

Annie E. Casey Foundation

Center for Effective Family Services & Systems

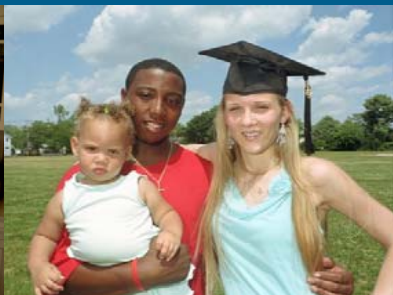


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Annie E. Casey Foundation: Our Mission

To foster public policies, human-service reforms, and community supports that more effectively meet the needs of vulnerable children and their families



Annie E. Casey Foundation: Our Priorities

- Designing and delivering **services** to secure and sustain lifelong family connections for children and youth
- Advocating for **reforms** in public human service systems to ensure that they operate effectively and efficiently to strengthen families
- Expanding **social and economic security** for families in poor communities
- Gathering and promoting the use of **data** as a tool for change
- Transforming tough and isolated **communities** into family-supporting environments

The Evidence-Based Practice Group: Three Major Charges

Increase the supply and utilization of evidence-based programs and practices within child- and family-serving public systems

Help communities and public systems partner to improve child outcomes

Collaborate with units across the foundation to help build evidence for our work

THE RESULT:

**IMPROVED
OUTCOMES
FOR CHILDREN
&
FAMILIES**

The Problem: Two Significant Gaps in Evidence-Based Programming

The Supply Gap: The limited number of programs and practices that demonstrate consistent, significant, measurable evidence of success in addressing risk and protective factors and improving outcomes

The Utilization Gap: The evidence-based programs and practices that do exist are not widely utilized — especially within public systems



How Casey is addressing the supply gap

Via grant making that supports program development, rigorous evaluation, and program adaptation

Examples:

- ✓ Better document a model and demonstrate better evidence of success (i.e., move up the “stair step”)
- ✓ Evaluate promising or evidence-based programs or practices in public systems
- ✓ Provide technical assistance to support the adaptation or replication of evidence-based programs or practices in public systems
- ✓ Conduct research to identify common elements of evidence-based programs

How Casey is addressing the utilization gap

Via grant making that broadens the dissemination and take-up of evidence-based programs and practices in public systems and public policy

Examples

- ✓ Replicate or adapt evidence-based programs or practices in public systems
- ✓ Conduct outreach and organizing to increase adoption and reach of EBPs in public systems
- ✓ Influence policymakers and key decision makers about the importance of EBPs
- ✓ Build the capacity of systems to implement EBPs (e.g., technical assistance)
- ✓ Develop an evidence base for system policies

Where does innovation fit?

Foundations can and should play a catalytic role in supporting innovation that is

