

# Connecting Risk to Strategy: An Intro to Enterprise Risk Management

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**2026 NC Risk Management Conference**  
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# Agenda

- 01** Addressing What ERM is and Why Relevant to State Government
- 02** Using Strategic Lens to Identify Risks
- 03** Managing and Monitoring Risks

# State Government Leadership Works Hard Every Day



# Does So in World of Growing Uncertainty

Politics and Elections  
in USA

Uncertainties in  
Funding Policies

Shifting Views about  
Role of Government

Rising Operating Costs

Unexpected Regulatory Policy  
Changes

Talent – Attraction and  
Retention

Polarization and  
Lack of Trust

Shifts in US  
Demographics

Cyber Threats &  
Terrorism

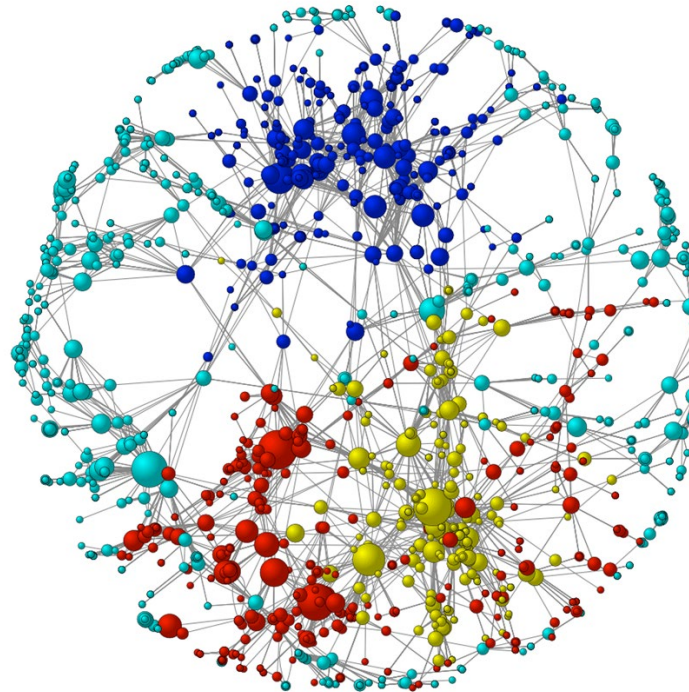
Evolving Societal Views

Global Unrest and  
War

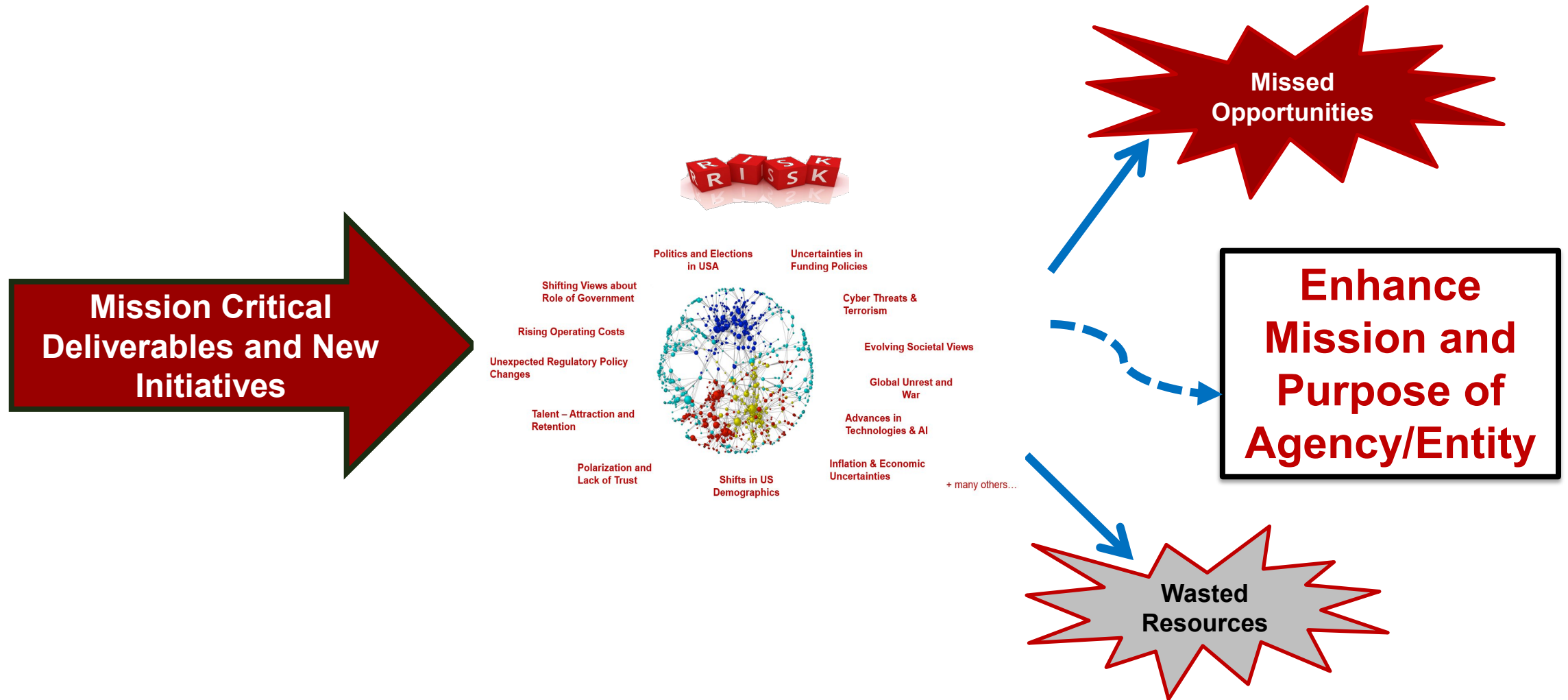
Advances in  
Technologies & AI

Inflation & Economic  
Uncertainties

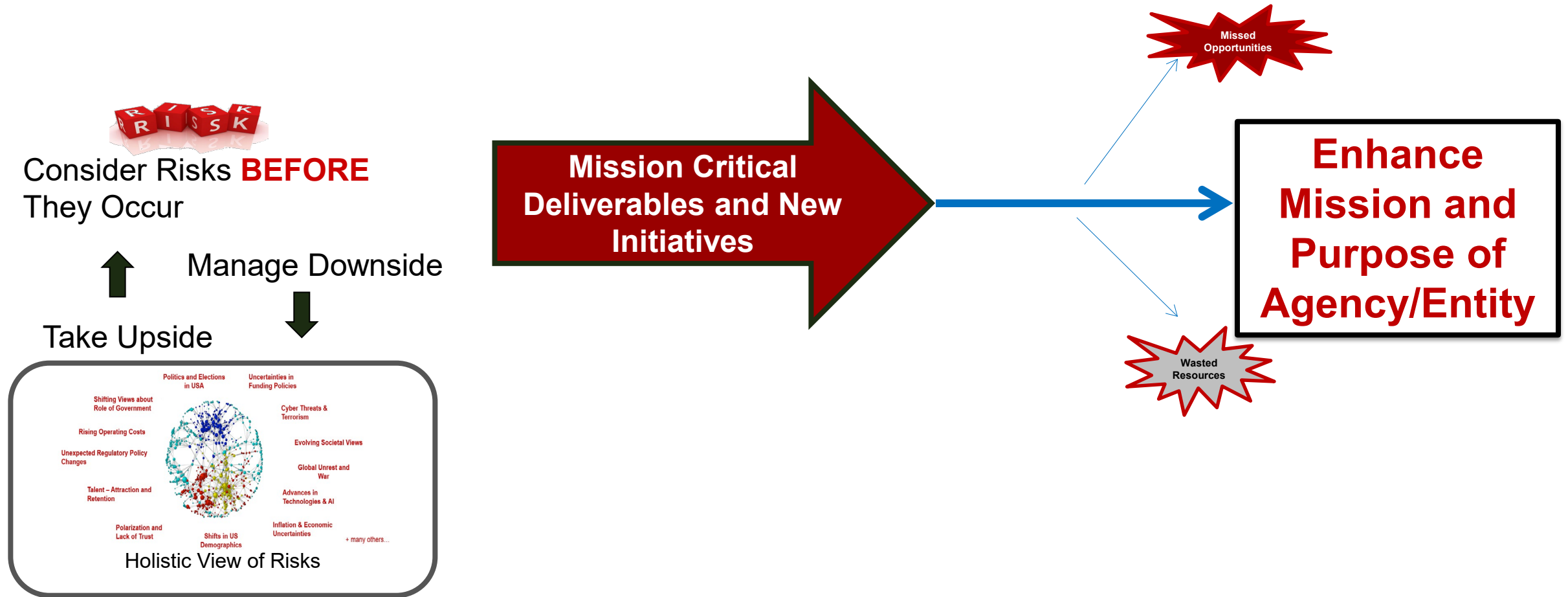
+ many others...



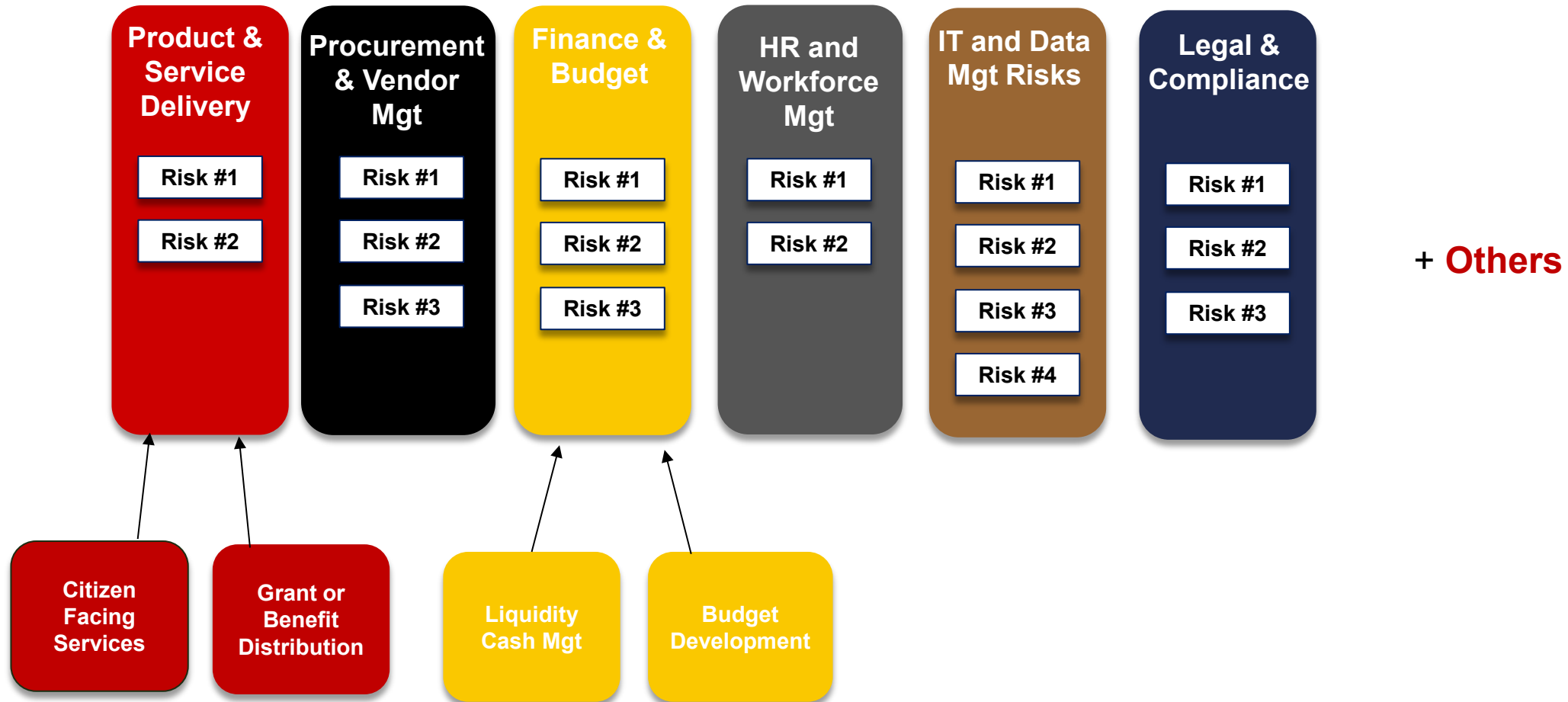
# Uncertainties Trigger Risks That Derail Strategic Efforts



