Innovation in Action Workshop

November 18-20, 2019
Cambridge, MA

Workshop Description

This three-day event begins with a one-day training followed by a two-day hands-on workshop on the IDEAS Impact Framework™*. The IDEAS Framework is designed to help teams develop stronger programs, optimize evaluation efforts, and engage in fast-cycle iteration in order to learn more about **how** an intervention works, **for whom**, and **in what contexts**.

The two-day workshop, immediately following and building on the Science-Based Innovation Training on day one, will provide a small, selected group of teams with an opportunity to dig deeper into the content presented during the first day and work closely with facilitators to apply that knowledge to their own work or program. This workshop is an opportunity to jumpstart the fast-cycle learning process in a personalized, small-group setting. The two days will be highly interactive, and we encourage participants to come as teams of at least three people, including the key personnel who will be involved with planning and implementation. Teams will receive targeted consultation based on their individual needs, and will also have time to connect with and learn from other project teams and experts.

The workshop will be structured around the three components of the IDEAS Impact Framework introduced in day one. During the Theory of Change session, participants will develop a set of testable beliefs about how, why, and for whom their program has an impact. Each team will identify program strategies, targets, outcomes, and moderators using the IDEAS Theory of Change template. In the Program and Materials Development session, each group will have an opportunity to review their existing program materials and plan for future development. This session will focus on building usable programs that have the potential to be implemented with fidelity in real-world settings. In the Evaluation session, each team will begin to develop a feasible evaluation plan designed to investigate the program's Theory of Change. The workshop will conclude with a session on Project Planning in which each team will create a detailed timeline for a feasibility test, pilot, or later-stage study.

* The IDEAS Impact Framework is a joint initiative of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, the University of Oregon Center for Translational Science and the University of Washington College of Education.

After the Workshop: A Note About the FOI Portfolio

Project teams who complete the workshop may choose to apply to become part of the Frontiers of Innovation (FOI) portfolio. The portfolio includes projects that are supported by FOI through ongoing consultation and, in some cases, modest financial support. The portfolio comprises projects at sites across the United States, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, the Netherlands, and the UK. These projects include feasibility studies, pilot studies, and later-stage studies, all of which are designed to evaluate and adapt innovative programs for young children and caregivers facing adversity. Each program is intended to support responsive relationships, reduce sources of stress, and/or strengthen core life skills. They are being implemented in a variety of settings (e.g., community organizations, schools, clinics) and have the potential to go to scale within public and private service delivery systems. Inclusion in the portfolio provides project teams with access to hands-on consultation to support their implementation and data collection, as well as access to a curated set of connections and activities through FOI. More information about the FOI Portfolio application process and other opportunities to learn and connect will be provided after the workshop.

Criteria for Admission to the Workshop

Participation is limited to teams with existing programs, interventions, or concrete ideas they'd like to implement that are focused on early childhood and/or building parent/caregiver capabilities.

The IDEAS Framework is based on a set of guiding principles that include precision, co-creation, fast-cycle iteration, and shared learning. Space in the workshop is limited and we are looking for projects that are aligned with these principles and have the potential to become part of the FOI portfolio.

Logistical information: The fee for participation in the three-day event (including the one-day training and two-day workshop) is $6,000 per team of 3-6 people. There is a limited amount of funding to support project teams that are unable to pay the full fee. If you feel that your financial circumstances might qualify you for a scholarship, you can request one using the scholarship request form in Appendix A of the application. You are also encouraged to seek sponsorships from funders with whom you have existing relationships. Participants are responsible for their own travel, lodging, and dinners. Breakfast, lunch, and snacks will be provided during the training and workshop.

Submission Guidelines: Please submit the application online at the following link: https://www.tfaforms.com/4689722. The subsequent pages provide the application text, which teams may use to facilitate collaboration while preparing the application.

Submission Due Date: September 16, 2019 at 5:00 PM (EDT).

Contact Us: Please contact DevelopingChild_FOI@harvard.edu with any questions about this application.

Innovation in Action Workshop Application

Program/Intervention Name:

Workshop Team

Teams may include up to six people. Please list the following information for each member of the team who will attend the workshop. Note that the list of people does not need to be final at the time you apply. We encourage teams to consider co-creation in selecting team members to attend.

- Name:
- Organization:
- Primary Work Setting: (please select one)
  - Community-Based Organization or Nonprofit
  - Health Care Setting
  - Philanthropic organization
  - Policy and Systems
  - School or early learning setting
  - Social Entrepreneur/Business
  - University or research institution
  - Other
- Title:
- Role on Team:
- Email address:
- City:
- State/Province:
- Country:
- Has this person previously attended a Science-Based Innovation Training by the Harvard Center on the Developing Child?

