



INSPIRE: Readiness, a dynamic innovation platform to address new and long-standing public health challenges

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BACKGROUND

ASTHO, in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s Rapid Response Research and Surveillance Branch, Division of Infectious Disease Readiness and Innovation, embarked on an initiative to understand effective policies, practices, and resources utilized by state and territorial health agencies during the COVID-19 response. Through this initiative, ASTHO and CDC aimed to understand the following:

- Existing policies and practices that aided success.
- Training gaps highlighted during COVID-19 to help direct future priorities.
- Tools or resources needed to better prepare for future infectious disease outbreaks.

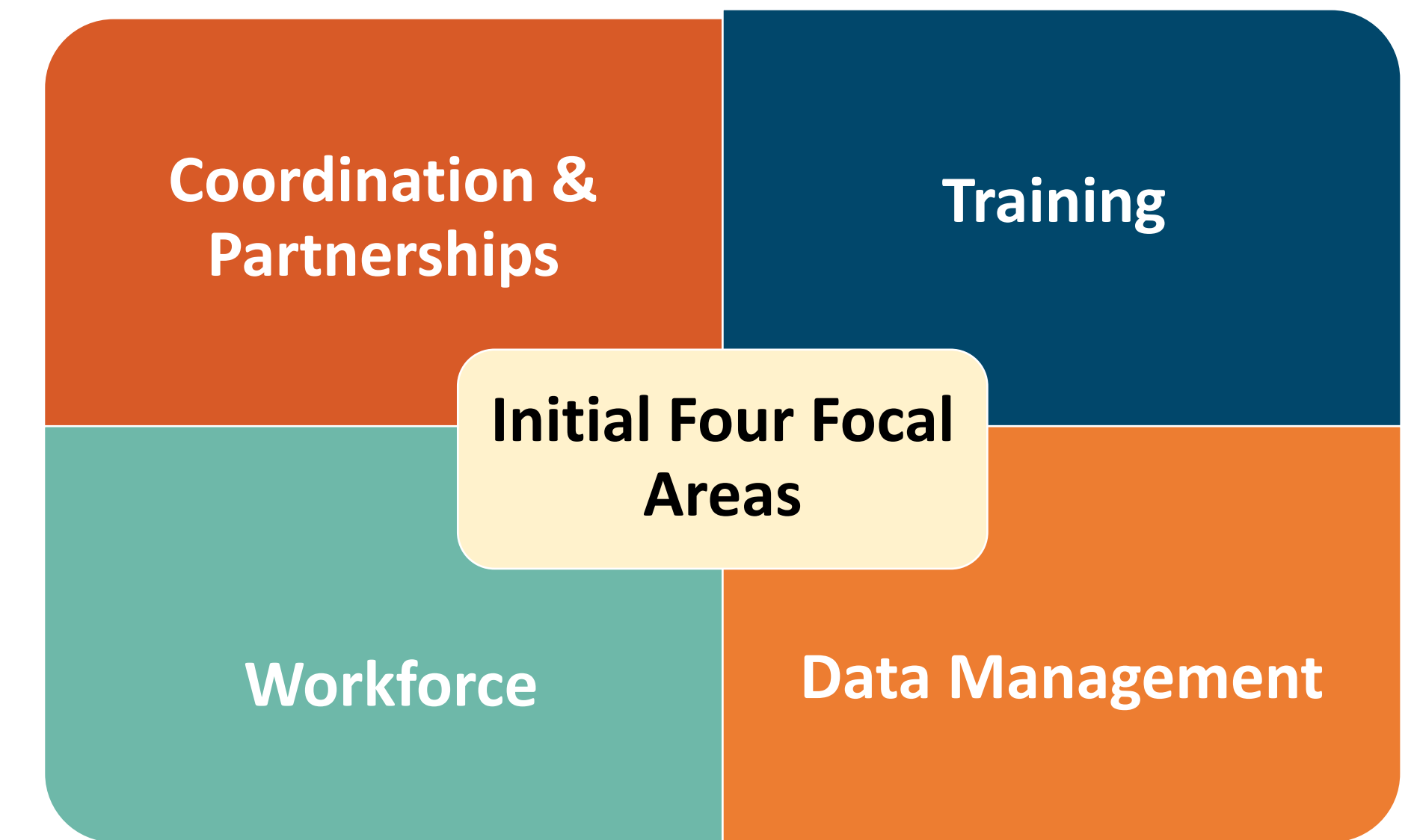


Image displaying the focal areas of INSPIRE: Readiness website.

METHODS

- ASTHO conducted an informal environmental scan to assess current initiatives and activities at ASTHO related to the four focal areas.
- An internal crosswalk document compared areas of interest for this initiative with similar ASTHO activities underway to identify areas of congruity and gaps in information previously collected.
- ASTHO utilized peer networks of state and territorial health agency staff to participate in data collection efforts. Members of these specialized ASTHO peer networks are current public health professionals who help develop and implement sound policies in their areas of expertise.
- ASTHO conducted three qualitative and two quantitative data collection activities, including focus groups, key informant interviews, and rapid surveys from April-June 2022.