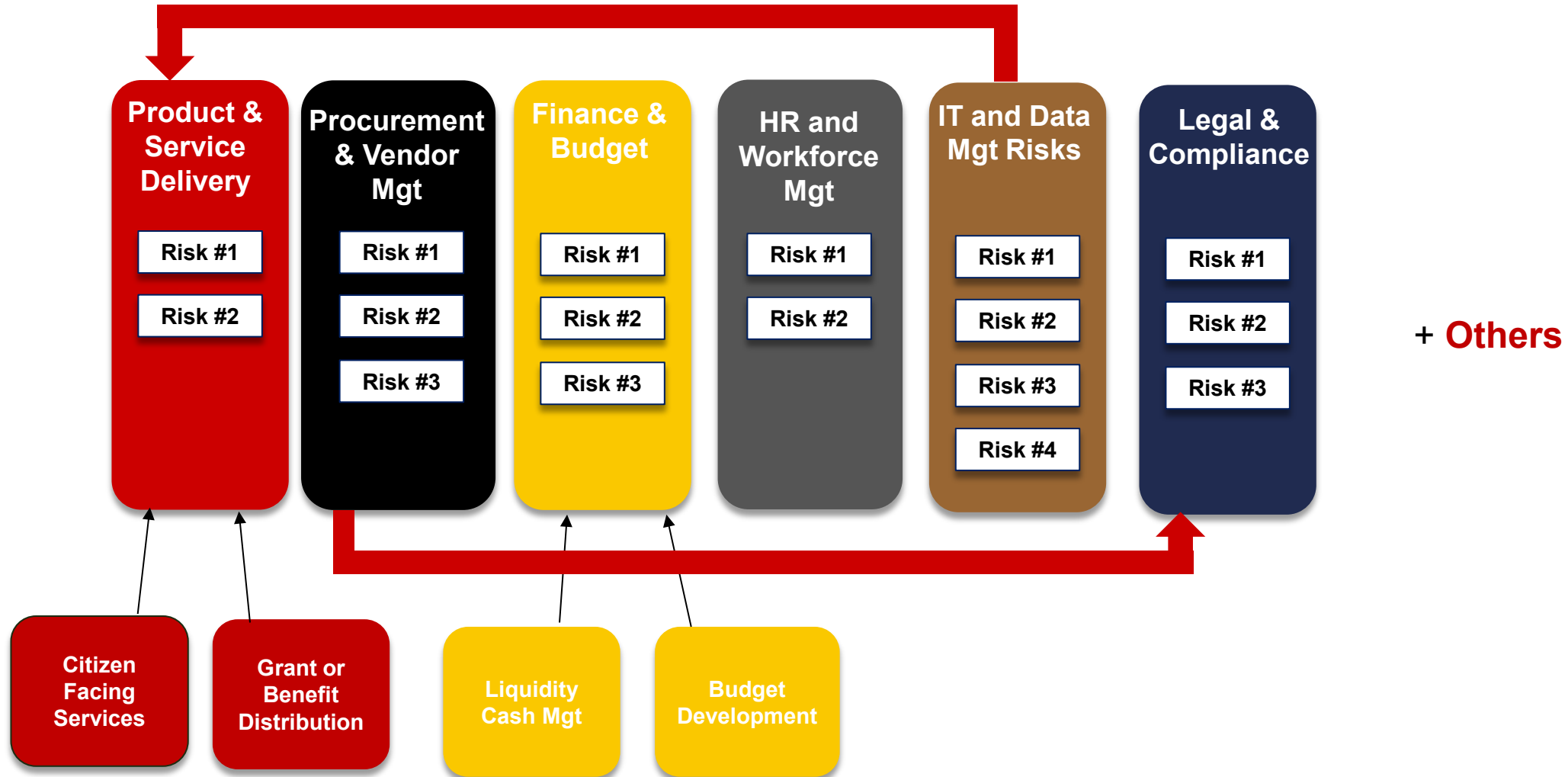
# Preference – Identify Emerging Risks BEFORE They Happen



