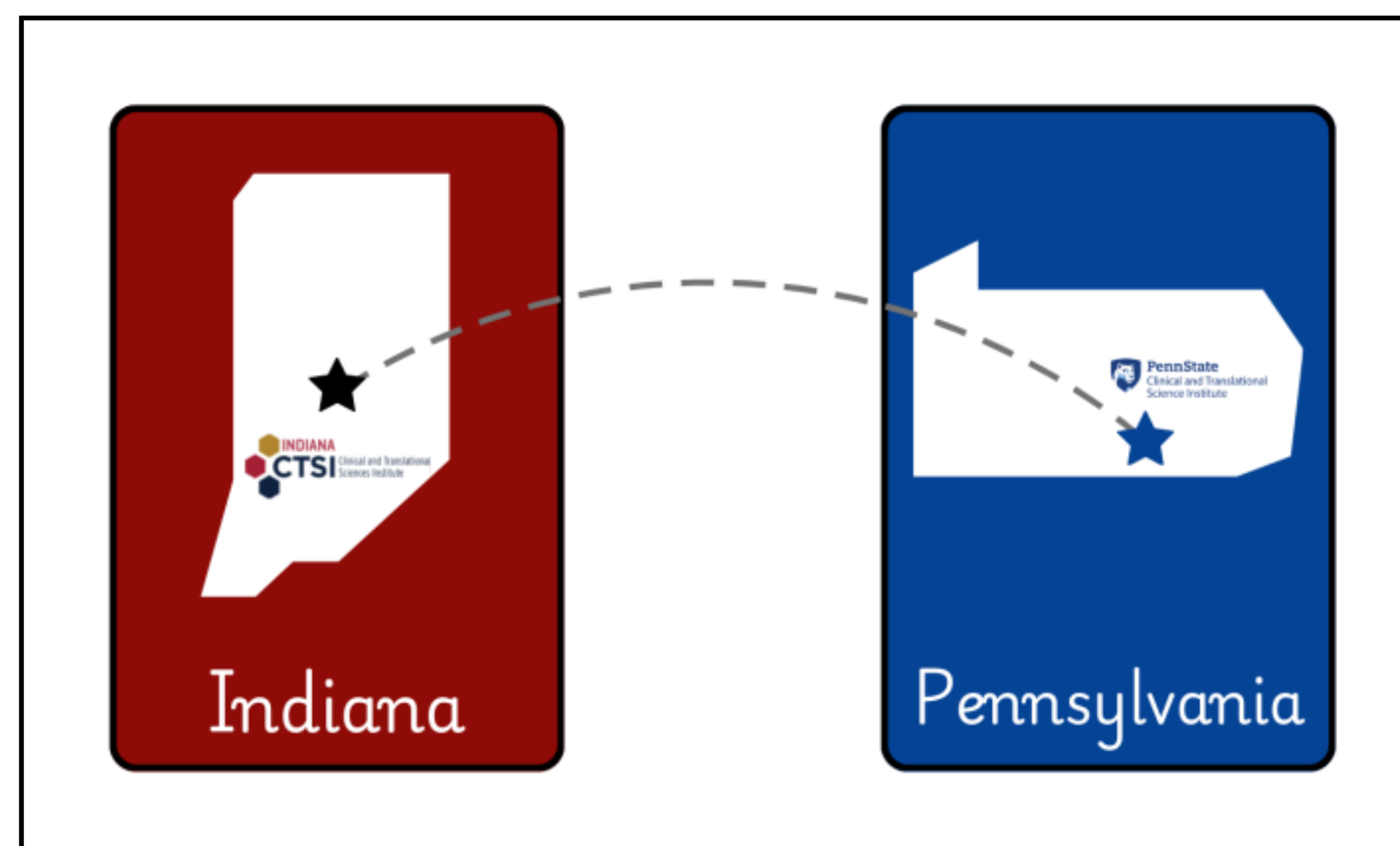


Team Science and Community Engagement: CTSI Cross Collaboration for Community Engagement and Action

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Background



Building the Foundation

Indiana CTSI staff became certified in the Strategic Doing framework and used the tools with community partners to identify assets, set goals, and share leadership in advancing community projects.

In Indianapolis's Norwood Neighborhood, partners applied the framework to organize a multilingual community health fair that provided health screenings, resources, back-to-school items, and education to more than 70 families.

After connecting at the 2024 Association for Clinical and Translational Science Conference, leaders from Indiana CTSI and Penn State CTSI began meeting regularly to exchange expertise, share best practices, and co-develop engagement strategies tailored to rural communities.

Methods

From Partnership → Action

Indiana CTSI introduced Penn State CTSI to the Strategic Doing framework, showing how they mobilized cross-sector partners across Indiana to advance community health initiatives. The approach moves stakeholders from discussion to action, helping under-resourced communities implement practical solutions.

Inspired by this model and Indiana's success, Penn State CTSI adopted Strategic Doing, training staff and applying it within Schuylkill County task forces to support more structured, action-oriented work.

This approach strengthened partnerships between community and academic partners, focusing on achievable short-term actions while building momentum for long-term efforts aimed at improving health outcomes.



Discussion

Indiana CTSI's success with Strategic Doing influenced Penn State's adoption of the framework and strengthened institutional support for staff training.

Since implementation in Schuylkill County, task forces have used this collaborative approach to advance cross-sector projects with clear goals and shared leadership.

One task force developed and distributed healthy recipes using food pantry staples, pairing food access with nutrition education to support healthier eating habits and improved community health.

Indiana CTSI and Penn State CTSI Partnership: Next Steps

- Continue open exchange of best practices and lessons learned
- Engage in ongoing, collaborative problem-solving across institutions
- Maximize shared CTSA expertise by building on what already works
- Avoid duplicating efforts by learning from one another's experiences



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