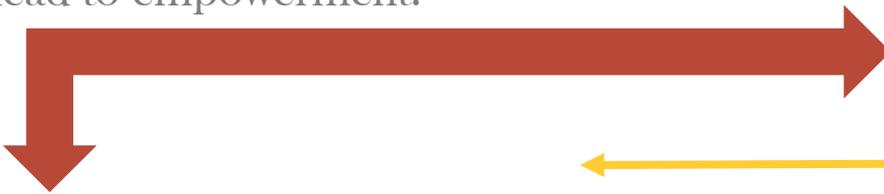
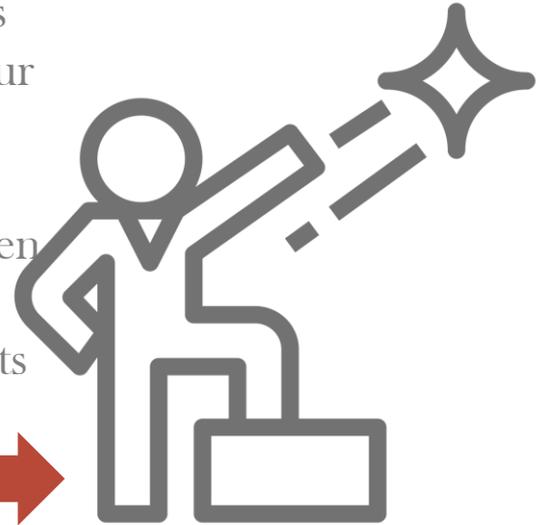


Empowerment Theory

Psychological empowerment theory suggests that a series of positive experiences that occur over time result in an individual who understands how a local system works, believes they can impact that system, and then takes steps to impact the system of interest. The positive interaction of three components lead to empowerment.



Intrapersonal

Intrapersonal empowerment is how capable one perceives they are at impacting a specific area of their life. The more capable one feels, the more they believe they can be influential.



