MESA K-READY PROPOSAL

CITY COUNCIL, NOVEMBER 2, 2017

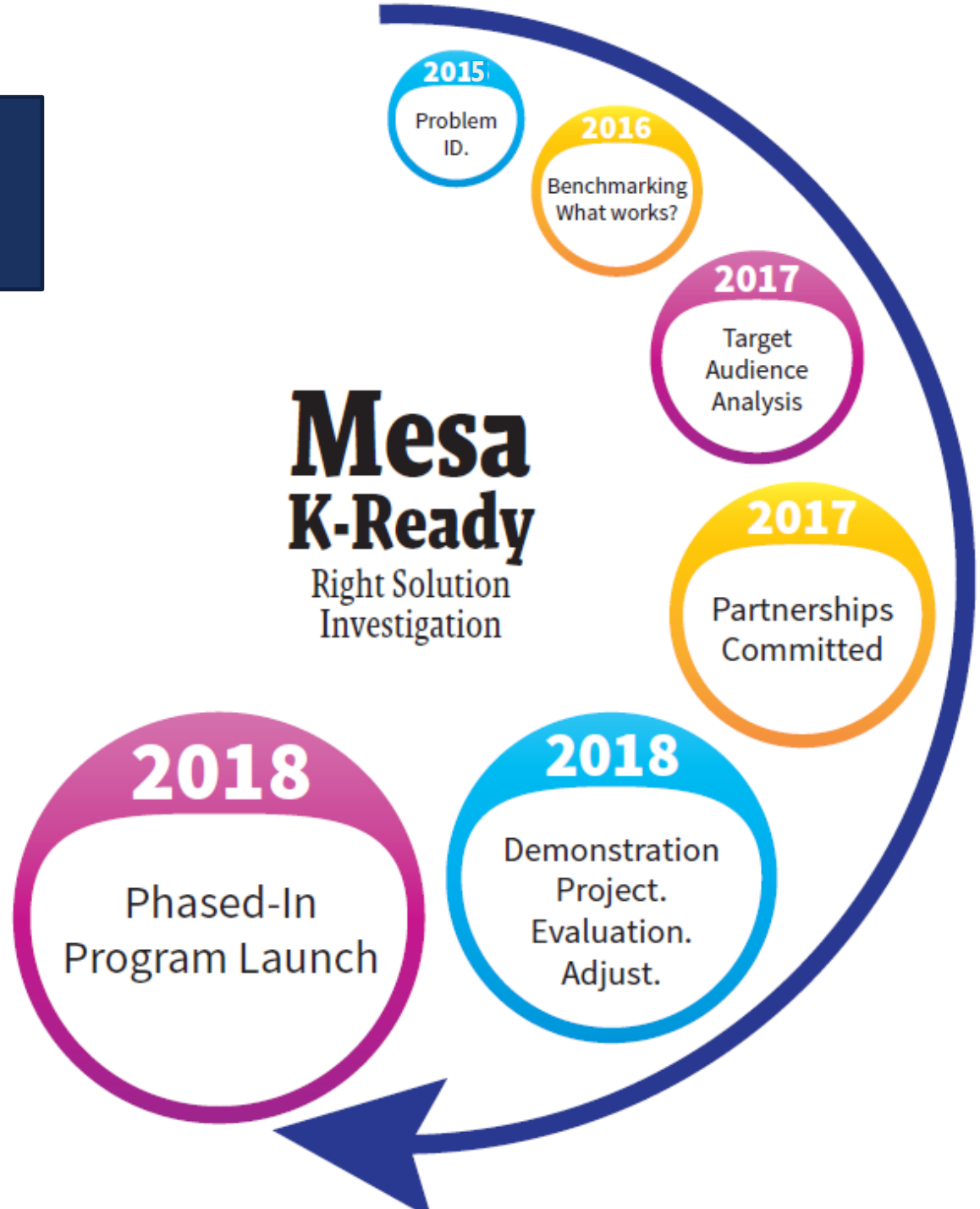
Presenters:
Natalie Lewis, Deputy City Manager
Jaye O'Donnell, Assistant Economic Development Director
Dr. Dawn Foley, MPS Director of Teaching & Learning

PURPOSE

- This spring, Council appropriated $60,000 of A Better Community (ABC) utility contributions that are part of the Human Services Funds.
- Previous Council direction: Come back to Council with a plan.
- **Today, we return with a plan for a path forward.**

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

It's been an intentional journey to find the right solution for Mesa.