Effective - Sustainable - Scalable

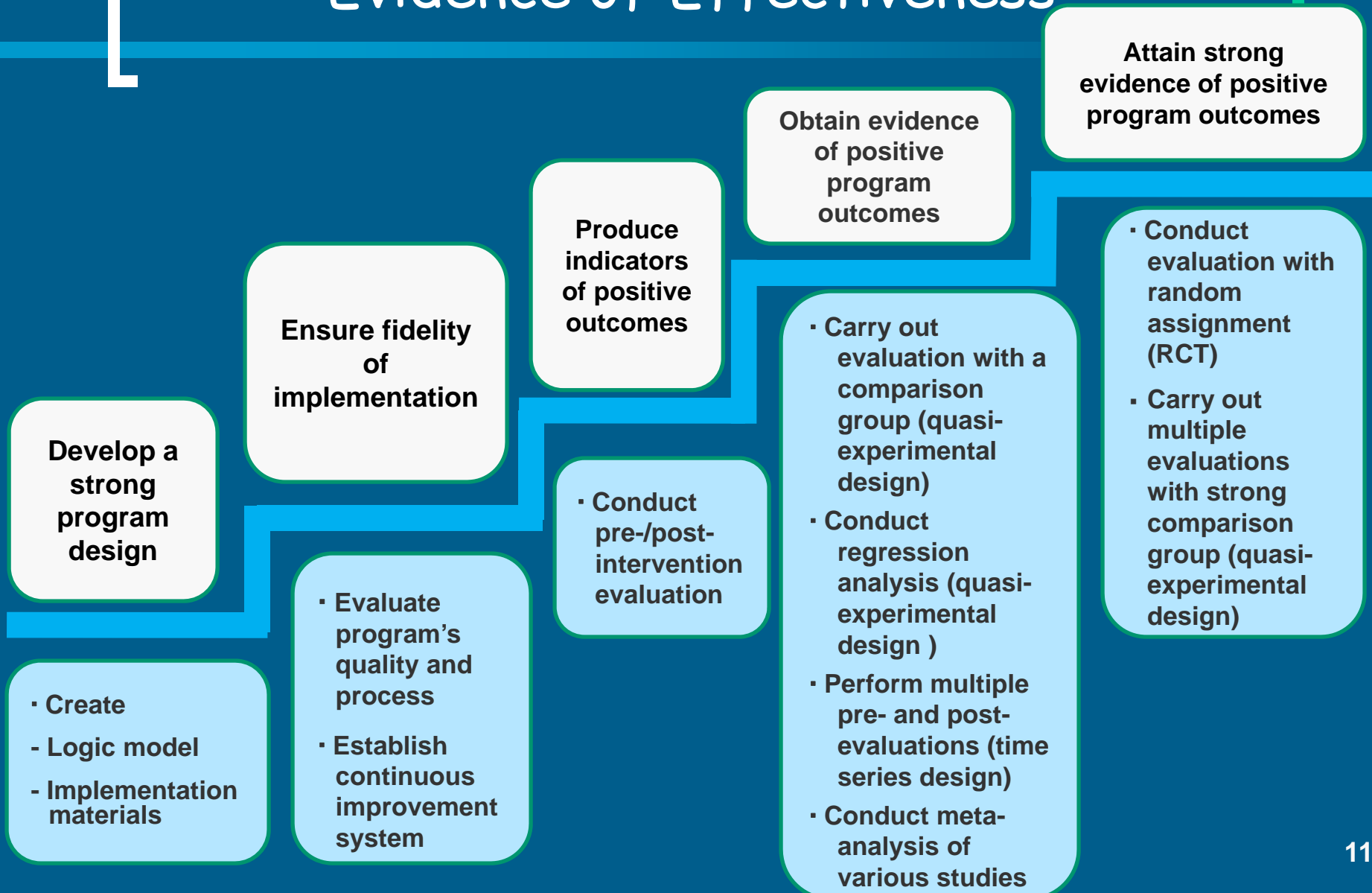
Should We Fund Innovation? The Questions We Ask

1. What social challenge is this innovation intended to address?
2. How does it propose to have a significant impact on this challenge, whether it's helping TANF recipients achieve economic self-sufficiency or enabling low-income, low-skill individuals to acquire a degree and a living wage job?
3. What others are doing in this area? Is there potential for a collaborative approach?
4. What demonstrated level of demand exists for a different approach to what is likely a chronic problem?

Should We Fund Innovation? The Questions We Ask, contd.

5. If the innovation is local, has it been tested in a new site and does it appear adaptable to varying conditions?
6. Is the policy environment (local/state/federal) receptive and capable of supporting or integrating the innovation? Is there actual or potential public support?
7. Is the innovating organization both vigorous and flexible enough to undertake the complex process of growth (if that is part of their strategy) with a social change agenda?
8. Are the innovation's values clearly expressed?

Moving Innovation Forward by Building Evidence of Effectiveness



Effective and Replicable Innovation Has Important Commonalities

Clearly articulated logic model
(e.g., specified target population,
outputs, necessary resources,
outcomes)

Strong theoretical foundation for
program's ability to impact outcomes
for target population

Organizational capacity and resources
sufficient to implement

Evaluation and monitoring system,
including data collection, analysis, and
use procedures

Focus on achieving
outcomes

Define core program
components

Link program
components to
outcomes

Replicate with fidelity

Wanted: Effective, Sustainable, Scalable Innovation

Because:

- There is increased use of data-driven decision making
- Private funders/investors are interested in putting resources into improving social outcomes via innovative approaches
- Public systems are thinking differently about service provision in light of budget pressures
- Cost-benefit analysis is receiving increased attention to predict future social returns AND the monetary benefits of those returns