



Evaluating the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Initiative

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Evaluation Objectives

- ▲ Identify and analyze the strategies grantees and Federal partners are using in promoting comprehensive systems building.
- ▲ Measure the level of progress States have made toward addressing both the overarching Federal goals/objectives for ECCS grantees and those of their statewide plans.
- ▲ Assess the effectiveness of early childhood systems development activities.
- ▲ Assess the support offered by MCHB, ECCS technical assistance providers, and the Federal Partners Workgroup.

Important Note

This is an evaluation of the ECCS initiative as a *whole*. It is not an assessment of the effectiveness of individual grantees or coordinators, nor is it an effort to determine whether grantees are meeting grant requirements.

Why is this evaluation important?

ECCS has been an important initiative that has shaped Federal and State approaches to early childhood system building. It is important that we document *what* has been done and *how* it has been done to better inform future system building efforts.

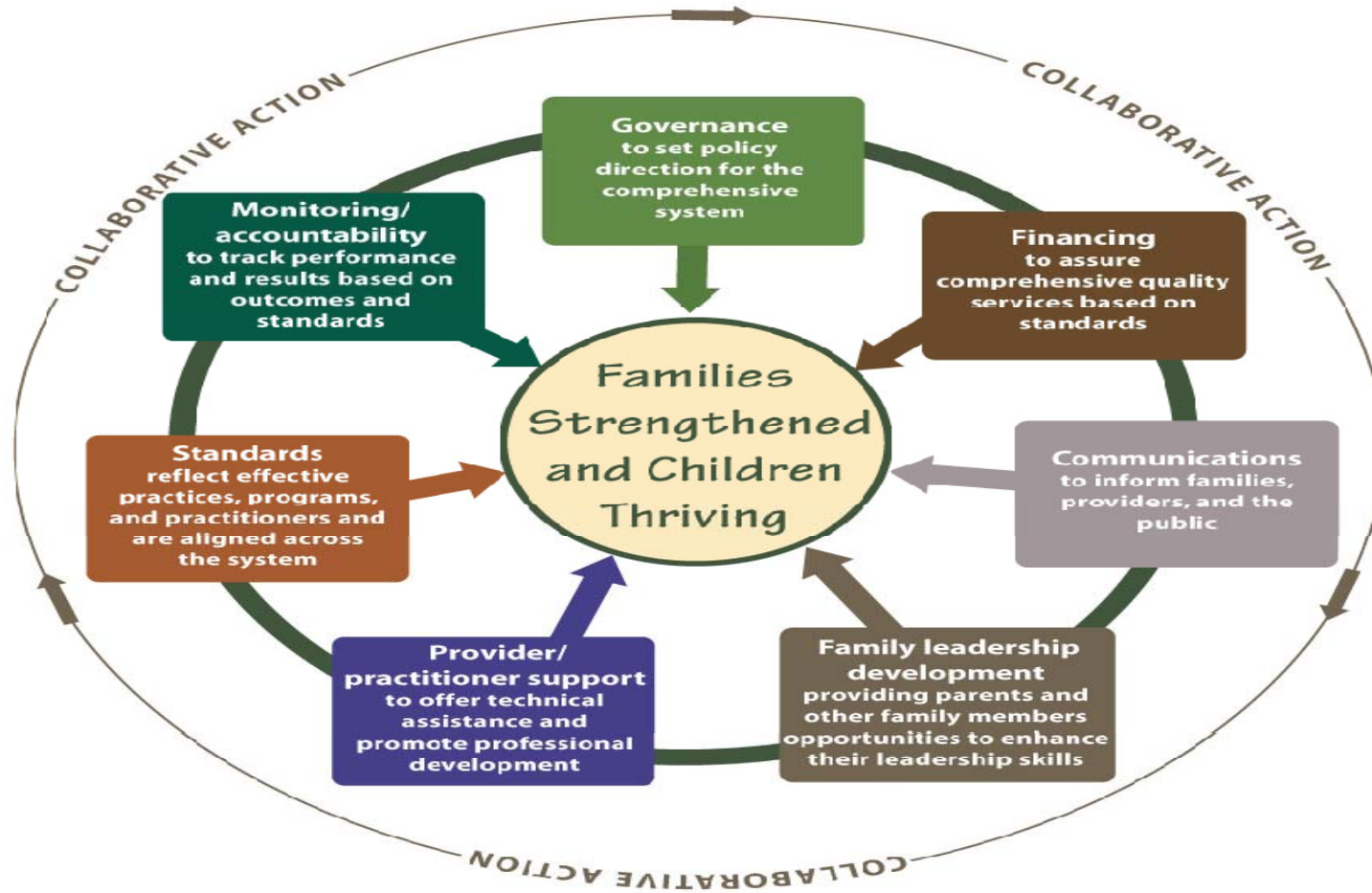
Evaluation Challenges

- ▲ The broad scope of ECCS
 - The goal is to shape the whole system of early childhood services and resources.
- ▲ Evaluating an ongoing initiative
- ▲ The effect of other initiatives with similar goals
- ▲ The meaning of progress varies from grantee to grantee
- ▲ Evaluating system change

Some Key Evaluation Questions

- ▲ What is the structure and function of each grantee's State Team?
- ▲ How do the ECCS initiatives address each of the seven key elements of early childhood comprehensive system building?
- ▲ How have ECCS initiatives contributed to greater interagency collaboration and integration of resources and services?
- ▲ What evidence is being collected to address whether there have been improvements in early childhood and family health and development outcomes?