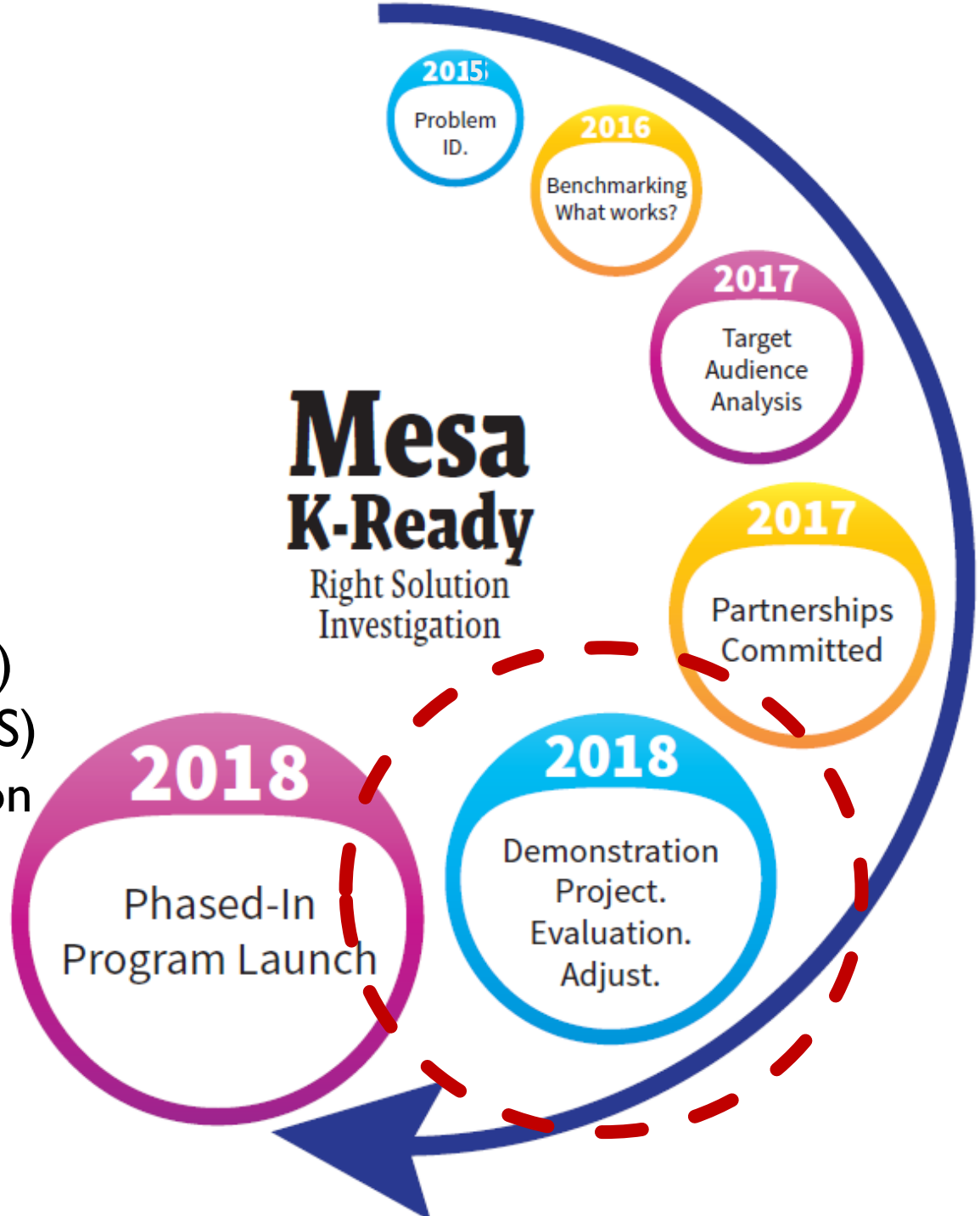
COMMUNITY-BASED TEAM

Finding the right expertise and ensuring long-term sustainability.

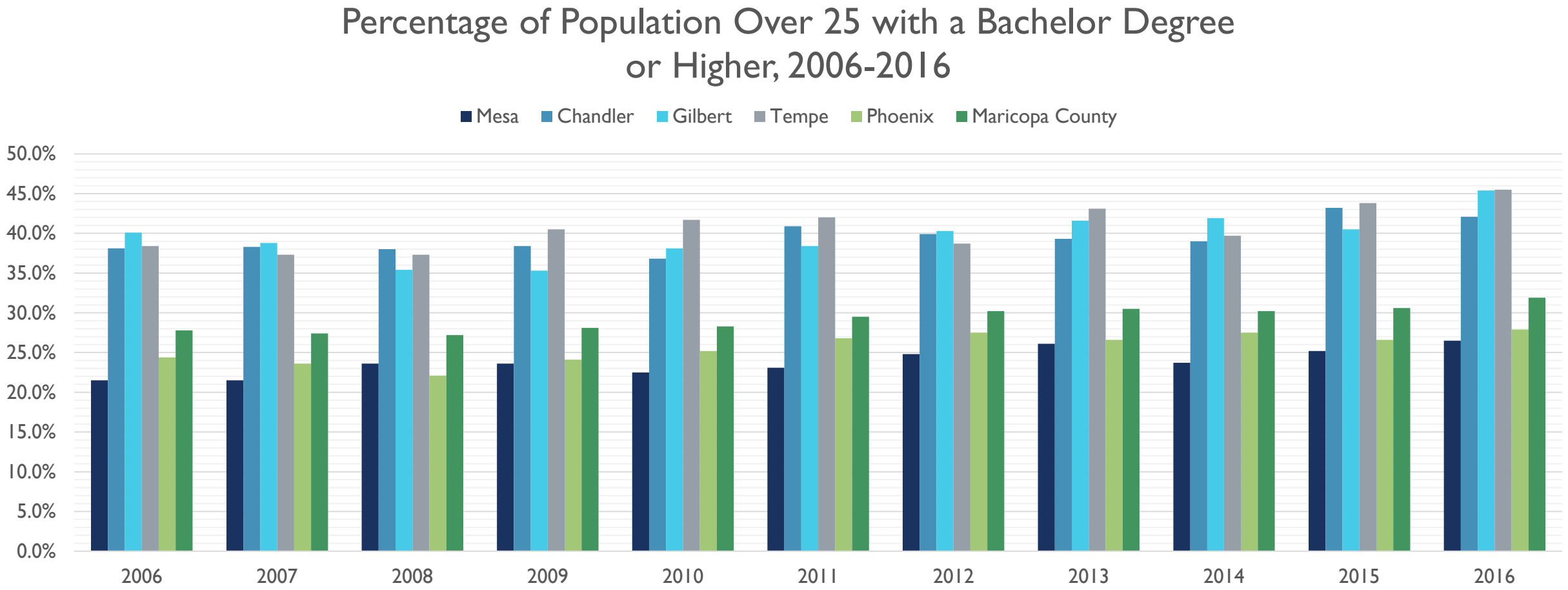
PROPOSAL

Jan-May 2018 Pilot Program:

- 50 Families (at or below federal poverty)
- Recruited by MPS, other Team Members
- Pre-loaded devices. WIFI. (T-Mobile)
- Existing library software. (Miss Humblebees)
- Pre- and Post-Assessments (Created by MPS)
- Full-time professional to lead implementation
- Mentors (experienced teachers)
- 10 enrichment experiences (existing City programs)
- Nutritious food supplies (Food Banks)
- Full program fundraising (Leadership)



WHERE WE ARE TODAY.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2016 American Community Survey

