RISE
PARTNERSHIP

Mission/Vision

The RISE Partnership focuses on data and evaluation to improve organizational effectiveness to impact social, economic, health, and educational conditions in communities, including the effects of intergenerational poverty and trauma.

We collaborate with organizations, funders, and government to build evaluation capacity to further the collective mission and vision.

We seek to use data to promote a culture of learning and improvement throughout an organization. This includes program design and planning, implementation, measuring program outcomes, and continuous quality improvement.

We give particular attention to data driven insights and practices that improve the impact of nonprofits on young people's lives.

We aim to create a community of practice where learnings are shared across organizations, funders, and other stakeholders to inform practice and policy in the region and sustain improvements.

Description

The RISE Partnership is an effort to strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations in the Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey region through a range of services and supports. These include: training and support to build **readiness** for measuring and driving program outcomes; **implementation** of an intensive program of internal evaluation capacity building, and support for an alumni learning community to **sustain** and extend gains achieved. The overall objective of these services and supports is increased organizational **effectiveness** and improved outcomes for participants.

The RISE Partnership is based on the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation's *PropelNext* program and The Scattergood Foundation's *Building Evaluation Capacity Initiative (BECI)*, which was developed and implemented in partnership with The Consultation Center at Yale University. BECI is also supported by The Barra Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation, and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey.

The Partnership is supported by a collaborative of funders that includes the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, The Scattergood Foundation, United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Campbell Soup Foundation, The Horner Foundation, The Barra Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation and The Grace S. and W. Linton Nelson Foundation.

Values

We adopt a culturally-situated, strengths-based, collaborative, systems oriented, and interdisciplinary approach to our work. We value transparency, innovation, and use of participatory approaches to promote equity.

Program Outcomes

In addition to our own internal evaluation efforts, we will conduct an external evaluation of the initiative as part of a continuous improvement process to assess the success of organizations in achieving desired outcomes. Those outcomes, expected within two years after completion of the implementation component of the program, include:

• More robust programs to children, youth, and families

• Increased services to children, youth, and/or families

• Capacity to secure additional resources for programming and/or data use

• Enhanced capacity for continuous use of data to improve programs and their implementation

• Increased investment in data and learning/ performance management capacity

• Increased use of data at the staff, leadership, and board level to build an organizational culture of learning and improvement

• Increased organizational capacity to conduct evaluation (internal and external)

• Expanded peer support networks focused on sustaining performance management and evaluation

RISE

(Readiness, Implementation, Sustainability for Effectiveness)

Readiness

The **readiness** component provides introductory knowledge and skill building for organizations in key concepts, tools, and resources for internal evaluation capacity building and performance management.

Target organizations: All Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey area nonprofits, including funders

# of organizations reached: 50 organizations over three years (15-20 organizations/year)

Key supports: Up to 12 hours of group training and up to two hours of individual consultation over nine months. Individual consultation may include tailored resources to organizations ready to continue learning skill development outside of RISE.

Implementation

The **implementation** component is a two year cohort learning program that helps promising nonprofit organizations to amplify their impact on young people's lives. Participating organizations will improve their capacity to collect, use, and apply data for ongoing improvement and learning to deliver even stronger results.

Target organizations: Youth-serving organizations with promising programs and strong leadership

# of organizations reached: 15 organizations

Key supports: Consultation, training, technical assistance, coaching, and participation in an online learning community. All organizations that successfully complete this component will be invited into the sustainability component in year three and beyond.

Sustainability

The **sustainability** component helps nonprofit organizations sustain and advance internal evaluation capacity and supports a broad community of practice. This component also focuses on sharing and using lessons learned across organizations and stakeholders via an Alumni Learning Collaborative.

Target organizations: All former Building Evaluation Capacity Initiative (BECI) participants and organizations that complete the Implementation component.

# of organizations reached: 40 organizations in year one, up to 60 organizations by the end of year three.

Key supports: Ongoing consultation, training, and support for organizations to continue to build individual and organizational capacity.

Additional targeted services to a small subset of organizations that are ready to advance their practice further.

Trainings and webinars will also be made available to individuals and organizations that have participated in Readiness and other relevant evaluation and leadership capacity building programs in the region.

A learning community of co-investors come together twice a year to follow the progress of the grantees, engage with and learn from the RISE evaluation, and share lessons with colleagues.

For more information visit www.therisepartnership.org