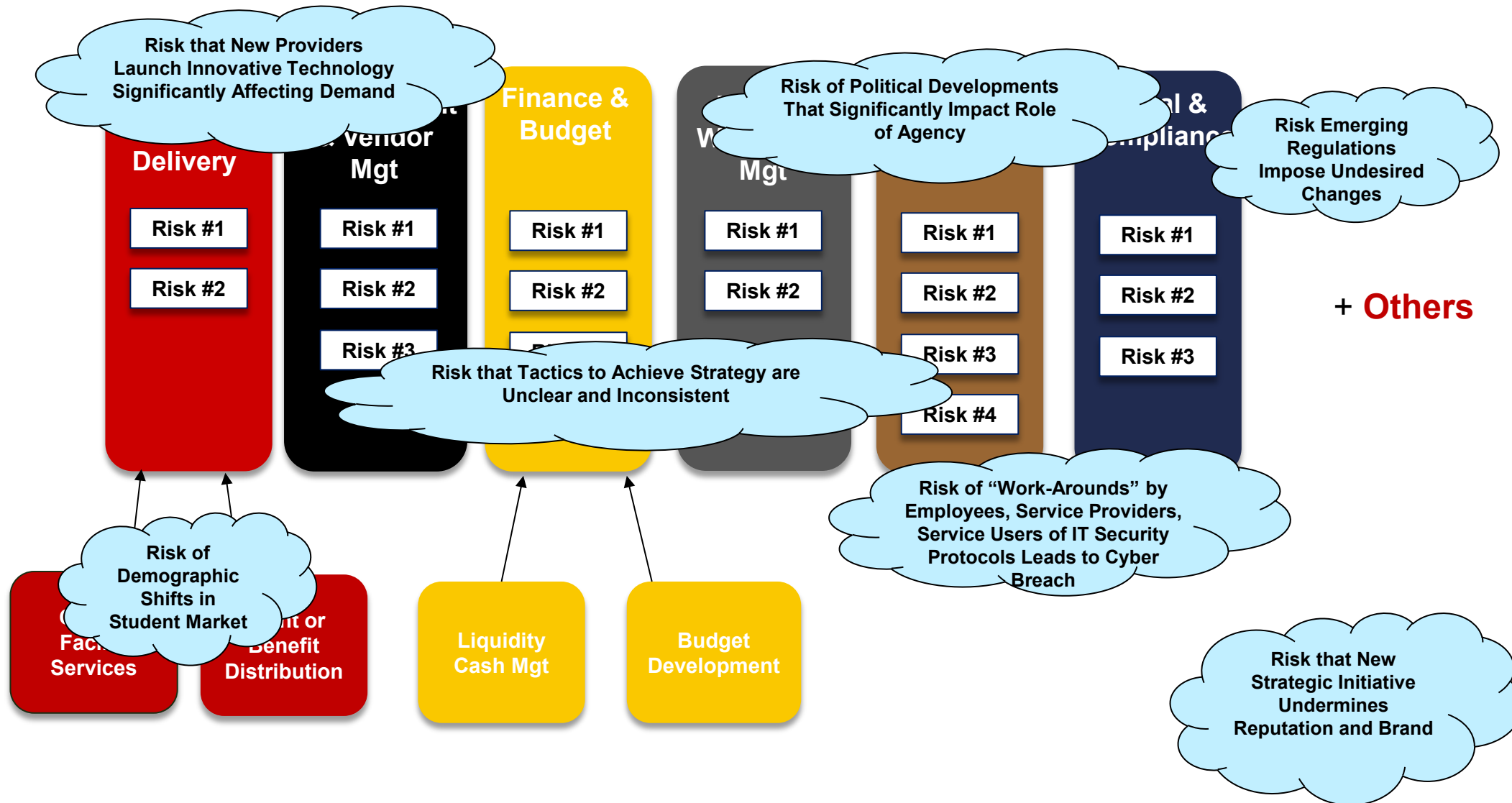
# Traditional Approach to Risk Management



# One Silo Creates Risk for Another



# Bigger Risks Often Go Undetected



Traditional Approach Biased Towards...