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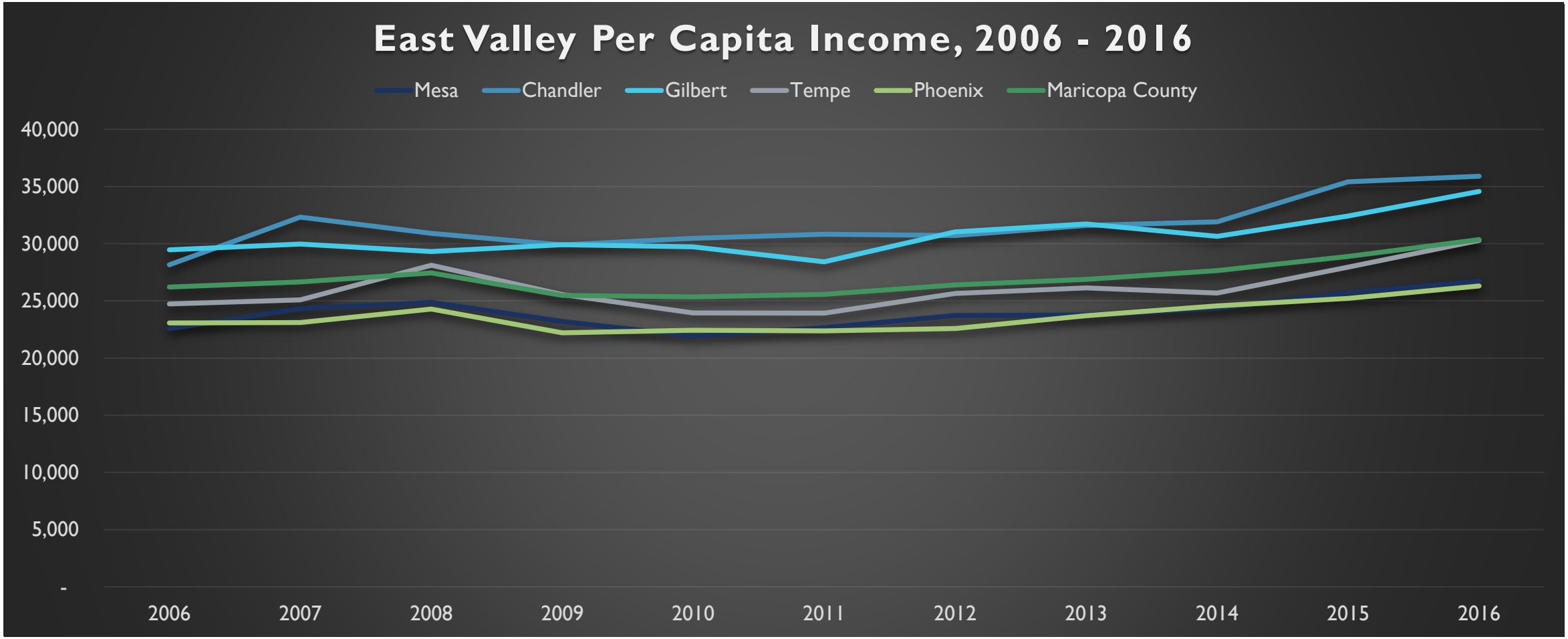
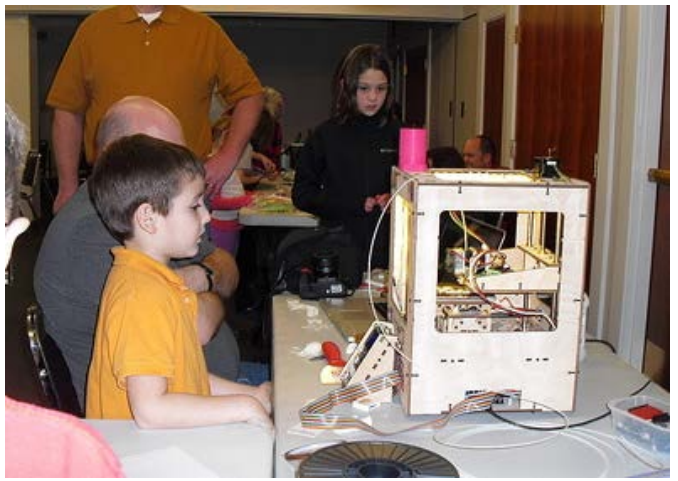


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2016 American Community Survey

MEASURING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
SHORT-TERM (YEARS 0-5)

- **Assessments:** Pre- and Post-Assessment Scores for students and parents.
- **Readiness:** Annual DIBELS percentage improvements; and by end of Year 5, 50%+ of Mesa's Kindergarteners score above DIBELS benchmark.
- **Overall participation:** 36% to 50% Mesa's children with early childhood education/enrichment.
- **Downloads:** Number of Households downloading Miss Humblebees grows annually.
- **Exposure:** Existing programs see participation increases.



MEASURING KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
LONG-TERM (YEARS 5+)

- **Participation:** Annual participation at 770-1,000+ children.
- **Financial:** $1M foundation established.
- **Community:** Median incomes beginning to show positive growth.
- **Education:** 3rd Grade reading, 8th Grade Math scores rising. High school drop-out rates decline.
- **Higher Ed:** Higher education attainment showing positive growth.
- **Sustainability:** Program has proven itself successful; community support to ensure its longevity.

PATH FORWARD

- Mesa K-Ready– a strong start concept
- Financially scalable approach to early learning and enrichment
- Community-owned and managed
- High-tech and high-touch components
- **Focus on helping families to help their children escape the cycle of poverty through an early learning strong start.**

