

# Stronger Evaluation, Stronger Nonprofits

## RISE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SUCCESSES



**RISE**  
PARTNERSHIP

The RISE Partnership is a collaboration of nonprofit organizations, evaluators, funders, and other stakeholders in the Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey region working to ensure nonprofits have the knowledge, tools, and resources they need to deliver the greatest impact possible. 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 racism, intergenerational poverty, and trauma. Participating organizations sharpen their thinking about program activities and outcomes, and improve their capacity to collect, understand, and use data for ongoing improvement and learning to achieve stronger results.

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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.

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## It's been an exciting three years for the RISE Partnership.

Despite the pandemic and an unexpected shift to virtual programming, we met all the goals we set for ourselves in late 2018. We successfully completed three cohorts of our Readiness program with almost 60 organizations and had 15 organizations complete the Implementation cohort focused on organizations that serve young people in the Greater Philadelphia and Camden region. We also effectively engaged our 46 alumni organizations in ongoing programming.

Further, we documented our programming in a variety of written, visual, and audio materials to capture programming elements and to be able to share our work with others. The racial reckoning of 2020 also caused us to deeply reflect on our work and our impact. We asked ourselves whether we were doing enough or even spending our time on the right thing. Our participating organizations inspired us to keep going. We recognized we needed to do more and focus on being anti-racist, not only equity minded. This opened the doors for new conversations and new partnerships and learning how we could lead this initiative at times by getting out of the way.

We took a close look at the material we taught and how it was taught through an equity lens. We challenged ourselves to be more explicit about our messaging and examined our journey for improvement, transparency, and discovery. We certainly did not do everything perfectly and still have work to do, but we could not be prouder of our participating organizations and our consultant team. We are also so grateful for the co-investors who have supported this journey.

Included in this report is a summary of our work accomplished and a snapshot of the participating organizations and the materials we've created. We look forward to the next iteration of the RISE Partnership and thank you all for your encouragement.

### **Samantha Matlin, PhD**

Vice President of Learning and Community Impact  
Thomas Scattergood Behavioral Health Foundation

Readiness, Implementation, and Sustainability for Effectiveness (RISE) is a three-year learning program that helps nonprofit organizations strengthen their impact.

## Program Model

**RISE supports 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.



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I think being in RISE has helped us to always have impact measuring in front of everything we do.

**Nelly Jimenez**  
Executive Director and CEO,  
ACLAMO Family Centers

### 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



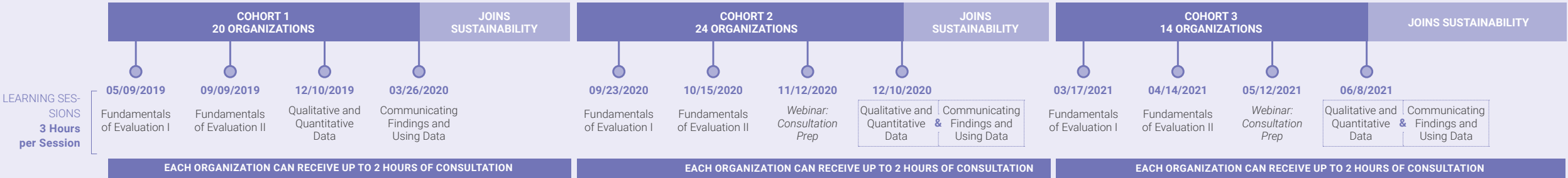
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The logic model we worked on with RISE helped us identify a lot of issues that maybe we never thought about before.

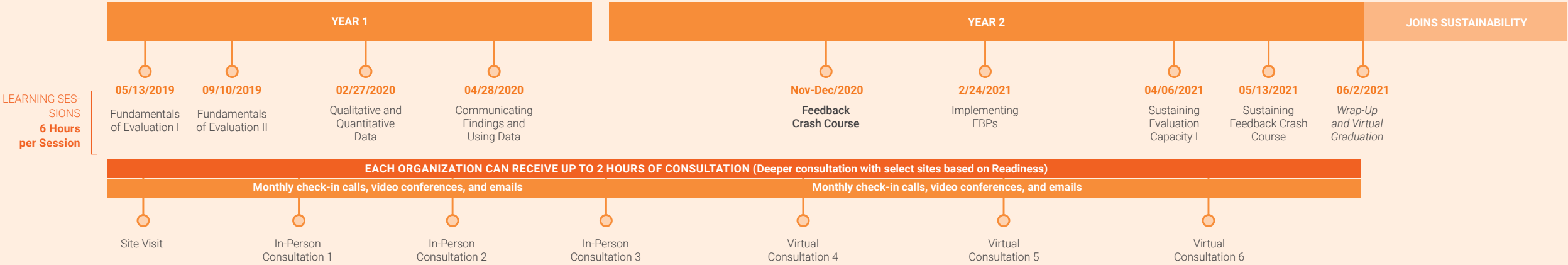
**Karen Media**  
Assistant Director of  
Programs,  
After-School All-Stars  
Philadelphia & Camden