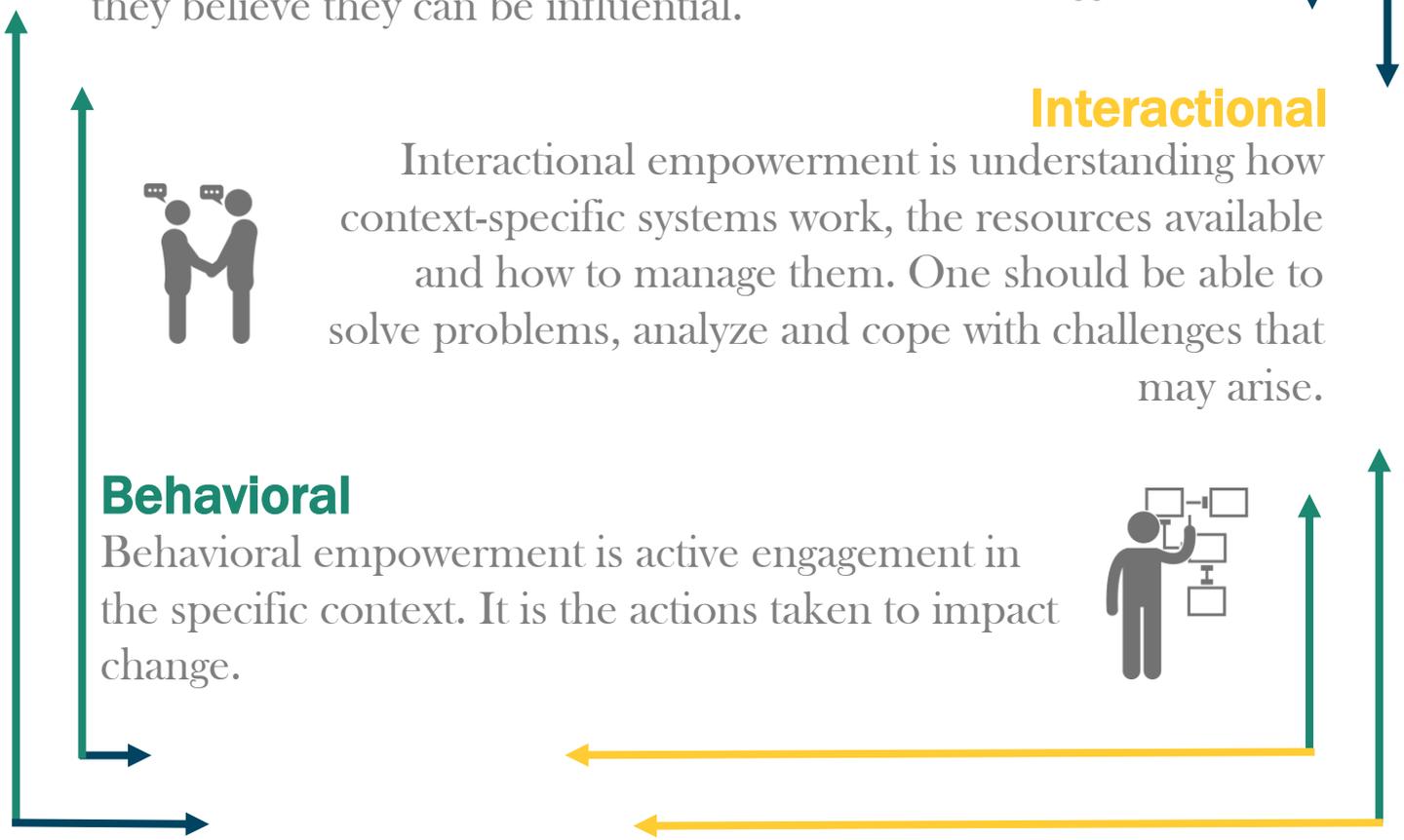
Interactional

Interactional empowerment is understanding how context-specific systems work, the resources available and how to manage them. One should be able to solve problems, analyze and cope with challenges that may arise.



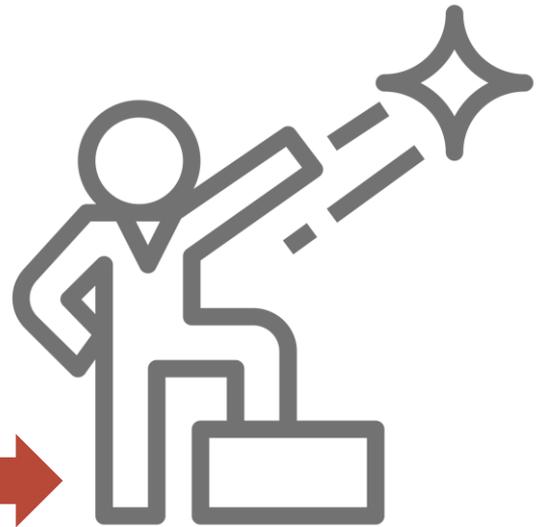
Behavioral

Behavioral empowerment is active engagement in the specific context. It is the actions taken to impact change.



Chief Science Officer Program

The CSO trains middle and high school students to advocate for STEM in their school and community. The program provides a series of experiences to empower students to become the voice of STEM at their school and to create STEM outreach for their school and community.



Intrapersonal

CSOs begin the year at a two-day training where they learn about and gain skills in leadership, networking and team building. CSOs also gain skills in writing and sharing vision statements, action plans and elevator pitches that they continue to develop throughout the school year.



Interactional

Throughout the school year, CSOs meet regularly with their school advisor. They are also paired with a STEM professional who serves as a mentor, helping CSOs navigate their local systems and resources. CSO program staff check in with youth regularly to celebrate their successes, support their STEM program planning, and cope with challenges that may arise.



Behavioral

After approval of their action plan by the school principal and program staff, CSOs take steps to plan, organize and host a STEM project in their school and / or community.