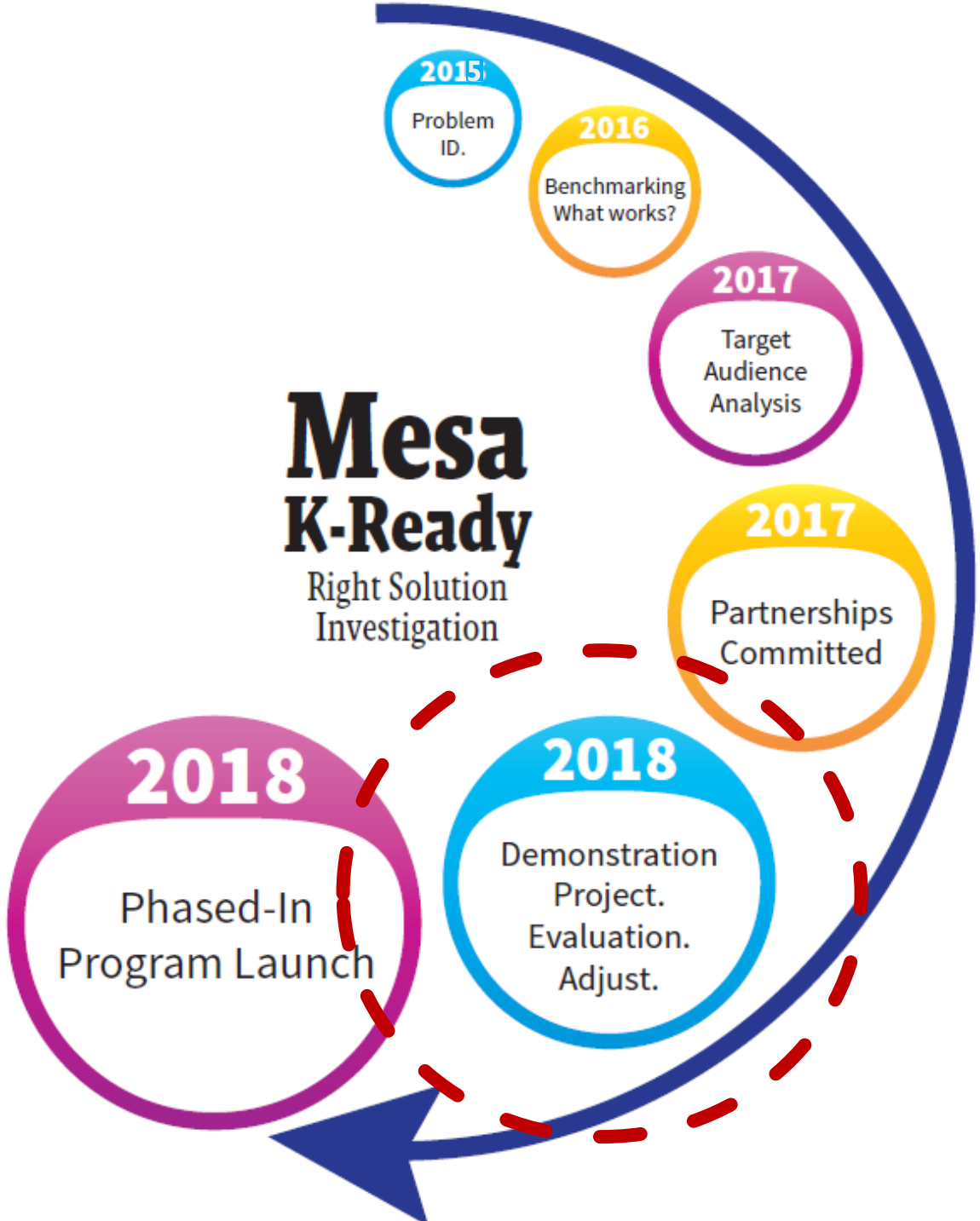
PATH FORWARD

June-August 2018:

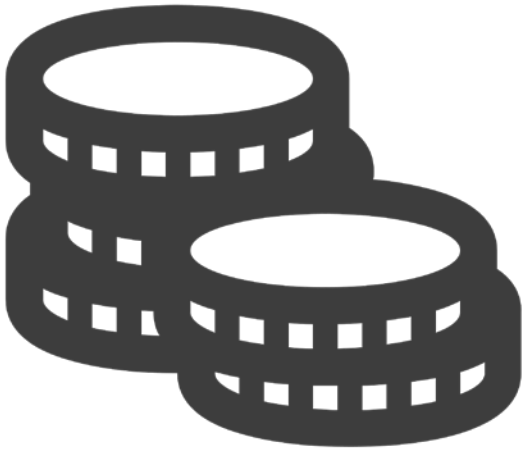
- Program Re-Evaluation & Council update
- Fine tuning program with a plan to scale the program.
- How to scale
- Phased-in full scale program: Fall 2018

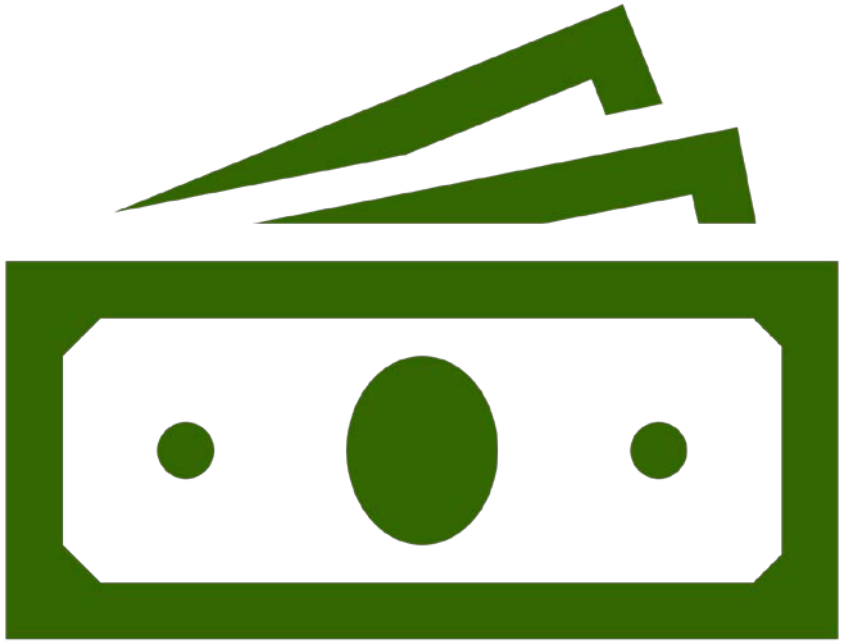
Benefits for all Mesa families:

- Library software Miss Humblebee's Academy – available NOW to **all** Mesa residents with a library card.



PATH FORWARD-- FUNDING





Was $60k

Now $130k

DIRECTION NEEDED

- **Seeking Council concurrence to move forward with the Mesa K-Ready Pilot Program.**

MESA K-READY PROPOSAL

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QUESTIONS. DIRECTION.

MESA K-READY PROPOSAL

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BACKGROUND

HISTORY. BACKGROUND.
NATIONWIDE BEST PRACTICES.