ONGOING NEWSLETTER

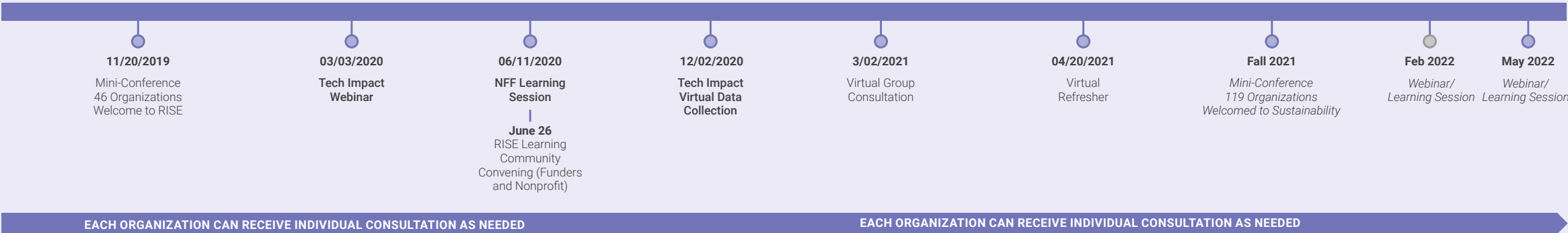
READINESS  
58 ORGANIZATIONS



IMPLEMENTATION  
15 ORGANIZATIONS



ALUMNI LEARNING  
COMMUNITY  
SUSTAINABILITY



KEY  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Equal Measure Begins Evaluation	10 Evaluation Competencies Released	Listen4Good Cohort Selected	RISE Manual Completed	4 RISE Videos	15 RISE Case Studies Partnership in Action	Evaluation Complete
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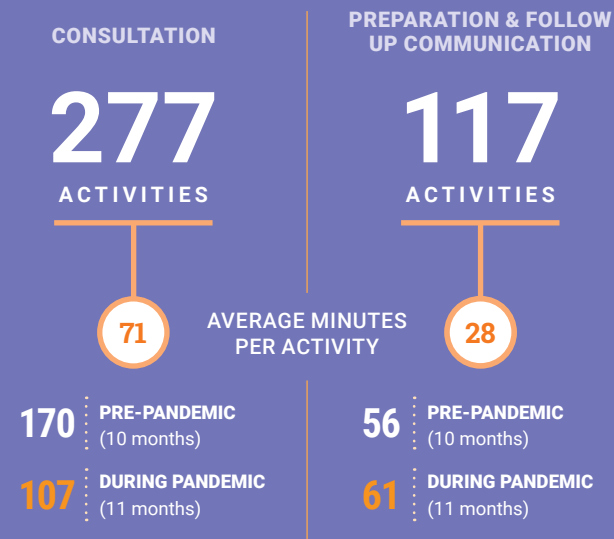
# Consultant Evaluation



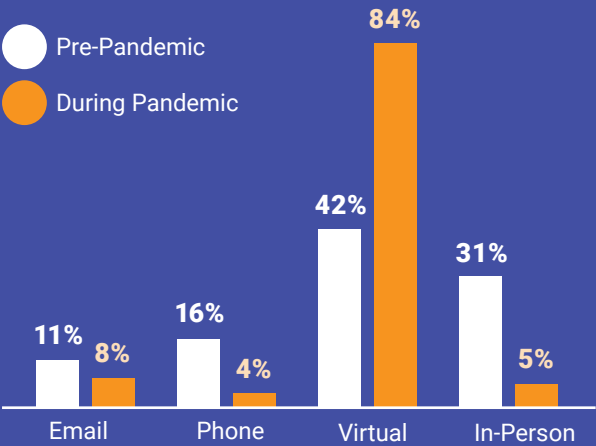
## Consultation Activities

MAY 2019 – JANUARY 2021  
(Does not include consultations from Tech Impact)

