

P-5 Innovation Fund TA



**Final Report:
2021**

An overview of Prenatal to Five Innovation Fund technical assistance (TA), lessons learned, and impacts towards scale and sustainability

Introduction

P-5 Innovation Fund

In 2018, Best Starts for Kids' (BSK) [Prenatal to Five Innovation Fund](#) began partnering with 13 community organizations across King County seeking to implement new or adapted approaches to support young children, caregivers and families, and service providers. From the beginning of this project, BSK brought our technical assistance (TA) team on board to serve as capacity builders. In our roles as capacity builders, we have had the opportunity to support these community-led efforts through TA grounded in the [IDEAS Impact Framework](#). Our support has included the facilitation of individualized TA and shared learning activities across three phases of innovation: Development and Planning, Implementation, and Scale and Sustainability. We have also provided cross-cutting support for ongoing evaluation and responsive adaptation.



Innovation Teams

[The Arc of King County](#) | [The Inclusion Academy](#)
[Eastside Pathways](#) and [NISO](#) | [Eastside Early Learning Facilitators Project \(EELF\)](#)
[India Association of Western Washington](#) | [Healthy Starts & New Beginnings](#)
[Look, Listen and Learn TV](#)
[Mother Africa](#) | [Best4Babies](#)
[Navos](#) | [Attachment Vitamins](#)
[North Seattle College](#) | [Early Childhood Education Student Success Project](#)
[Open Doors for Multicultural Families & Children's Therapy Center](#) | [The Woven Together Project](#)
[Partners for Our Children & Cowlitz Tribal Health Services](#) | [Strive Adaption](#)
[Rainier Valley Midwives](#) | [Birth Bundle Project](#)
[Somali Family Safety Task Force](#) | [Sheeko Sheeko](#)
[Tiny Trees Preschool](#) | [\(re\)Defining the Outdoors](#)
[Zeno and Horn of Africa Services](#) | [Family Child Care Early Math Innovation](#)



Executive Summary

The goals of this report are to: 1) provide a brief overview of the different phases of TA support across the P-5 Innovation Fund and 2) to share evaluation data and lessons learned about our TA during the scale and sustainability phase. We were particularly interested in learning about the TA experience from innovation teams' perspectives. We draw on data from evaluations of cross-team meetings, evaluations of individualized TA, semi-annual narrative interviews, and innovation teams' scale and sustainability plans. We found that innovation teams valued TAs' supports focused on scale and sustainability, including supporting the creation of meaningful plans, sharing connections and examples, working through theories of change, and offering feedback and suggestions. Innovation teams also reported that TA was accessible and adaptable and promoted equity and inclusion within innovations.

TA Overview

2 TA Partners

Children's Home Society of Washington and University of Washington, in collaboration with BSK

2.5 Years

August 2018 through December 2021

3 Main Phases

1) Development and planning, 2) Implementation, and 3) Scale and sustainability, with cross-cutting support for ongoing evaluation and responsive adaptation

Scale & Sustainability

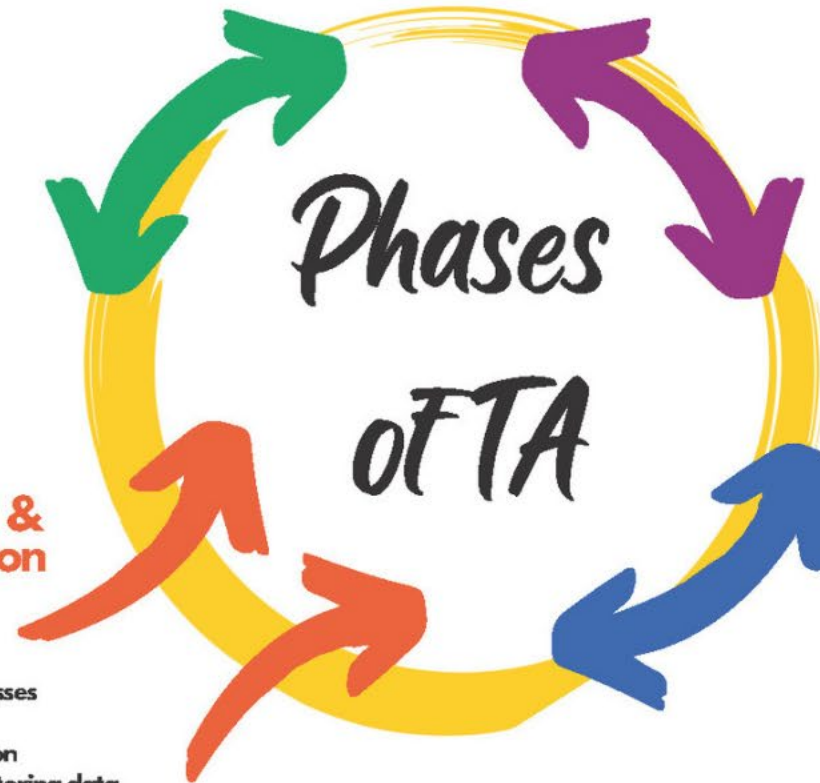
Focus Areas:

