

Engaging Providers to Develop and Test Strategies to Enhance Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care

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Enhancing Informal Child Care in Detroit

- **What is the project's goal?**
 - Identify, test, and implement promising strategies to meet the needs of informal / FFN caregivers and enhance child and family well-being in Southwest Detroit
- **Who is involved?**
 - Community partners: Three nonprofit organizations based in Southwest Detroit that work with parents and caregivers
 - Research organization: Mathematica
 - Funder: W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- **What are the project's activities?**
 - Use a continuous quality improvement framework called “Learn, Innovate, Improve” (LI²) to develop and test promising strategies
 - Build a learning collaborative
 - Conduct a formative evaluation

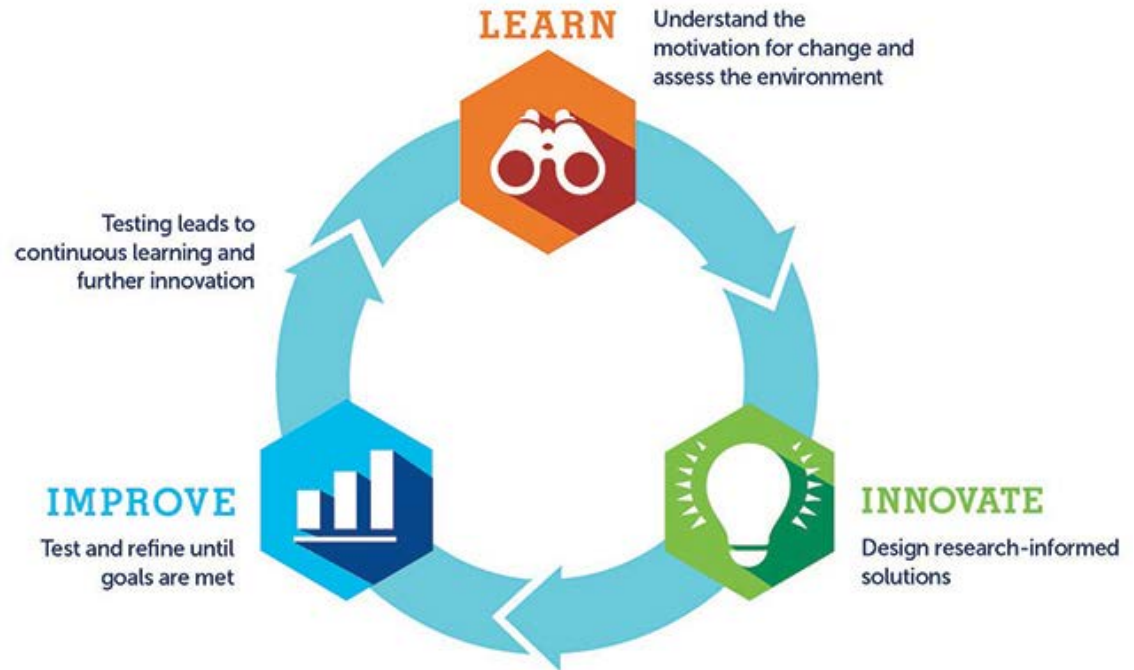
Who are the community partners?

- **Organization 1 offers leadership development programs for residents of Southwest Detroit to advocate for education and public safety**
- **Organization 2 offers services and educational programs for youth, families, and formerly incarcerated individuals, focusing on the Hispanic / Latino population of Southwest Detroit**
- **Organization 3 offers in- and out-of-school youth arts programs and trains teaching artists to work in preschool classrooms across Detroit**

Project activities

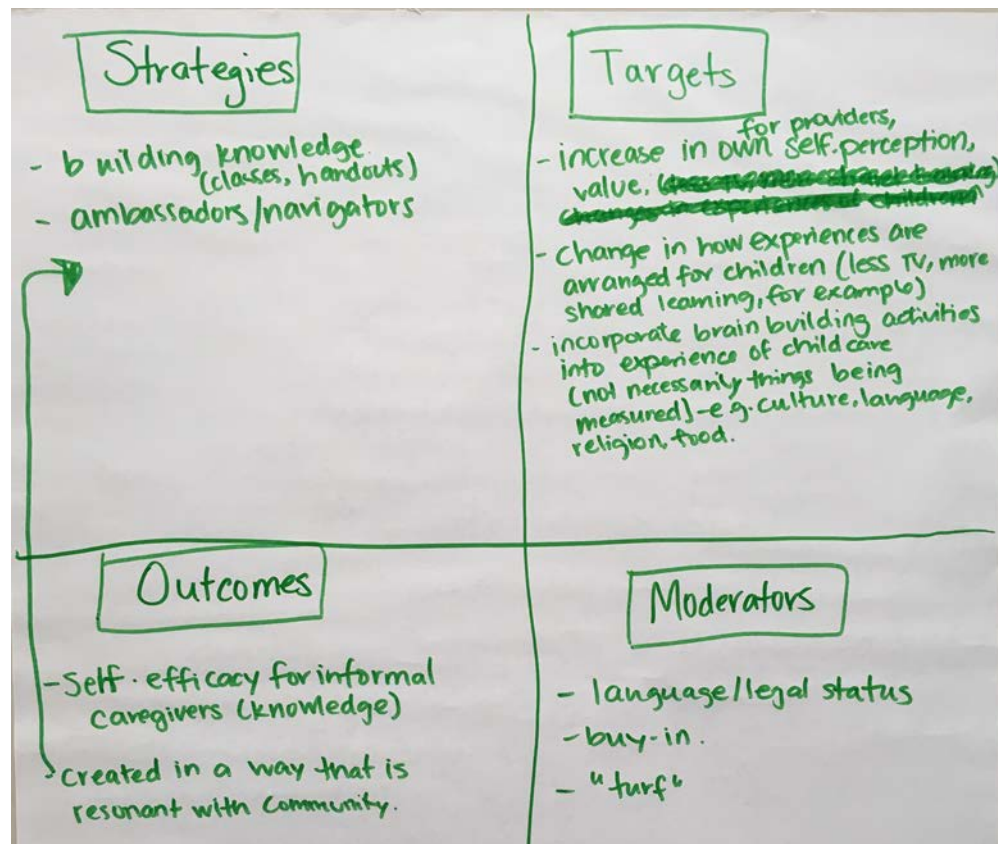
Learn, Innovate, Improve (LI²)