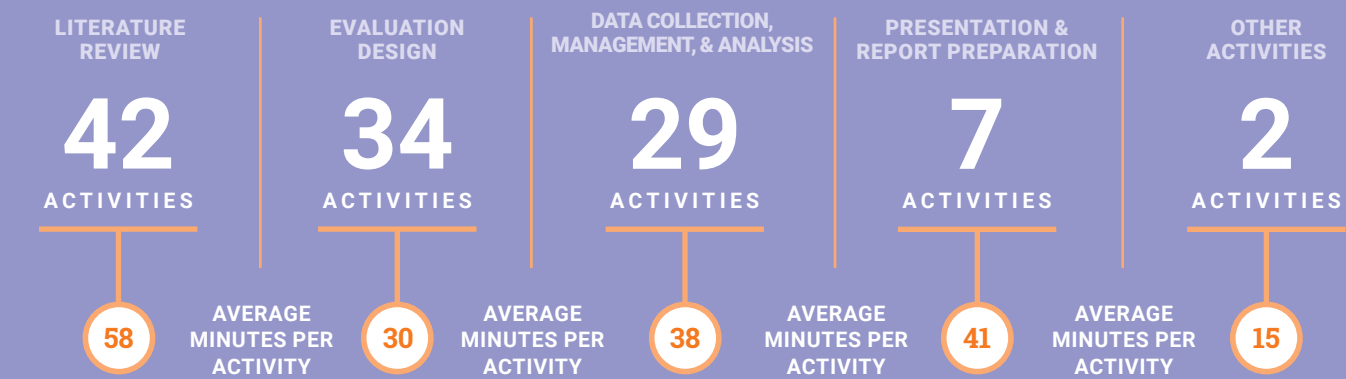
### DIRECT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES



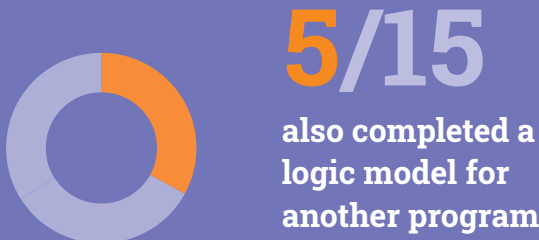
### Medium for DIRECT Consultation



### INDIRECT CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES



4 months average completion time



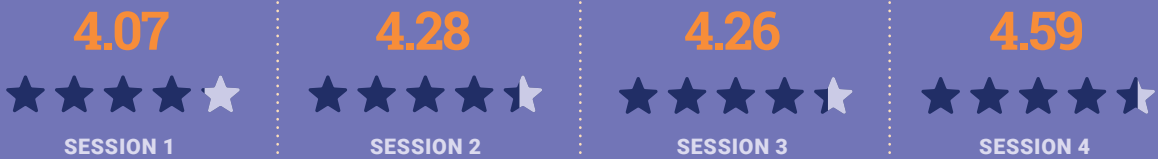
Most of these are analyzing pilot data

## Organizational Evaluation Capacity

	Pre-Pandemic	During Pandemic
Evaluation Knowledge & Skills	52	61
Dedicated and Sufficient Resources for Evaluation	51	57
Organizational Stability	67	68
Evaluation Champion(s) in the Organization	63	70
A Culture of Evaluation in the Organization	54	63

Ratings are from 1-100 (highest), with 80 and above the goal at the end of RISE; 50-80 shows emerging capacity. Slight increases in all areas were observed over time, as expected, despite the pandemic.

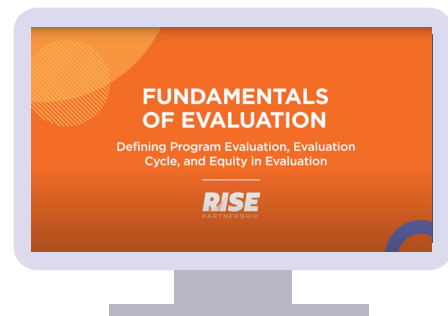
### RISE READINESS 2020 AVERAGE LEARNING SESSION RATINGS



# Tools and Resources

RISE was created to strengthen the effectiveness of nonprofit organizations and developed educational and awareness-building tools to help spread the word about evaluation and cohort successes.

