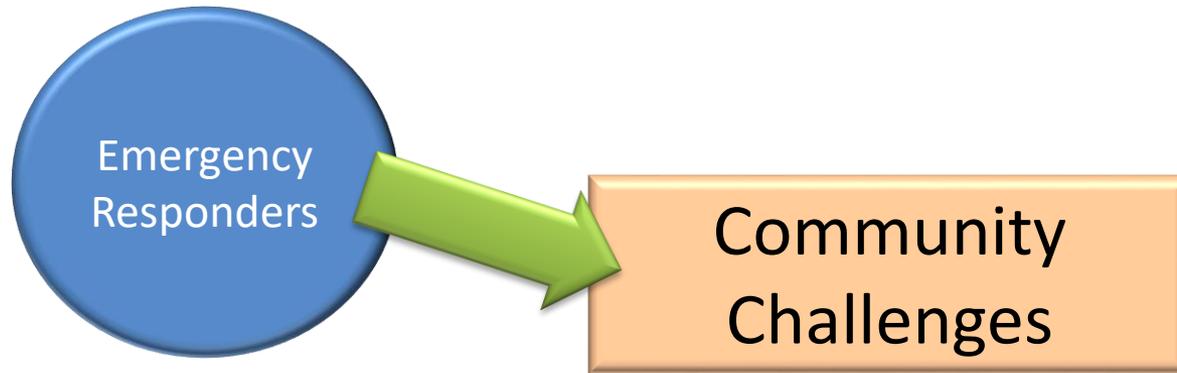


# **Bridging social capital**

- Relationships that bridge diverse people and organizations
- Fosters access to different/new information and resources
- Brings diverse assets to the table in times of critical need (shocks)
  
- Examples?

# Bridging social capital

Example:



# Bridging social capital

Example:



# Discussion

- In new groups of six, discuss the following:
  - What groups/networks are you involved in (formal or informal)?
  - What activities take place within this group/network that build relationships among the members (bonding)?
  - Does the group engage in activities that connect to other groups/networks (bridging)?



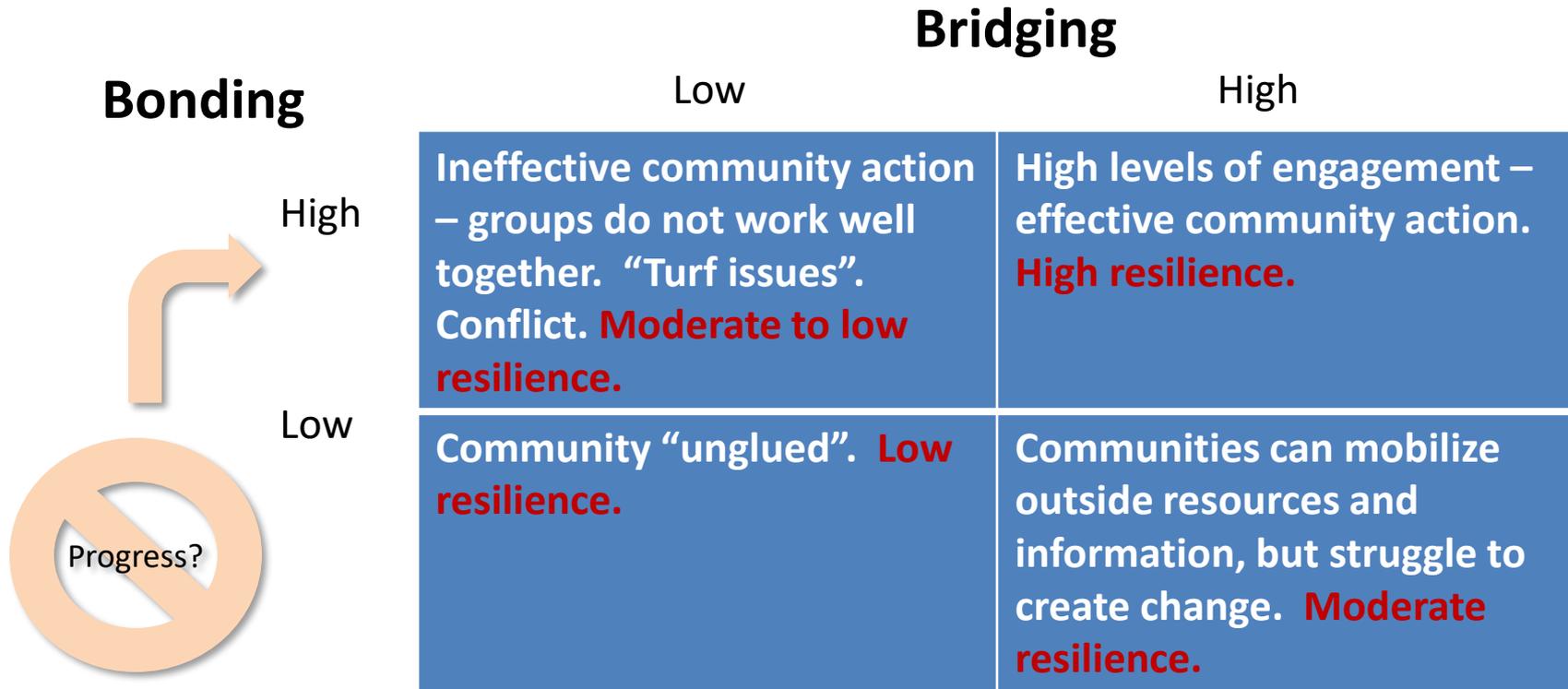
**How do bonding and  
bridging social capital  
interact to create  
(or not create)  
resilient communities?**