- **Learn:** Gather information to understand the motivation for change
- **Innovate:** Develop solutions by helping program staff think intentionally about what outcomes they seek and what activities will lead to those outcomes
- **Improve:** Refine solutions through iterative testing



Program technical assistance

- Using LI² framework, Mathematica staff provide one-on-one technical assistance to each community partner
- Goal: Help community partners identify promising strategies, how to implement strategies, and how to measure success



The learning collaborative

- **Five organizations working together to enhance informal child care in Southwest Detroit**



Southwest Detroit
Collaborative to
**Support Community
Caregivers & Children**

Learning collaborative meetings

- Series of in-person meetings that include staff from all organizations in the collaborative

#1. One-Word Goal

- improvement
- knowledge for community
- equality
- enterprise, sustainability, re-
- create equity |
- equity
- enhance quality |
- community response.
- empowerment + readiness
- shift
- uplift |

#2a. Who are we

- strategists + visionaries
- Solution-aries |
- the village |
- powerful
- collective of leaders
- dedicated
- empowered team
- first step ^{on learning collaborative} | ?
- Change makers | ?
- women | parents | moms | ?
- parents/moms
- champions + trailblazers
- all for one

#2b. What is important to us?

- recognizing + uplifting marginalized communities
- shifting priorities
- eliminating barriers to high-quality care
- humility
- children
- equity, fair
- staying you
- empathy
- brain develop
- Culturally ^{ref} _{re}
- welcoming

#2c. How do we connect?

- multiple modes (big/small grp mtgs, webinars)
- informal in-person with FOOD/COFFEE
- in-person, word of mouth, text (social media)
- build mechanism of trust / trust factor.
- model collaborations
- connect in clarity/transparency
- role clarity
- explicit intent

The formative evaluation: Research questions

- **Have the community partners improved their capacity to work with informal caregivers?**
- **Do informal caregivers working with the community partners have better access to resources than they did before participating in community partners' programs? Have they used additional resources? If so, which ones?**
- **Have caregivers improved their knowledge of child development through working with community partners? Have other aspects of the quality of care they provide improved?**
- **Has caregiver well-being improved as a result of the strategies the community partners have implemented? Do they have more social support? Do they feel less isolated?**
- **Did using the LI² framework support community partners to develop and test strategies to enhance the quality of informal child care in Detroit? What did community partners and informal caregivers like about the experience? What would they do differently next time?**

The formative evaluation: Data sources

- **Interviews with staff from community partners**
 - Program strategies to engage caregivers
 - Activities or services offered
 - Number of informal caregivers who participate
- **Focus groups with informal caregivers**
 - Experiences providing child care
 - Participation in community partner program activities and services
 - Additional resources needed
- **Questionnaires for informal caregivers**
 - Knowledge of child development
 - Level of social support / feelings of isolation

Engaging providers through working with community partners

- **Strategies to engage providers differ by partner**
 - Identifying FFN caregivers from existing participant lists
 - Recruiting new participants to develop roster of FFN caregivers
- **Defining FFN care and engaging FFN caregivers can be challenging**

Engaging community partners and providers in evaluation

- **Clarify from the outset how findings will be used**
- **Seek input on key evaluation outcomes**
- **Ensure community partners and providers are comfortable with data collection activities**
- **Disseminate findings in accessible formats**

Other work involving FFN providers

- **Measuring Quality in Family, Friend, and Neighbor Child Care Settings**
- **Funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation**
- **Under a subcontract with Engage R+D, Mathematica is piloting the Quality of Caregiver-Child Interaction for Infants and Toddlers (Q-CCIIT) measure in FFN playgroups**

For more information

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