# Known and Internal Risks



**But, Leadership Needs to Move...**

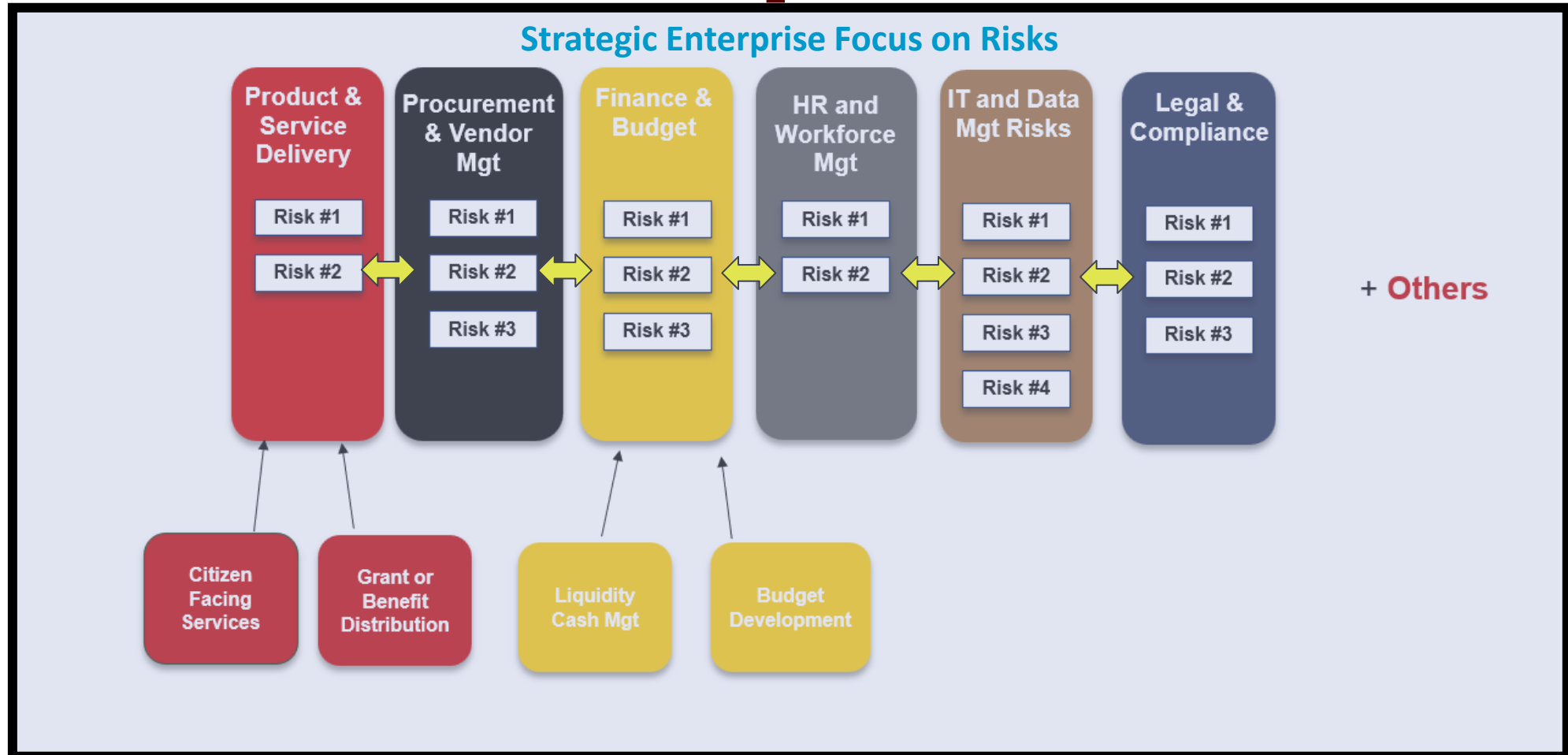
# **Unknown, but Knowable Risks**



to a **Known State**

# ERM's Goal: Create Portfolio View of Risks

Enhance Fulfillment of Agency's Mission and Purpose

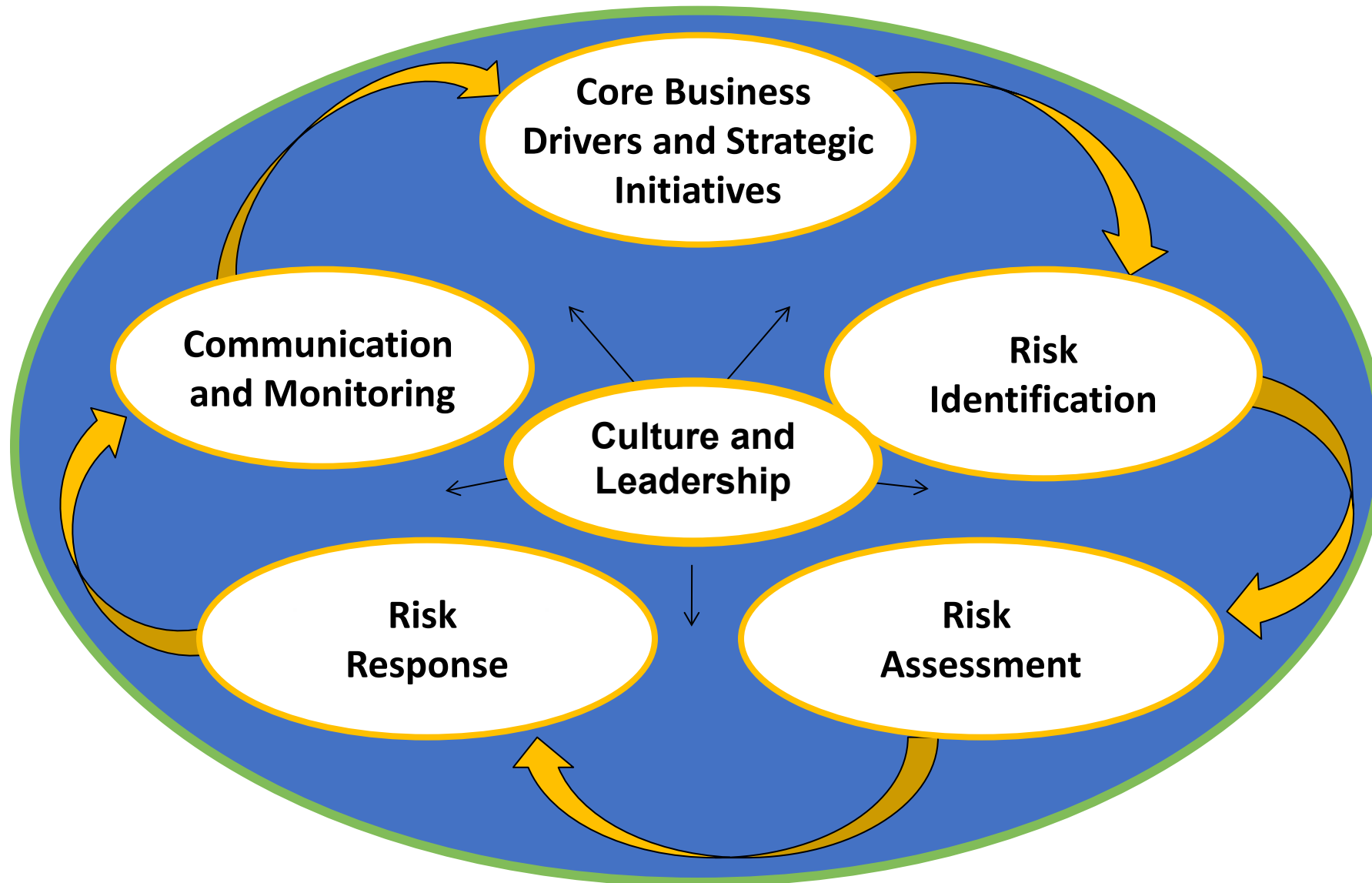


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**ERM can be one of the  
most effective  
strategic tools**

