

Map out evaluation ideas and then discuss as a group:

10 minutes: Independent work

- *Use this handout to map out current ideas for your evaluation*

20 minutes: Group discussion

- *Share current evaluation ideas*
- *Discuss challenges you have encountered or anticipate in research design and implementation. Brainstorm potential solutions.*

Part 1: Forming the research question

1) What is the issue you would like to address?

2) What is the intervention(s) you will study?

3) What outcomes are you interested in measuring? Which outcomes do you care most about?

4) Who is your study population?

5) Taking these together, what is your research question? Typically, RCT research questions take the form of, “*What is the impact of [intervention(s)] on [primary outcome] among [study population]?*”

Part 2: Diving into research design

1) In order to study this program, how would you suggest the organization allocates the intervention?

2) Who is the treatment group? Who represents the counterfactual?

3) Assuming implementation is successful, why will we be confident in the results?

Part 3: Getting into the details

1) What are your primary outcomes (see Part 1, Q3 above)? What data sources may contain data on these outcomes?

2) What process metrics do you want to measure to make sure the intervention is implemented as planned? What would you measure to make sure program implementation is successful? How would you know if the program implementation was not successful?

3) What is your sample size? How many people are in the treatment group? The control group?

4) Whose buy-in do you need to get to run an evaluation? Who are the stakeholders? How will you communicate to them about the goals of the evaluation and get all involved on the same page?

Part 4: Creating a plan for sharing results and scaling impact

Next steps would involve working with an evaluator or researcher and:

- (i) having conversations about feasibility (political feasibility based on stakeholder input and study feasibility based on sample size and design considerations)
- (ii) determining the appropriate research design (e.g. randomization protocol and consent process)
- (iii) getting IRB approval
- (iv) piloting to ensure the RCT runs smoothly
- (v) implementing the study and
- (vi) sharing results to generate policy impact.

Let's say the program is successful. Who do you want to share results with? What are potential routes to policy impact?