Key Elements that Need to be Addressed in Comprehensive System Building



Adapted from Early
Childhood Systems
Working Group Graphic

Evaluation Design

- ▲ Data abstraction
- ▲ Web-based survey
- ▲ Key informant interviews
- ▲ Web-based data collection form for indicators

Web-based Survey

Surveys conducted with coordinators and select State Team members

- Coordinators survey is considerably longer (about 45 minutes) than the Team members survey (about 15 minutes).

Web-based Survey (continued)

- We are asking you to request the following Team members to complete a Team member survey:
 - State Head Start Collaboration Coordinator
 - State Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Initiative Coordinator
 - Three other partners of your own choosing

Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews conducted with ECCS Coordinators and any state team members invited by the coordinators

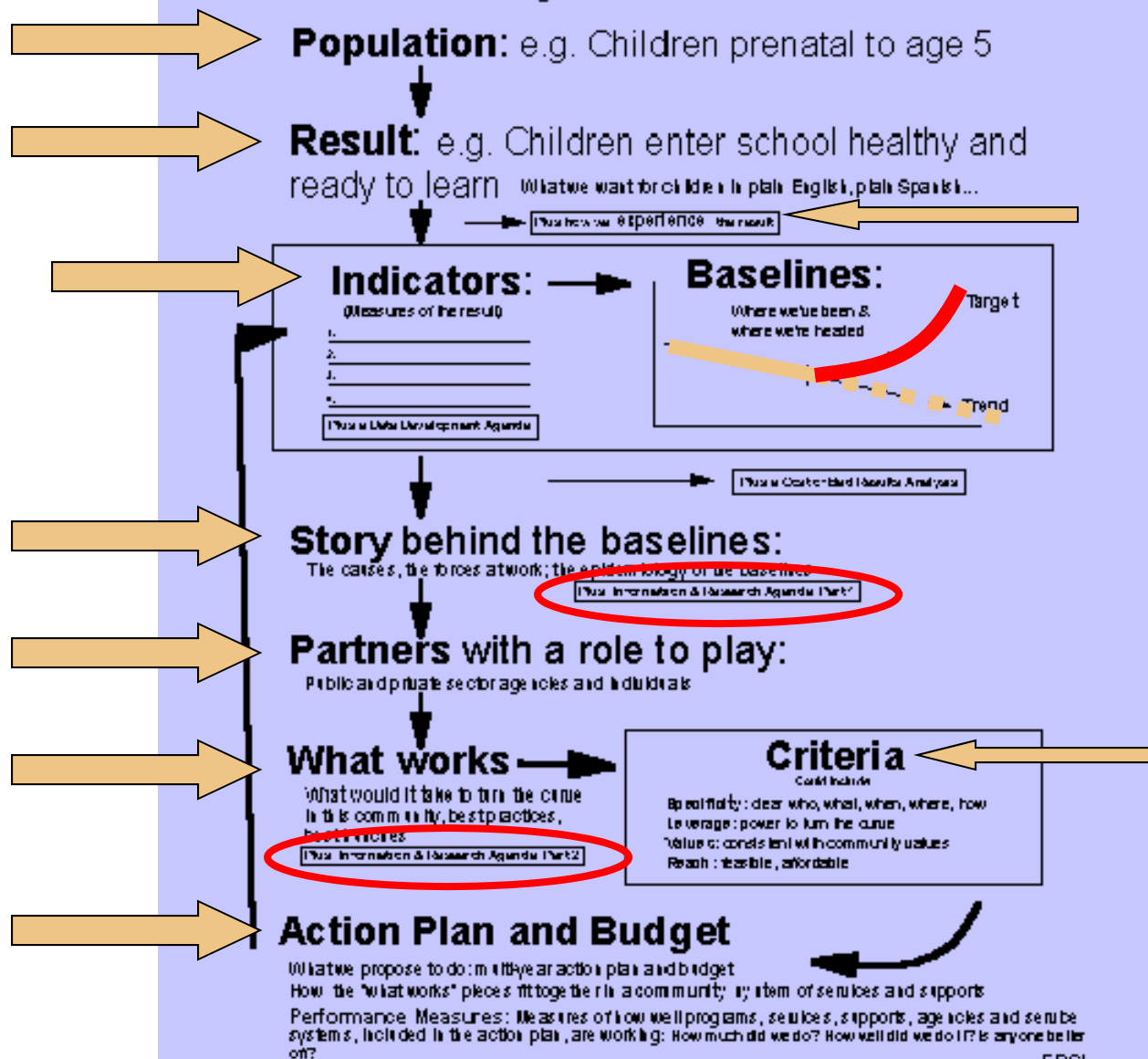
- In-depth telephone interviews approximately 90 minutes in length

Web-based Data Collection Form for Indicators

Grantees are asked to report on trends in three indicators and how system-building activities are ultimately designed to lead to positive changes in those indicators.

Results-Based Decision Making

Getting from Talk to Action



Web-based Data Collection Form for Indicators (continued)

- We are limiting this to three indicators to keep the burden manageable.
- You can pick whichever indicators work best for you, though we encourage you to pick ones that you feel best show what you are trying to accomplish for children and families through your system building efforts.

What's Next

- ▲ You will receive an email with links to the surveys and indicator data collection form with due dates in September.
- ▲ Key informant interviews will be scheduled after grantees complete their surveys. We hope to have interviews completed by the first week of November.

Questions?

▲ Ask them now

▲ Contacts:

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