# Iowa Small Towns Research

- One third of communities experienced economic shocks: natural disaster, plant closings, new businesses
- Those with higher levels of social capital able to rebound faster
- **Suggests that building linkages (social capital) among diverse people and groups increases community resilience**

Sources: Besser, Recker and Agnitsch (2008)

# Social capital and resilience



Sources: Flora, Flora and Fey (2004), Besser, Recker and Agnitsch (2008)

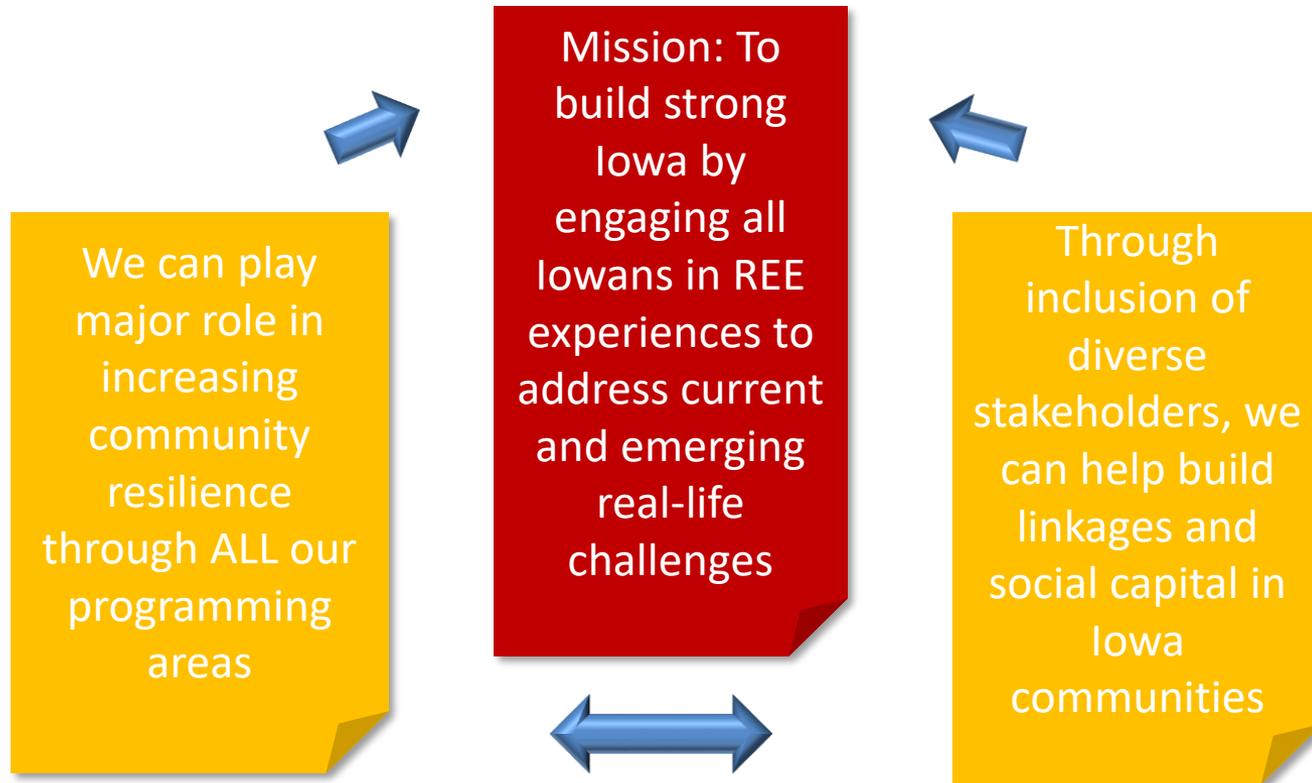
# Social capital and resilience

		Bridging	
		Low	High
Bonding	High	Ineffective community action – groups do not work well together. “Turf issues”. Conflict. <b>Moderate to low resilience.</b>	High levels of engagement – effective community action. <b>High resilience.</b>
	Low	Community “unglued”. <b>Low resilience.</b>	Communities can mobilize outside resources and information, but struggle to create change. <b>Moderate resilience.</b>



Sources: Flora, Flora and Fey (2004), Besser, Recker and Agnitsch (2008)

# Extension's role ...



# Groups of six

## Answer and report out

- Can you think of ways to be more intentional in building social capital into your work in ISU Extension and Outreach?
- Name three individuals/groups that you could bring into your extension network that are not now included.
- Are there ways we can help?

# Closer

What are you  
passionate  
about right  
now?

What is the  
strangest  
thing you  
believed as a  
child?

Source: [www.weand.me](http://www.weand.me)

# Resources

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# Thank you!

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