![Colorado Office of Children, Youth & Families — Colorado Implementation Science Unit logo]
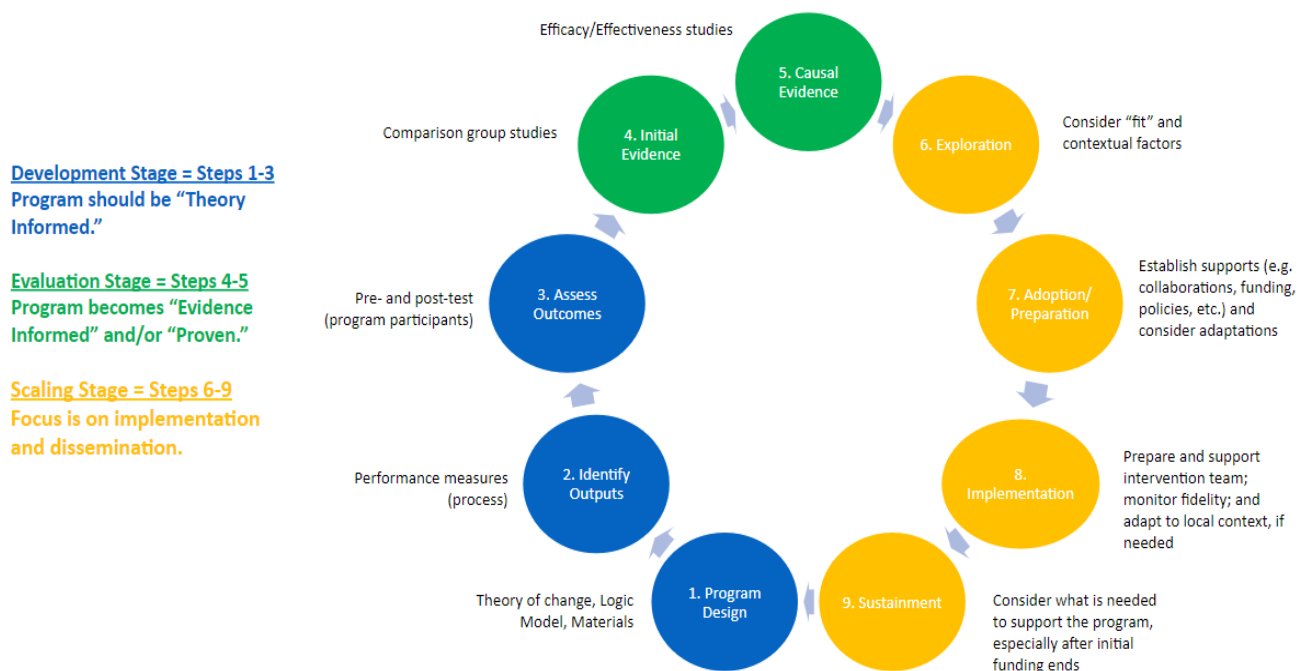
The Colorado Implementation Science Unit's
Menu of Services

The Colorado Implementation Science Unit (CISU) works to strengthen the Office of Children, Youth and Families' (OCYF) capacity to engage in program implementation, scaling, replication, and evaluation. Additionally, CISU conducts and coordinates strategic research to influence policymaking and promote positive outcomes for the children, youth and families affected by OCYF's services.

Central to this work is the use of research and implementation science methodologies to help programs/services strengthen their delivery and ultimately understand whether they are making positive impacts in people's lives. And to advance such work, CISU provides technical assistance, thought partnership, and other support to programs, communities, policymakers, and other stakeholders across Colorado.

CISU's supports are linked to, and are best illustrated through, how a program is established and implemented (i.e. how it "progresses"). Please find below an illustration of a program's progression, and a list of supports that CISU offers to support each stage/step.[1]

Illustration of a Program's Progression

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[1] The illustration of a "program's progression" is based on an infographic created by Blueprints for Healthy Youth Development. To access the infographic, and additional information about evidence frameworks, please visit: https://www.blueprintsprograms.org/issue-no-25.

Supports CISU Provides/Menu of Services*

Program Development Support

1. Program Design
    o   Researching existing theories of change.
    o   Developing new theories of change.
    o   Co-designing logic models.
    o   Co-designing process maps.
    o   Manualizing programs (i.e. developing program descriptions, instructions, logic models, process maps, etc.).

2. Identify Outputs
    o   Researching existing programs' fidelity monitoring/performance metrics to inform the development of metrics for new programs.
    o   Developing fidelity monitoring measures, checklists, and/or data collection systems.
    o   Helping address barriers to data collection and/or promoting solutions to support data collection.
    o   Helping programs contract for process evaluation.
    o   Providing tailored/targeted implementation supports based on fidelity monitoring/performance reports.

3. Assess Outcomes
    o   Co-designing pre-/post- surveys to garner participant feedback.
    o   Co-designing interview questions to garner participant feedback.
    o   Providing tailored/targeted implementation supports based on feedback.

Program Evaluation Support

4. Initial Evidence
    o   Helping programs contract for outcome evaluation, such as quasi-experimental designs.
    o   Consulting on evaluation design, partners, and funding opportunities.

5. Causal Evidence
    o   Helping programs contract for outcome/impact evaluation, such as randomized controlled trials.
    o   Consulting on evaluation design, partners, and funding opportunities.

Program Scaling Support

6. Exploration
    o   Completing landscape analyses (i.e. review of program materials and contextual factors) to understand a program's "fit" within a community.

- o Completing after-action-reviews to identify what worked and what didn't at an implementation site.
  - o Developing site readiness assessment for potential future sites.
  - o Completing insights reports that aggregate and present learnings from site readiness assessments.

7. Adoption/Preparation
    - o Using insights reports to provide tailored supports to new sites.
    - o Developing implementation plans (i.e. defining goals and timelines).
    - o Providing guidance to support the development of implementation teams.
    - o Encouraging communication plans.

8. Implementation
    - o Using insights reports to provide tailored supports during early stages of implementation.
    - o Encouraging communication plans.

9. Sustainment
    - o Coordinating orientation sessions and/or training for new sites.
    - o Providing tailored supports based on fidelity monitoring/performance reports.

Research, Education, and Thought Partnership Support

- Conducting and/or coordinating research to inform:
  - o New pilot programs.
  - o Evaluation budgets.
  - o Budget requests.
  - o Legislation.
- Completing literature review regarding other jurisdictions' programs/policies.
- Providing guidance on:
  - o Fidelity monitoring tools and best practices.
  - o Research methodologies.
  - o Evaluation design.
  - o Data collection and analysis.
  - o Implementation and scaling support best practices.
  - o Reporting/accountability.
  - o Establishing feedback loops.
  - o Community-participatory research.
- Connecting stakeholders/partners to evaluation partners/resources.
- Identifying and advocating for supports to promote successful program implementation and evaluation (e.g. being a program champion/advocate and helping to secure funders, promote federal drawdown, etc.).

* Please note that this list may not be exhaustive of all the supports CISU can provide. Version 8/2023.