RESULTS

- As preparedness plans are updated, agencies should prioritize engagement with a comprehensive network of partners to prepare for future outbreaks.
- Multiple strategies for sustaining surge capacity for future infectious disease outbreaks were highlighted by members, including existing contracts with qualified vendors to quickly scale up or down to meet needs, developing contingency budgets, strengthening relationships with universities to help build the workforce, and EOC leadership and logistics structures that can be activated as needed using templated policies and communication mechanisms.
- Needs and opportunities to improve resources, tools, and training, including team member wellness and crisis communication, are identified to help prepare for future threats.

CONCLUSION

- INSPIRE: Readiness is a dynamic platform to share innovative approaches, advanced methods, and state-of-the-art tools, where modern resources are aggregated and contextualized, and information shared can be turned into action.
- The site describes the four domains: Workforce, Training/Resources, Data Systems and Management, and Equity.

- Each sub-domain page includes the following content areas:
 - RELATE (Common Ground & Challenges)
 - BE INSPIRED (Success Stories & Innovations)
 - DISCOVER (Tools & Resources for Progress)
 - TAKE ACTION (Implement Solutions & Share Your Journey)
- INSPIRE: Readiness offers a specialized worksheet to help users identify, understand, document, and pitch solutions to persistent problems to their agencies.

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Inspired
Recommendations for
Excellence



Join us for the launch of
INSPIRE: Readiness on
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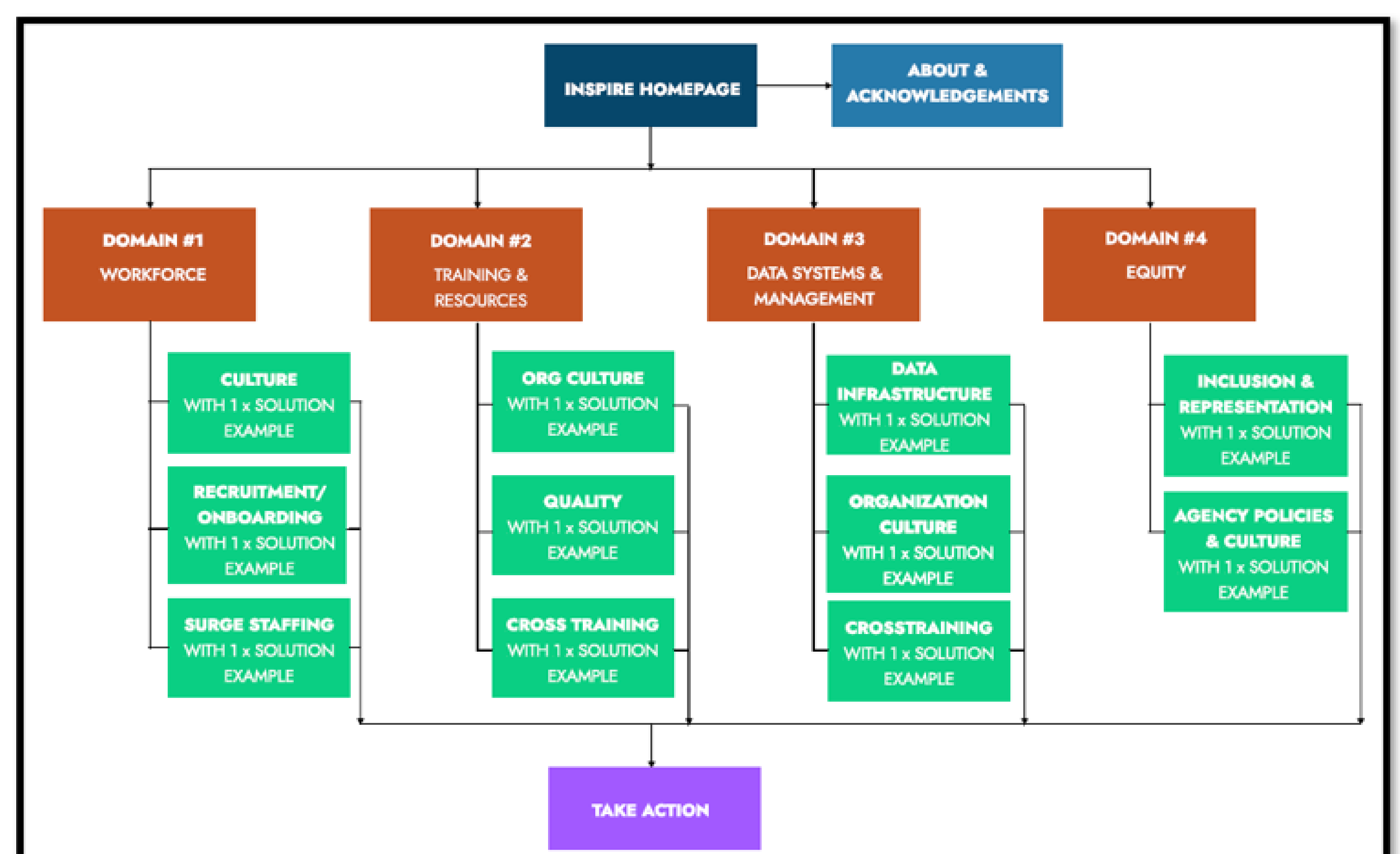


Image displaying the User Experience as outlined on the INSPIRE: Readiness website