- **Boston Thrive in 5:** Public/Private partnership. Early learning. Screening. Quality/prepared educators.
- **Denver Pre-School:** $.12 sales tax; improving pre-school program quality; tuition assistance.
- **First 5 San Francisco:** Statewide program, administered by County. $.50 tobacco tax. Provides pre-school for all via scholarships and teacher professional training, family resource centers.
- **Hartford Blueprint:** 0 to 5. Newborn screenings; neighborhood-based supports; childcare and early ED; transition preschool to Kindergarten; Educational excellence; Universal access to primary healthcare.

HISTORY. BACKGROUND.
NATIONWIDE BEST PRACTICES.

- **Smart Start San Jose:** Provides funds for capital improvements & ED equipment. Providers must meet quality standards. CDBG and philanthropic organizations.
- **Seattle Pre-School:** Funded by property tax levey. Pre-k to 3- and 4-year-olds, with costs scaled based on household income. Providers required to adopt an approved curriculum and receive professional development.
- **Educare Tulsa:** Public-private funding from federal, state and philanthropic. 0-5 focus. Provides funding to local agencies who provide early childhood education, parent-child interactions for families not enrolled in pre-k.
- **Pre-K 4 SA:** 1/8 cent sales tax. 2000 seats pre-k each year, including parent engagement classes. $30m annual cost. State pays $3800 per child for half-day pre-k.

HISTORY. BACKGROUND.
NATIONWIDE BEST PRACTICES.

- **Tempe PRE:** 15 classrooms in 2017 expanding to 20 in 2018. At or below 200 percent poverty level. Use existing Tempe Public School buildings. $3M/year
- **Upstart Utah:** Funded by the State. K-readiness program using technology and mentors. 20% of Utah's 4-year-olds participate. 30% seats available to low-income families.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

More than 1 in 4 (26.5%) **Of Mesa's children under 5 living at or below federal poverty levels.**

Child poverty increases the risk of unemployment and adult poverty

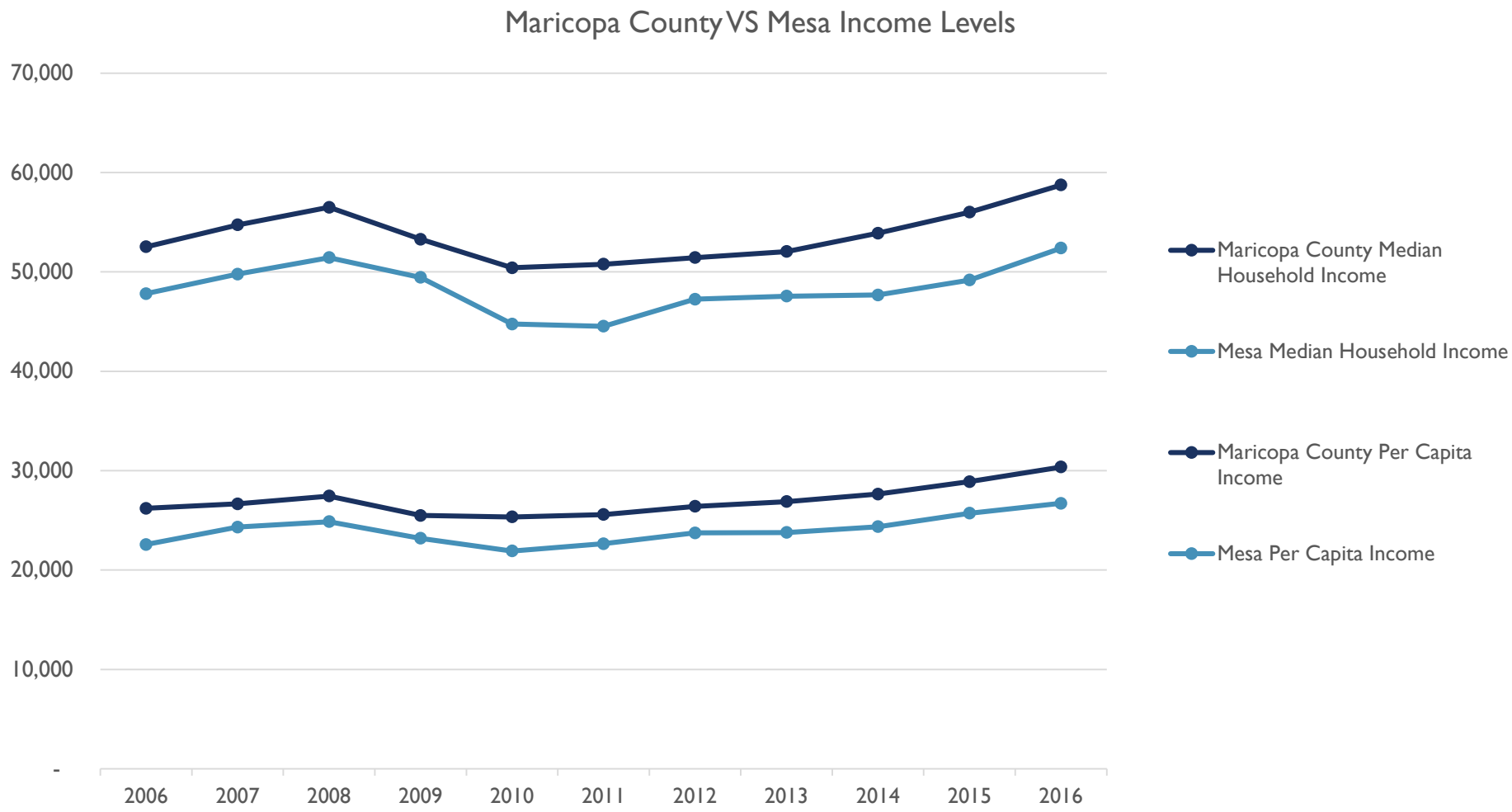
By age 4 poor children have heard 30 million fewer words than well-off children

Poor children are more likely to be hungry and less likely to have affordable quality health coverage

Poor children are less likely to graduate from high school

Sources: U.S. Census, 2010-2014- American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

WHERE WE ARE TODAY.