# Generic ERM Framework



# Requires Clarity of What's Most Important to Success

## Mission Critical Deliverables ("crown jewels")

Highly Valued Taxpayer and  
Recipient Interactions

Innovative Partnerships with  
Key Vendors

Sound Fiscal Management  
with Strong Oversight

Highly Experience Workforce  
with Unique Knowledge

Extension and Engagement  
Across 100 Counties of NC

## New Strategic Initiatives ("tactics")

Expand to Address Urban &  
Rural Societal Challenges

Embrace AI Tools to  
Increase Efficiencies

Modernize Operations and  
Processes

**Enhance  
Mission and  
Purpose of  
Agency/Entity**

# Use Strategic Lens to Pinpoint Risks

## Mission Critical Deliverables ("crown jewels")

- 
1. *What might emerge that derails a "crown jewel" or new initiative?*
2. *What big assumptions are we making? What if they are wrong?*

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Expand to Address Urban Societal Challenges

Embrace AI Tools to Increase Efficiencies

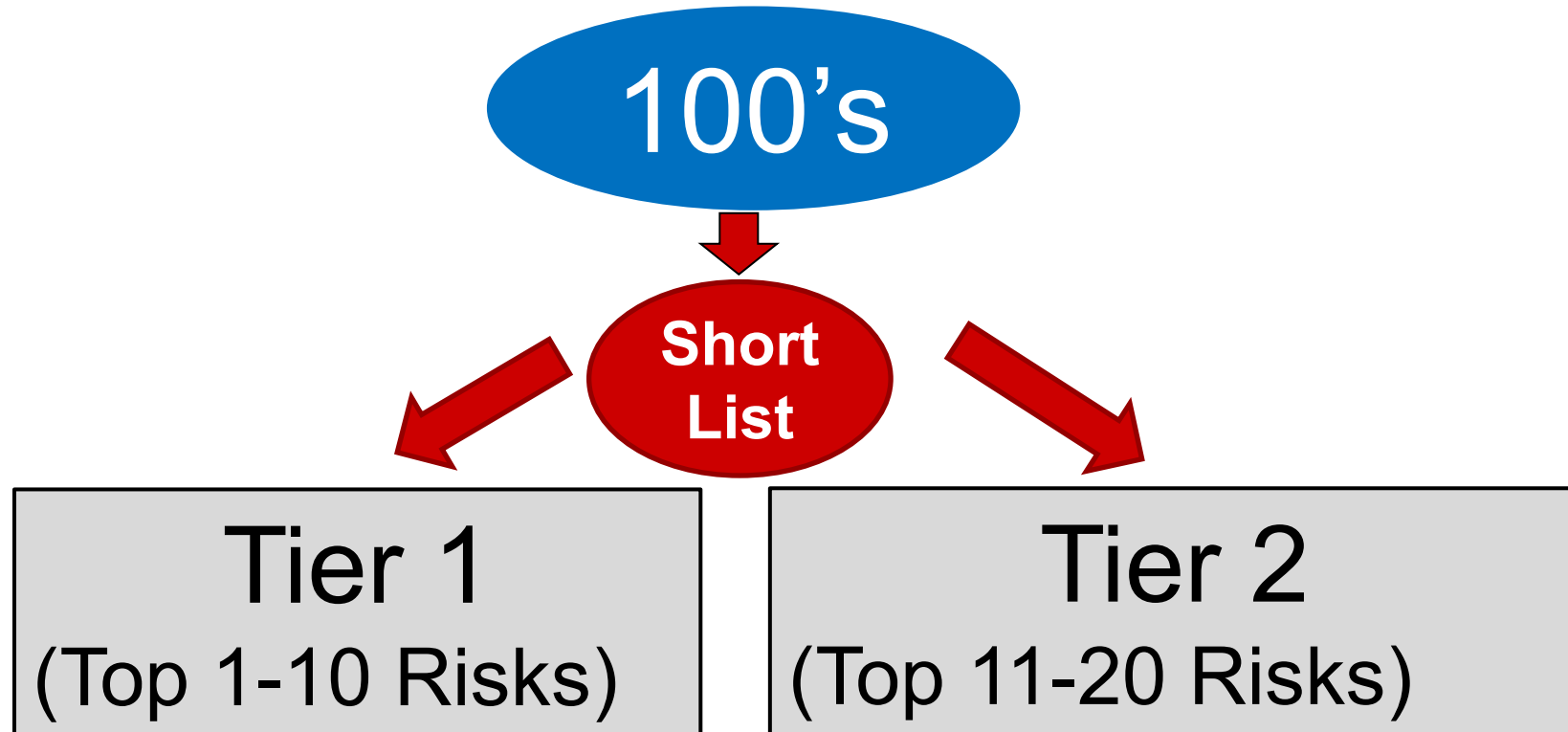
Modernize Operations and Processes

**Enhance  
Mission and  
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**Goal:** To prioritize long list of risks to a short list of the most important risk themes.