## Videos



Video 1: [Fundamentals of Evaluation](#)



Video 3: [Focusing Your Evaluation Design](#)



Video 2: [The Big Picture](#)



Video 4: [Introduction to Analyzing Data and Communicating Findings](#)

“

RISE really helped us hone in on the key questions that we were asking.

— Allison Vanyur

Senior Programs Manager,  
Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

## Audiograms



Click on the links to listen to key takeaways from RISE implementation organizations.

[CASA](#)

[Coded by Kids](#)

[Philadelphia Youth Basketball](#)

[Read by 4th](#)

[The Wagner Free Institute of Science](#)

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RISE was really helpful in helping me to understand the different ways that data can be collected, and how you can use your data and use your results to tell a story.

— Cherice Arrington

Associate Director of Programs and Advocacy, Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey



“

Coming to the RISE initiative and being able to put down our thinking about why the Reading Captains initiative works and how it works with a logic model was a huge step for us.

**Samuel Fischer**

Former Data and Evaluation Manager,  
Read by 4th



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RISE helped our team build a data collection system and train our part-time staff to use it properly.

**Lonce Scott**

Field Director, Cradle of Liberty Council,  
Boy Scouts of America



## In the media

### This \$3M partnership between Philly funders prioritizes collaboration over competition

The initiative from the local United Way, Scattergood Foundation, Barra Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation and others will support nonprofit leaders in capacity and skills building.

[generocity.org](http://generocity.org)

### Are Philly-area nonprofits really making a difference? Foundations put up \$3 million to find out

Foundations want nonprofits to document what they do and prove they get results, but traditionally haven't wanted any of their grants to be used for those efforts. That's changing in Philadelphia.

[inquirer.com](http://inquirer.com)

### That thing you do: What happened around Philly in April

Nonprofits and mission-driven organizations across the city were busy making their presence felt this past month.

[generocity.org](http://generocity.org)

### It's time to start calling out the systems that lead to need for nonprofit programs

"Failing to discuss the reasons why we need equity is not helpful," says Tia Burroughs, guest columnist from the RISE Partnership.

[generocity.org](http://generocity.org)

## RISE Implementation Organizations

ACLAMO Family Centers

After-School All-Stars Philadelphia & Camden

CASA Youth Advocates, Inc. of Delaware & Chester Counties

Coded by Kids

Cradle of Liberty Council, Boy Scouts of America

Girls Inc. of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey

Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

Philadelphia Youth Basketball

Read by 4th

Students Run Philly Style

United Communities Southeast Philadelphia

Uplift Center for Grieving Children

Volunteers of America Delaware Valley

The Wagner Free Institute of Science

YWCA Tri-County Area

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Our goal coming into this was finding ways to visualize our data that would help us inform our feedback loop with our volunteers and then students.

**Lauren Kobylarz**

Program Director,  
Students Run Philly Style



### RISE Partnership in Action

To learn more about RISE Implementation organizations, read their case studies on [therisepartnership.org](http://therisepartnership.org)





# RISE Readiness Organizations

The first cohort includes:

- Accion Comunal Latinamericana de Montgomery County
- CASA for Children Atlantic and Cape May Counties
- CASA of Philadelphia County
- Center for Environmental Transformation
- Fairmount Community Development Corporation
- Families Forward Philadelphia
- First Step Staffing
- Girls Rock Philly
- Homeless Advocacy Project
- La Liga del Barrio
- Legacy Youth Tennis and Education
- Philadelphia Lawyers for Social Equity
- Philadelphia OIC
- Police Athletic League of Philadelphia
- Rebuilding Together Philadelphia
- Respond, Inc.
- Rock to the Future
- Sunrise of Philadelphia
- TSNE MissionWorks – Prosecutor Impact
- YMCA of Greater Brandywine
- YoungMoms

The second cohort includes:

- 12Plus
- C.B. Community Schools
- Centro de Apoyo Comunitario
- Communities That Care of Greater Downingtown
- District 1199C Training & Upgrading Fund
- Dornsife Center for Neighborhood Partnerships
- Financial Wellness Institute
- Institute for the Development of African-American Youth, Inc.
- International Ballet Exchange
- LUCY Outreach A NJ Nonprofit Corporation
- Neighborhood Bike Works
- New Jersey Agricultural Society
- Norris Square Neighborhood Project
- Parents Anonymous Inc. dba Parents Inc.
- Philadelphia Children’s Alliance
- Philadelphia City Rowing
- Photography Without Borders
- TechGirlz
- The Salvation Army
- Variety – The Children’s Charity of the Delaware Valley
- West Philadelphia Alliance for Children
- Why Not Prosper, Inc.
- Youth Mentoring Partnership
- Youth Volunteer Corps of Greater Philadelphia

The third cohort includes:

- Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia
- Art Sphere Inc. (ASI)
- Chester Community Coalition
- ESF Dream Camp Foundation
- Girls First
- Give and Go Athletics
- I Belong Philly
- Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation
- Providence Center
- Senior Adults for Greater Education
- The Enterprise Center
- The Initiative for Better Gun Violence Reporting
- Trellis for Tomorrow
- Women’s Medical Fund

“

We’ve been thinking for several years about how we could do a different, more authentic kind of evaluation. So when we learned about the RISE opportunity, we jumped on it.

Susan Glassman  
Executive Director, The Wagner Free Institute of Science

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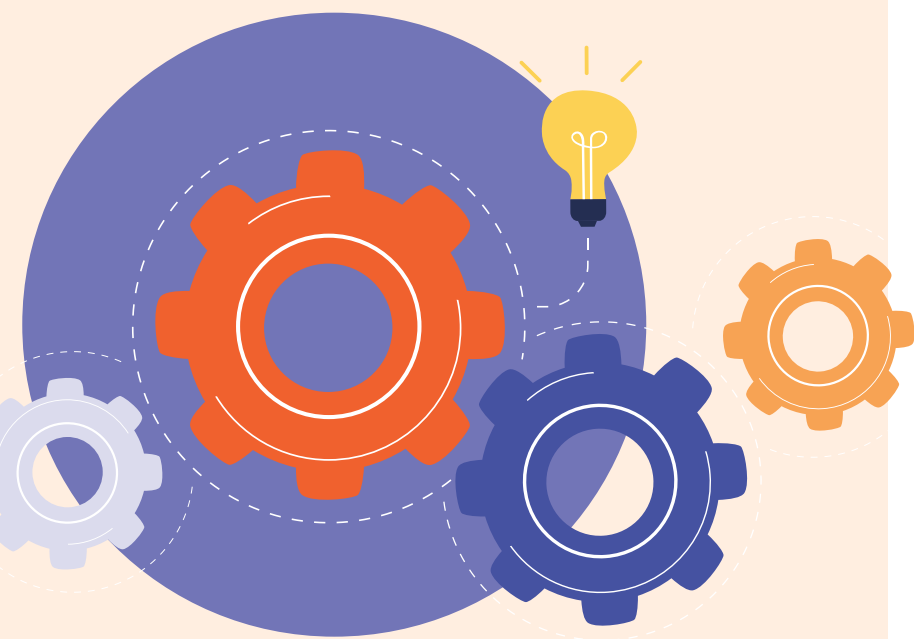
We’re literally using everything that RISE has provided ... they break things down in such a way that you can understand it, that’s easy and relatable.

Suheidie Santiago  
PQI Program Evaluation Coordinator, United Communities Southeast Philadelphia





# THANK YOU PARTNERS



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RISE absolutely has impacted the way that we are empowering the youth we really seek to serve.

**Kelly Grosser**  
Chief Mission Impact Officer,  
YWCA Tri-County Area

## CO-INVESTORS



## EVALUATION PARTNER



## IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER



## CO-INVESTOR and IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER



# Building capacity for evaluation is essential.

However, we recognize this is not enough. We need to carefully examine the data and evaluation mandates largely driven by government and philanthropic organizations and how they influence evaluation culture within nonprofit organizations. Nonprofit organizations are often asked to impact outcomes that are beyond their scope of reach. They are also often restricted by data access and collection issues. We ask city, school district, and other public officials and philanthropic organizations to join us in learning from and alongside nonprofit partners about how we can better structure policy and practice to support learning, improvement, and ultimately greater impact in our communities.





# Join Us

LEARN MORE AT:  
[therisepartnership.org](http://therisepartnership.org)

**RISE**  
PARTNERSHIP