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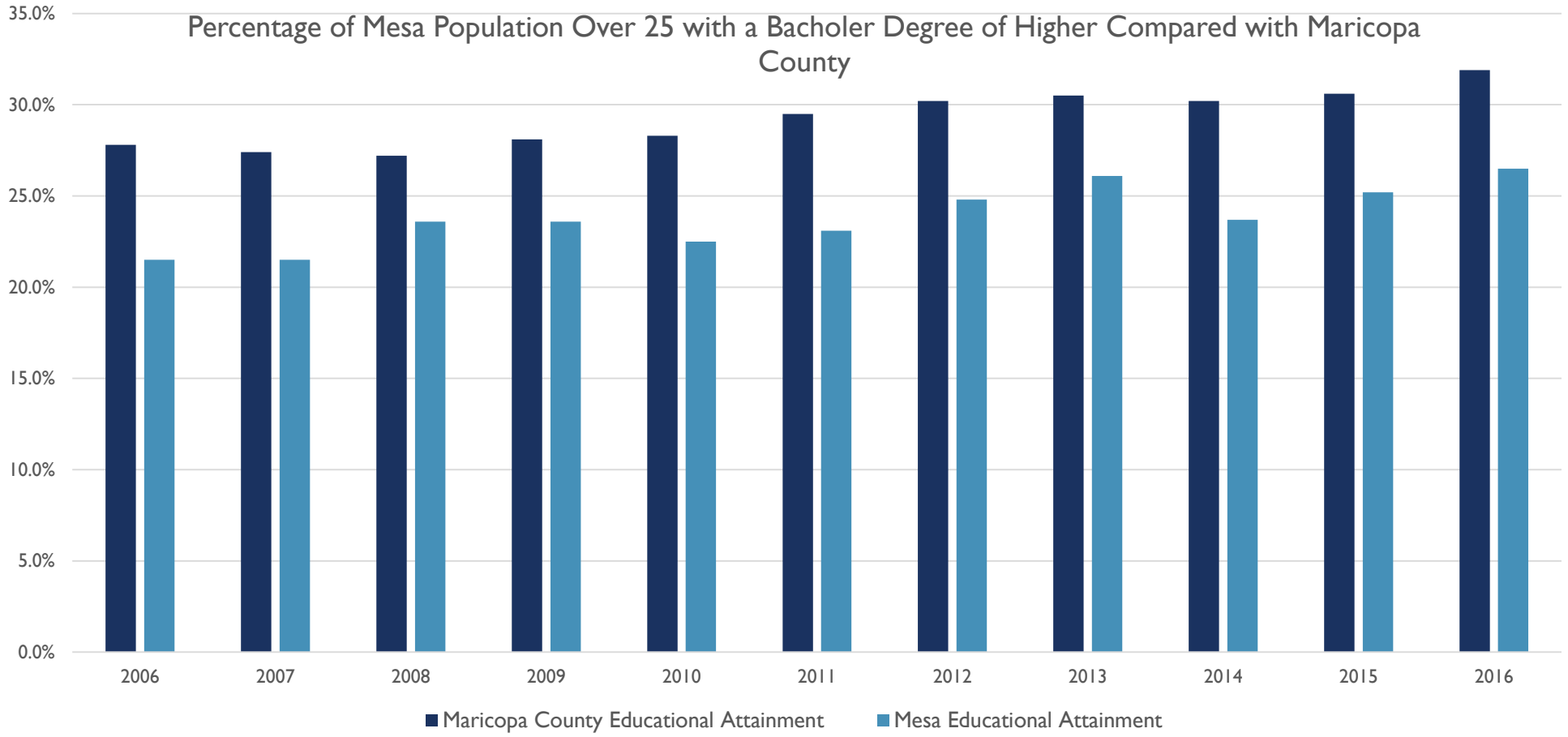