Considering:

- Likelihood
- Impact
- Velocity
- Vulnerability

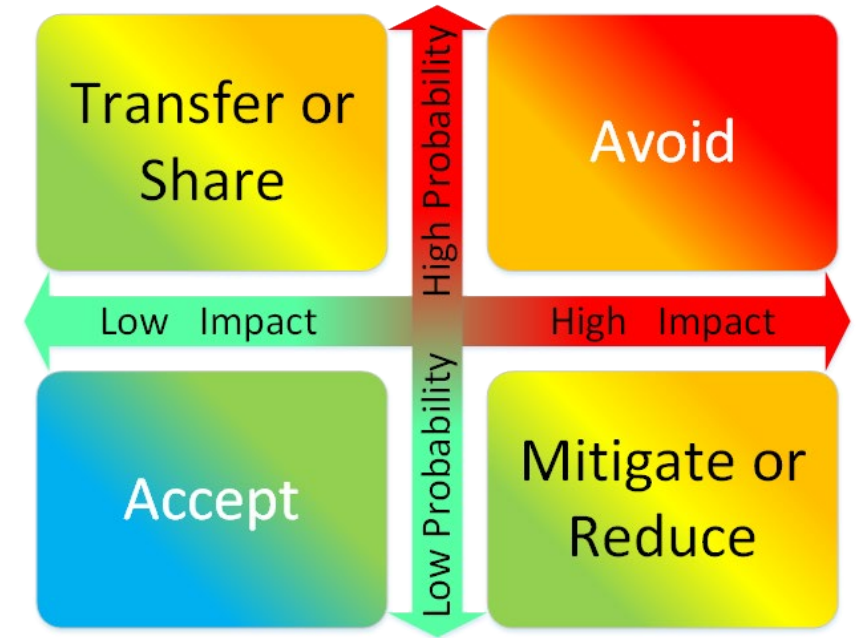
# Develop Responses to Manage Risks (the Four T's)

**Tolerate** - Risk **acceptance**. Risk is of **low severity** and will only be dealt with if it arises. May be **monitored** *actively* or *passively*.

**Terminate** - Eliminate or **avoid** risk. Risk is of **high severity** and is costly to mitigate effectively. Take action to disengage from exposure altogether.

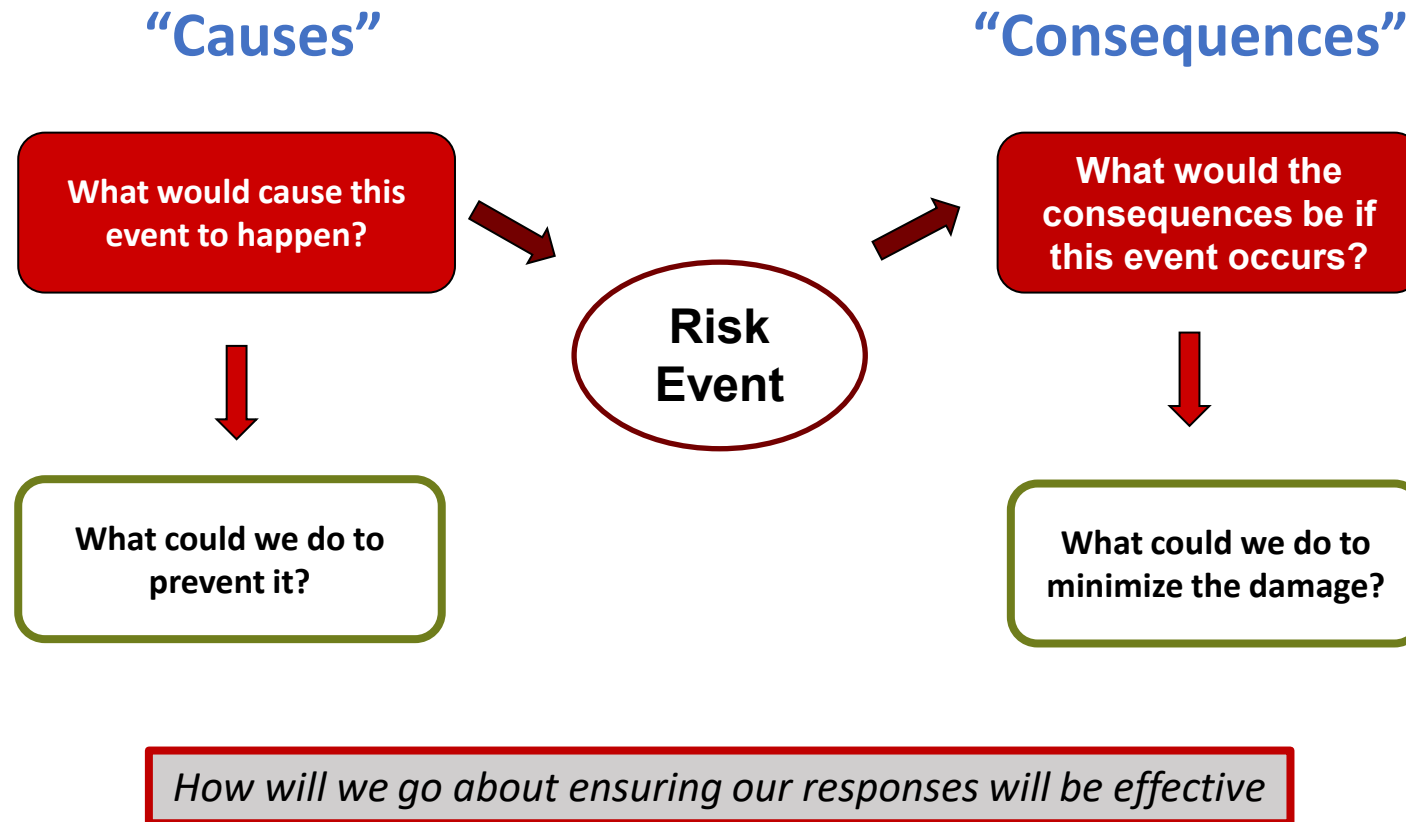
**Transfer** - Risk **sharing**. Such as **insurance**, hedging, joint venture, **outsourcing**.

**Treat** - Mitigate or **control** risks. Seek to **reduce likelihood** and/or **impact** to acceptable levels through policies, internal controls, etc.



