



## The RISE Partnership works to build capacity within organizations to make true change in our communities.

The RISE (Readiness, Implementation, Sustainability for Effectiveness) Partnership is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations, evaluators, funders, and other stakeholders working to ensure nonprofits have the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to deliver the greatest impact possible. We focus on data and evaluation to improve organizational effectiveness to impact social, economic, health, and educational conditions in communities, including the effects of racism, intergenerational poverty, and trauma.

### Values



**COLLABORATIVE:** Value multiple perspectives and mutual respect



**COMPREHENSIVE:** Use qualitative and quantitative data sources



**CULTURALLY SITUATED:** Recognize the intersection of culture, context, and place



**DATA-DRIVEN:** Use data to make decisions



**DYNAMIC AND ADAPTIVE:** Open to change and responsive to new learnings



**EQUITABLE:** Distribute resources according to needs and assets



**INTERDISCIPLINARY:** Integrate a variety of disciplines



**STRENGTHS-BASED:** Focus on assets and opportunities



**SYSTEMS-ORIENTED:** Emphasize multiple levels of change



**TRANSPARENT:** Ensure open access to information

Participants value the rare opportunity for personalized, responsive support from the RISE team to work through the unique aspects of their work. Participants describe the relationship as a “true partnership” where it was not “someone telling us what we should do” but asking “what’s best for you?”





## Program Model

We translate our core values into practices that support organizations at varying stages of evaluation capacity.

### Readiness

**Organizations develop foundational evaluation skills and competencies for continuous learning.** 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.

### Implementation

**Organizations develop evaluation capabilities and create organizational cultures of evaluation and continuous learning.** 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 improve their capacity to collect, use, and apply data for ongoing improvement and learning to deliver even stronger results.

### Sustainability

**Organizations sustain and expand organizational cultures of evaluation through evaluation partnerships and learning in the regional ecosystem.** The sustainability component helps non-profit 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.

We incorporate a variety of approaches to support organizations:

- Individual consultation
- Group training and networking opportunities
- Learning resources: online platform, monthly newsletter
- Annual learning conference

## Program Outcomes

Within two years after completion of the implementation component of the program, we expect organizations to have:

- More robust programs for 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 all people equally 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 focused on equity, learning, and improvement
- Increased organizational capacity to conduct evaluation (internal and external)
- Expanded peer support networks focused on sustaining performance management and evaluation



The RISE Partnership has helped participants recognize opportunities for championing change within their own organizations and networks. “[RISE has] given us the confidence to control those conversations a little more, when there are more rigorous evaluation expectations...[We are] confronting some of [the] problematic things like what they’re asking for and what they’re evaluating.”



**The RISE Partnership Evaluation Funders Learning Community** aims to combine the resources, expertise, and tools of funders and nonprofits to strengthen the effectiveness of over 100 nonprofits in the Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey region.

The Evaluation Funders Learning Community is the first convening supported by a network of funders in the region. With collaborative efforts from the Barra Foundation, Campbell Soup Company, Horner Foundation, Nelson Foundation, Philadelphia Foundation, PropelNext/Edna McConnell Clark Foundation, Scattergood Foundation, and United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, the learning community aims to create, promote, and sustain greater impact through a unified strategy.



Participants use their new skills to broaden their reach to other staff members and program leaders by initiating more conversations around data and its relevance to program outcomes. “We’ve gotten better at using data. Prior to the program, we’d meet just as the executive team, but now we are sharing with all of the program staff.”



Participants develop a better understanding of internal processes and how to track progress, while strengthening their skills in effective communication about the distinctiveness of their work, including the nuanced impact their work has on the lives of the people they serve. “[RISE improved] how and what we report. [It] helps prove our point, helps get our point across. Before, we were still able to make the report, but now, it helps us make a stronger report.”

Established in 2018, The RISE (Readiness, Implementation, Sustainability for Effectiveness) Partnership supports promising Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey nonprofit organizations. The Partnership provides nonprofits with resources and training to strengthen organizational effectiveness and ensure a greater impact on social, economic, health, and educational conditions in communities, including the effects of intergenerational poverty and trauma.

For more information visit [therisepartnership.org](https://therisepartnership.org)