- Plan for sustainability and scale
- Materials development

On-going Evaluation & Responsive Adaptation

Focus Areas:

- Refining Evaluation Plan
- Evaluation/Data Policies and processes
- Selecting and Adapting Measures
- Participant recruitment and retention
- Data privacy, participant consent, storing data
- Selecting or creating a database
- Data entry, analysis, interpretation and reflection
- Using data to inform decision making, adapt and improve quality
- Creating reports, visualizing data, storytelling and presenting data



Development & Planning

Focus Areas:

- Introduction to the IDEAS Impact Framework and Implementation Science principles
- Community engagement, co-creation and accountability
- Equity and social justice
- Theory of Change
- Evaluation Plan
- Implementation Materials

Implementation

Focus Areas:

- Program/project management
- Staff hiring, training and development
- Participant outreach and engagement
- Materials development

Supporting Sustainability and Scale

Innovation Teams developed separate Scale and Sustainability plans, which included context setting (e.g., mission statement, lessons learned in Phases 1-3), and 1-3 goals each with 1-3 actions steps for 2021.

TAs supported this process by...

- Sharing guidelines and potential templates for plans
- Introducing strategic planning activities like SMART goals, Vision Canvas, and SWOC analysis at March 2021 Cross-team meeting
- Leading tailored strategic planning activities, brainstorming options for scale, and reviewing and providing detailed feedback on drafts of plans in individualized TA meetings
- Inviting guest speak, Aileen Balahadia from Neighbor 2 Neighbor, to discuss fundraising at July 2021 Cross-team meeting

Plans for Sustainability & Scale



What is one way that TA has supported your team's ability to plan for scale and sustainability?

- *"Talking about the theory of change and thinking about our implementation plan."*
- *"By cross-sharing strategies and ideas from their own network and within the innovation team."*
- *"[Our TA] didn't come and insert their ideas but supported with what we thought was best based on our experiences."*
- *"Our TA supported us in our Strategic Plan's changes, updates, and final direction based on our program needs."*

Evaluation of TA

Connections

of times team member connected with their TA for individualized assistance through meetings, email or calls

6 or more **73%**

2-5 **28%**

Accessibility & Adaptability

My TA's communication has been accessible and adaptable to our team's cultures, strengths, needs and ideas.

Strongly agree **60%**

Agree **40%**

Equity & Inclusion

My TA has supported discussions to promote equity and inclusion within our innovation.

Strongly agree **50%**

Agree **50%**

As a result of the interactions with our TA...	Strongly agree	Agree
Our team's knowledge around creating evaluation plans increased	27%	73%
Our team's knowledge/skills to support scaling and sustaining our project increased	18%	82%
Our team was able to create meaningful and relevant plans for scale and sustainability	27%	73%

What is one way that TA could have better supported your team's ability to plan for scale and sustainability?

"Our original TA had a great way of bringing us back to Theory of Change from time to time. I think we have missed this in the Phase 4."

Please share any additional thoughts and/or feedback about the technical assistance you have received.

"I enjoyed having the monthly check-ins to be sure we stayed on task with grant requests, deadlines and procedures. These requests didn't get buried, nor were they surprises as we were guided and supported through these steps."