# Bow-Tie Analysis of Responses

## Both Preventative and Reactive Responses

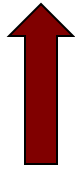


# Example of a Bow-Tie Analysis

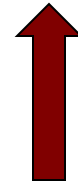
**Risk:** Current environment may make it difficult to attract and retain talented workforce

| Causes                                            | Responses to Prevent Risk                                                                                       |                                                                                            | Consequences                                           | Responses to Minimize Impact                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Compensation and benefits not competitive         | Conduct benchmarking with entities who compete for same talent<br><br>Consider adjustments in pay for key roles | <i>Current environment may make it difficult to attract and retain talented workforce.</i> | Key operations are interrupted for period of time.     | Prioritize functions that need staffing most and boost compensation packages to secure longer employment |
| Younger talent do not view industry as favorable. | Develop awareness campaign of importance of industry.                                                           |                                                                                            | Existing employee base has to work overtime            | Provide bonus incentives and other rewards to recognize extra efforts.                                   |
| Unclear career path options.                      | Develop a leadership development program to layout career path options                                          |                                                                                            | Over-taxed workforce continues to leave at faster pace | Seek opportunities to outsource key functions to third parties.                                          |
| Physical workplace locations unappealing.         | Upgrade facilities.<br>Offer incentives to live in less desirable areas                                         |                                                                                            | Certain initiatives have to be placed on hold.         | Prioritize initiatives to place on hold first.                                                           |

# KPIs vs. KRIs



Historical



Forward Looking

# Keeping an Eye on Key Risks



## Metrics on Each Top Risk



### Mission Critical Deliverables (“crown jewels”)

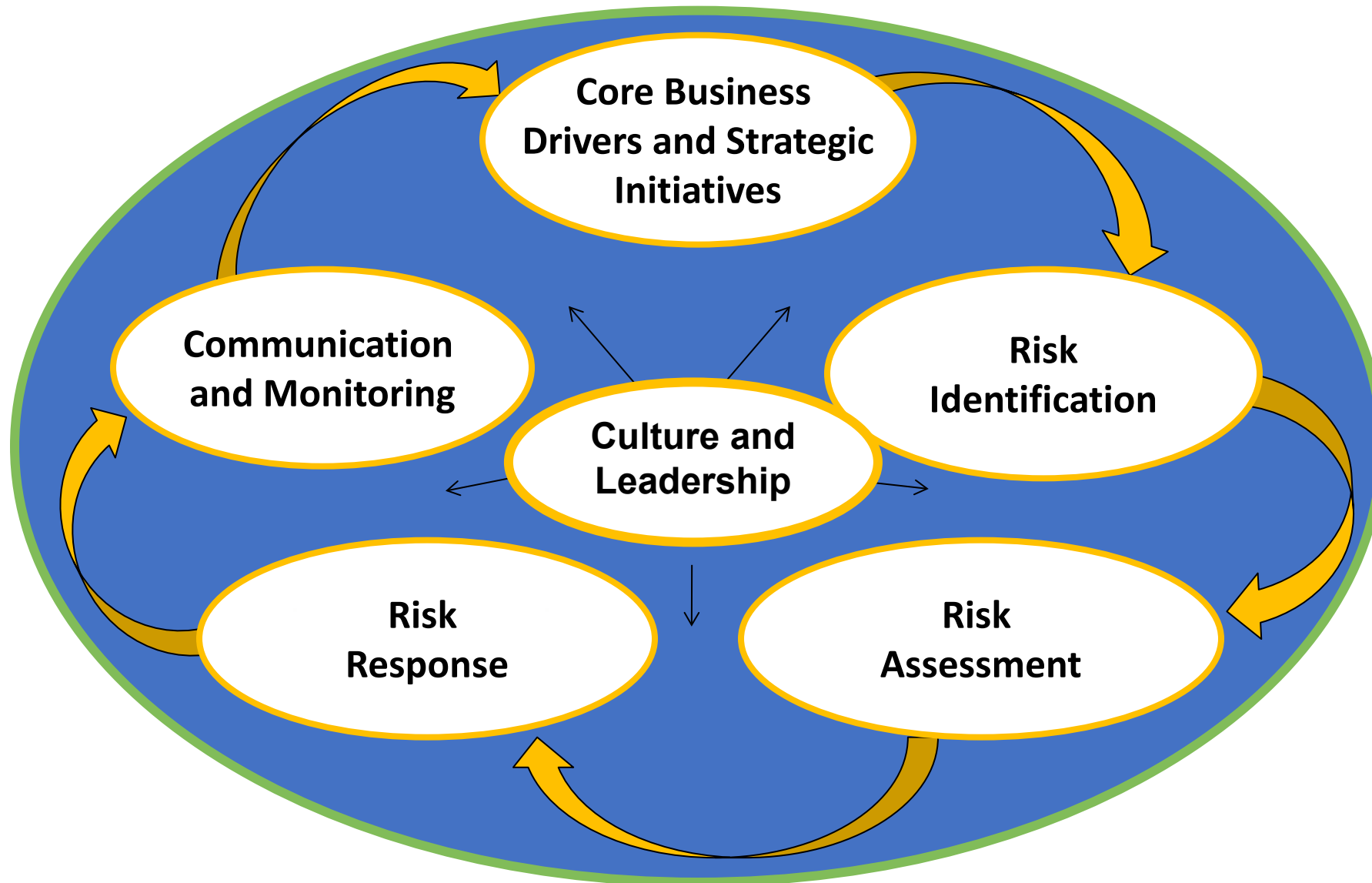
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**Enhance Mission and Purpose of Agency/Entity**

# Continuous Ongoing Process



**Risk Management**  
is not becoming easier

But it is becoming  
***More Critical!***



## Contact

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