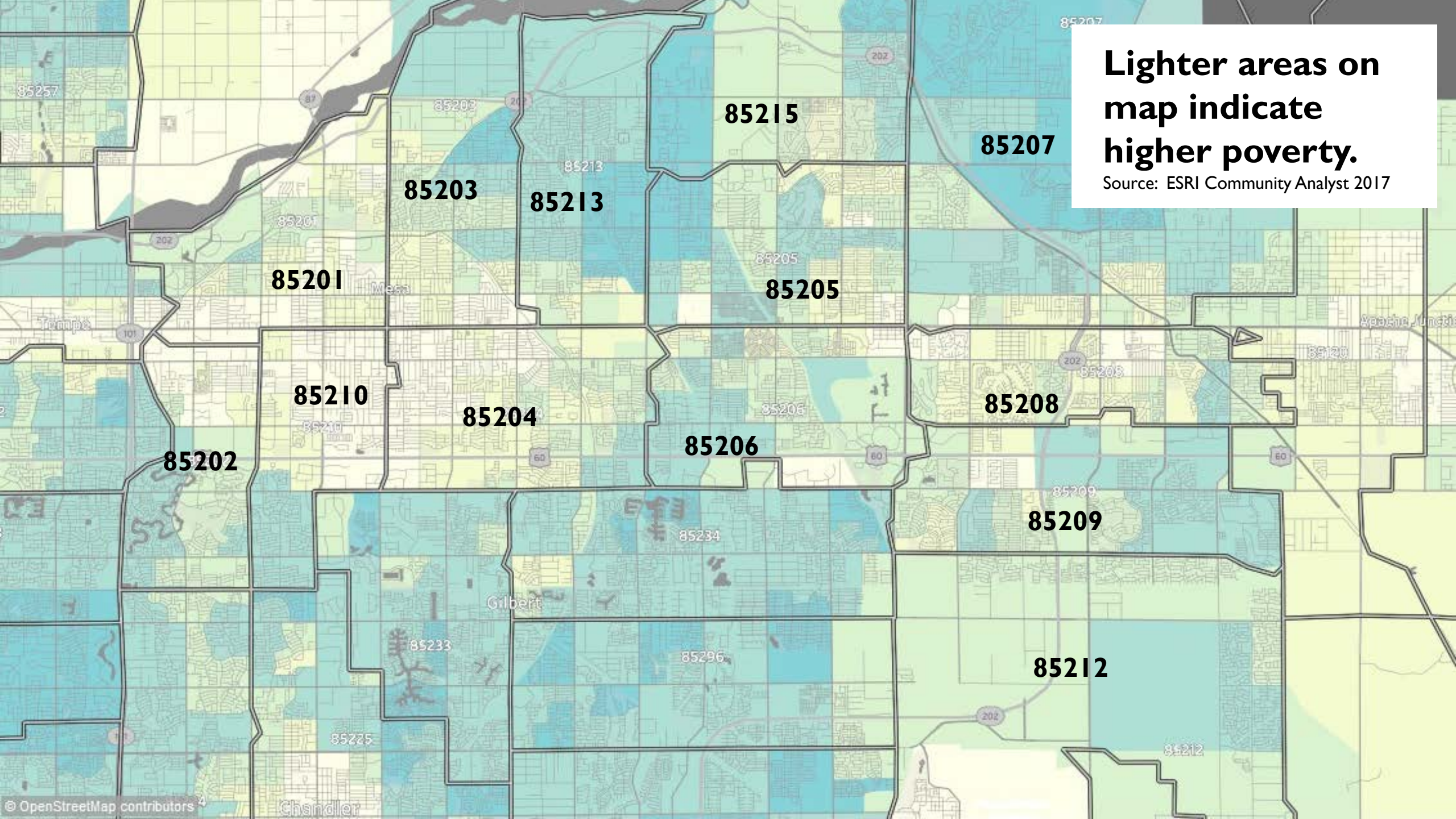
Lighter areas on map indicate higher poverty.
Source: ESRI Community Analyst 2017
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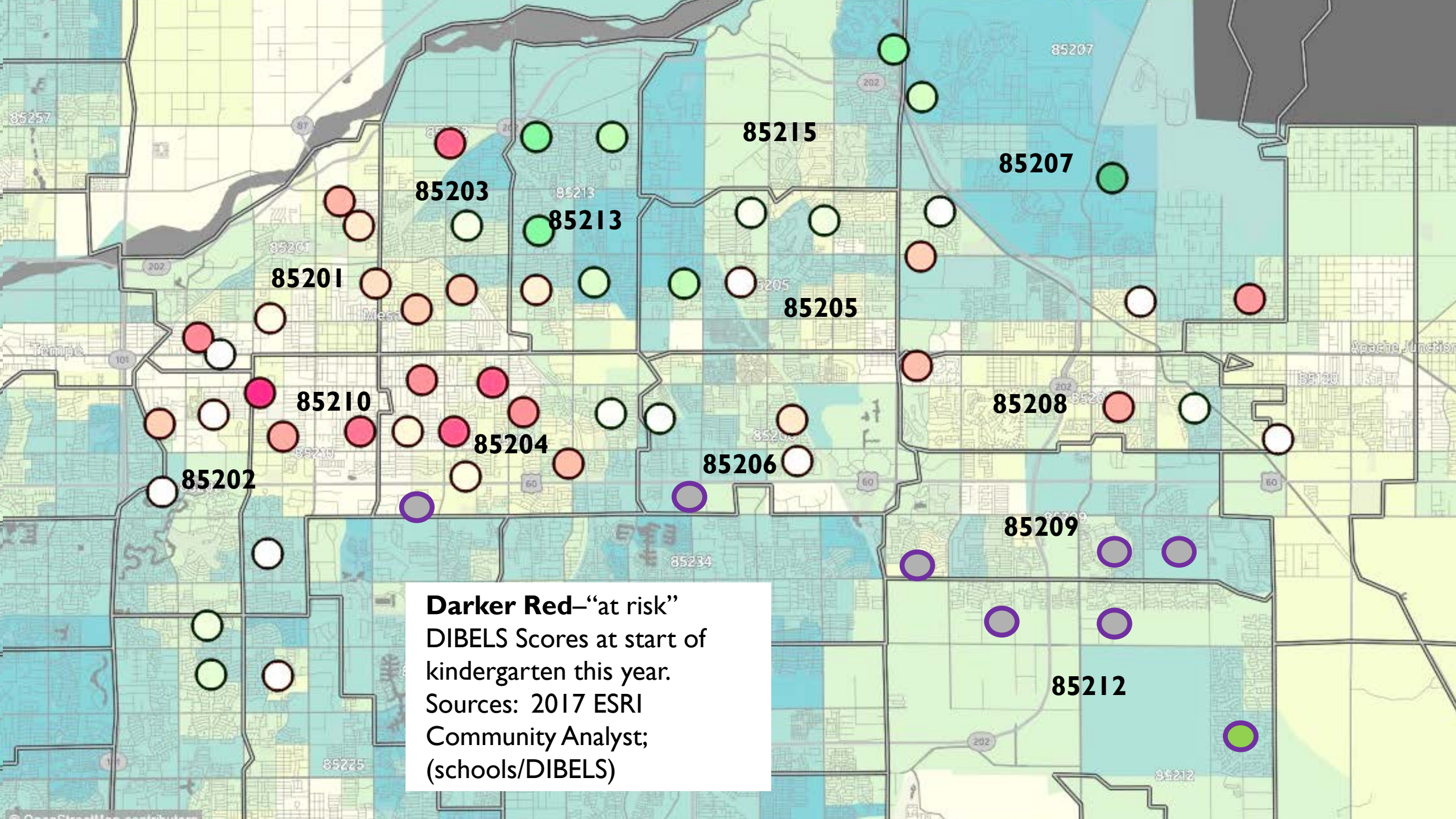
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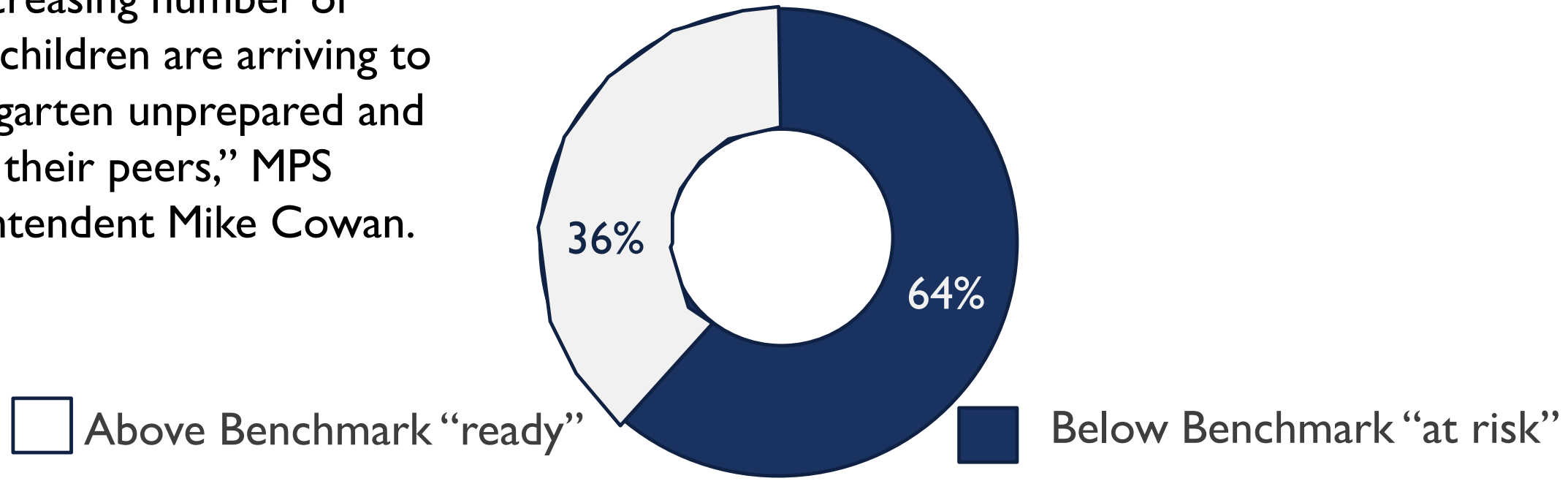
Darker Red–"at risk" DIBELS Scores at start of kindergarten this year.
Sources: 2017 ESRI Community Analyst; (schools/DIBELS)

WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

"An increasing number of Mesa's children are arriving to Kindergarten unprepared and behind their peers," MPS Superintendent Mike Cowan.



Source: Mesa Public Schools District, Fall 2017 Kindergarten, Average of All District DIBELS Composite Scores

WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

90% Of child's brain develops before age 5.

18,525 children are under 3 years old and

10,923 are 3 and 4 years old in Mesa

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates

WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

Census estimate of three- and four-year-olds in Mesa.	**11,000 (2015 census est.)**
Assume 50% are 4	**5,500**
50% of 5,500	**2,750**
Assume 36% of 4-yr-olds already have access to early learning.	**1,980**
Gap to achieve 50% participation	**770 (Approx. Goal = 1,000)**

WHERE WE WANT TO GO.

INCREASED:

Kindergarten readiness

Third grade reading scores; Eighth grade math scores.

High school graduation rates, higher education attainment and median incomes.

REDUCED:

Early education intervention resources

Social service needs

Poverty rates

Crime

WHERE WE WANT TO GO.

- By 2020, two-thirds of AZ jobs will require some post-secondary education or specialized training.
- How will Mesa compete now and in the future in attracting companies, in attracting high paying jobs?
- Early Childhood Education and Enrichment is an important component to a comprehensive workforce development strategy.

WHERE WE WANT TO GO.

90%

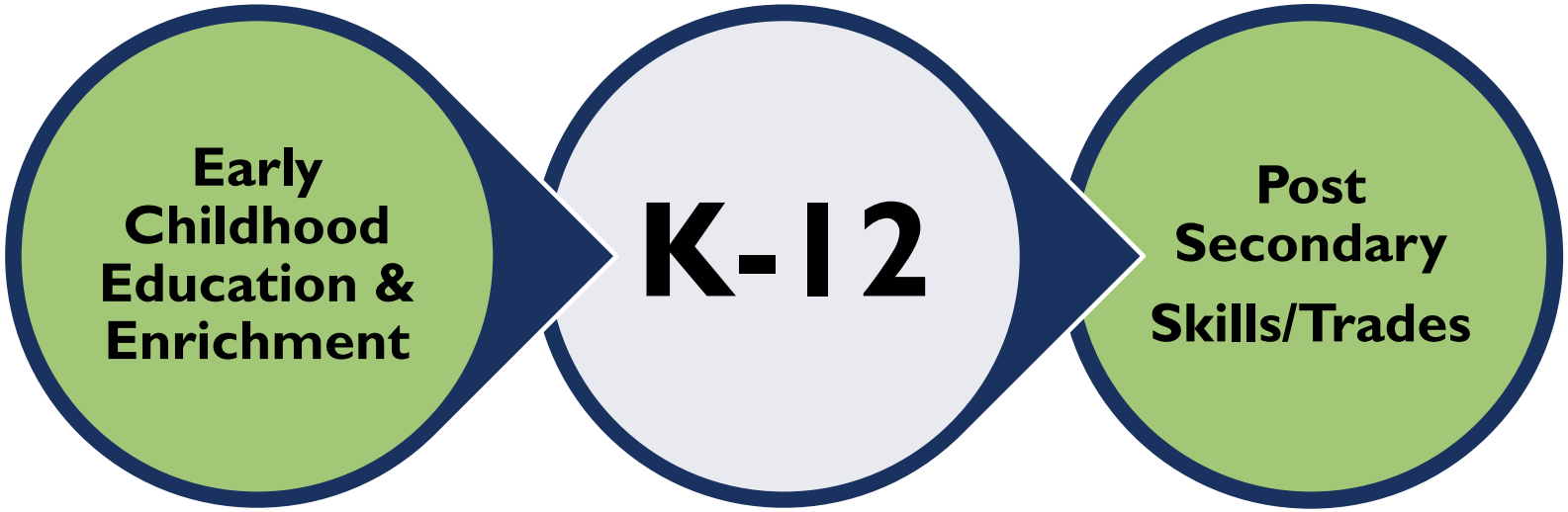
Of child's brain develops before age 5.

Quality Early Learning Leads to a Successful Community and a Strong Economy.

PATH FORWARD– CITY'S FOCUS

Quality Early Learning Leads to a Successful Community and a Strong Economy.

By 2020, two-thirds of jobs will require degree or specialized training.



Mesa K-Ready

Mesa Counts on College