Please read all the questions before responding and be sure to answer all parts of each question. Please keep your responses concise: the word limit for each question is 200 words.

Program Description

1. In one paragraph, please describe the specific program or intervention you would like to focus on at the workshop. Paint a picture for the reader of what this program looks like in practice. Include, if applicable: 1) for whom it is designed and by whom it is implemented, 2) what the program entails, 3) where it takes place (e.g., home, early learning setting, online), and 4) the duration/number of sessions.

2. Please select the options below that best match the specifics of your program.

- Does your program directly engage caregivers?
    - o If yes, please select the option(s) that best describes the type of caregivers your program engages.
        - Primary in-home caregiver(s) (e.g., parent, grandparent, kin, couples)
        - Mothers (program is specifically designed to support mothers)
        - Fathers (program is specifically designed to support fathers)
        - Pregnant women
        - Early Learning Providers (e.g., daycare and/or preschool teachers)
        - Other

- Does your program directly engage children?
    - o If yes, please select the option(s) that best describes the age range of children your program engages.
        - Infant (0-1 years)
        - Toddler (1-3 years)
        - PreK-K (4-6 years)
        - Other

- Please select the option(s) that best describes the setting in which your program is delivered.
    - Home
    - Caregiver-Focused Group (out-of-home)
    - Childcare
    - School
    - Clinic or Pediatric
    - Community
    - Online
    - Other

3. Please list the geographical location(s) where this program is/will be implemented (i.e., city, state or region, and country).

4. Please provide a brief summary of how the program came to be and any related implementation and evaluation work done to date. For instance, was this developed by your team or another developer?

5. Please describe what is unique and innovative about your program and why you believe it has the potential to be more impactful than other programs.

6. Please describe your thoughts on this program's potential for scalability. That is, if it is proven to be effective, how feasible it would be to implement it at scale to reach a larger population of children and families.

The following questions are related to the IDEAS Impact Framework Guiding Principles. Please visit the [website](#) for more information about each.

Precision

The IDEAS Framework strives to achieve a high degree of precision in the development and evaluation process. We are looking for teams interested in generating knowledge about how a program works, who benefits most (and least), and in what contexts.

7. Within that frame, what are the specific questions your team is interested in answering about how your program works, for whom, and in what contexts?

Fast-Cycle Iteration

The IDEAS Framework approach to fast-cycle iteration begins with relatively small-scale studies to establish feasibility and begin to explore a program's theory of change. Each cycle is an opportunity to make refinements, incorporate learning, and move toward higher levels of evidence at an accelerated pace.

8. Please describe your team's interest in and ability to engage in fast-cycle iteration.

Co-Creation

Co-creation refers to bringing together different parties to produce a mutually-valued outcome. The IDEAS Framework approach to co-creation brings together researchers, practitioners, and/or community members to develop, implement, and test new ideas.

9. Please describe how your team either has engaged and/or plans to engage in co-creation. Note how the team who attends the workshop will embody co-creation.

Shared Learning

The [Frontiers of Innovation](#) (FOI) network is a community of innovation, with opportunities for learning across projects and sites.

10. Please describe your team's interest in shared learning. After the workshop, if you were to apply to become part of the FOI Portfolio, would you be interested in taking part in shared learning activities such as participating in a webinar series or engaging with an online learning community?

Additional Information

11. Is there anything else you want us to know about your program? *(optional)*

12. How did your team hear about the Innovation in Action Workshop?

The following two questions are designed to help us better understand the reach and impact of our own work. Your responses to these two questions will NOT be factored into workshop admission decisions.

13. How many participants does your program or intervention (i.e., the program you would like to focus on in the workshop) serve annually? Please indicate whether your participants are children, caregivers, or both. If your program has not previously been implemented, please estimate the target number of participants you plan to serve in the upcoming year.

14. How many children and/or families does your broader organization(s) serve annually? Please indicate whether this includes children, caregivers, or both. If there are multiple organizations involved with your program, please list the numbers for each organization.

Appendix A

Scholarship Request Form

The fee for participation in the three-day event is $6,000 per team of 3-6 people. This fee is intended to help the Center on the Developing Child cover the costs associated with the workshop. FOI has a limited amount of funding to support project teams that are unable to pay the full fee. If you feel that your financial circumstances might qualify you for a scholarship, your team can request one by responding to the questions below. Please note that submission of this form does not guarantee acceptance to the workshop nor does it guarantee a scholarship. Should your team be accepted into the workshop, you will be notified of any scholarship awards in your acceptance letter. If you seek and are awarded funding from other sources, we ask that you notify us of your award.

Scholarship Request

1. For how much of the fee are you requesting assistance?

2. Please describe any circumstances that you would like the FOI team to consider when reviewing your request for a scholarship.