

# An Approach to Measuring Implementation from the ECE-ICHQ Project

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# Assessing the Implementation and Cost of High Quality Early Care and Education (ECE-ICHQ)

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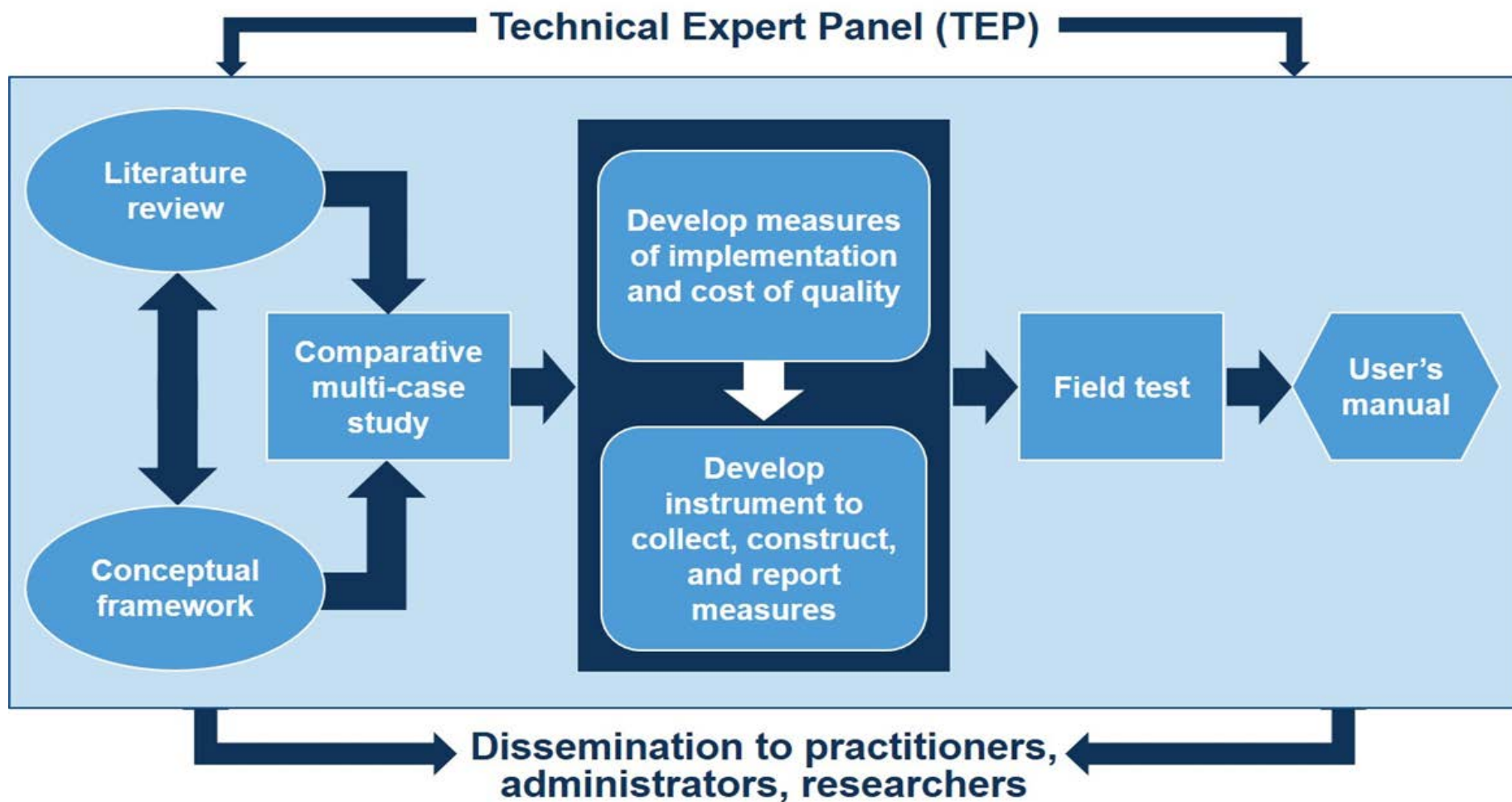
- **Project overview**
- **Focus of this presentation is on one of the project's research questions**
  - **What are the key implementation factors necessary to deliver high quality center-based ECE services?**

# ECE-ICHQ Project Overview

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- **Launched with OPRE support in October 2014**
- **Premise**
  - Centers vary in their investments in and capacities to implement quality features and practices
  - Need for measures to target resources to support quality
- **Project goals**
  - Develop measures of implementation and cost of education and care within centers serving children 0-5
  - Produce and disseminate an instrument to guide the collection, development, and reporting of the measures for a broad range of users

# ECE-ICHQ Task Overview



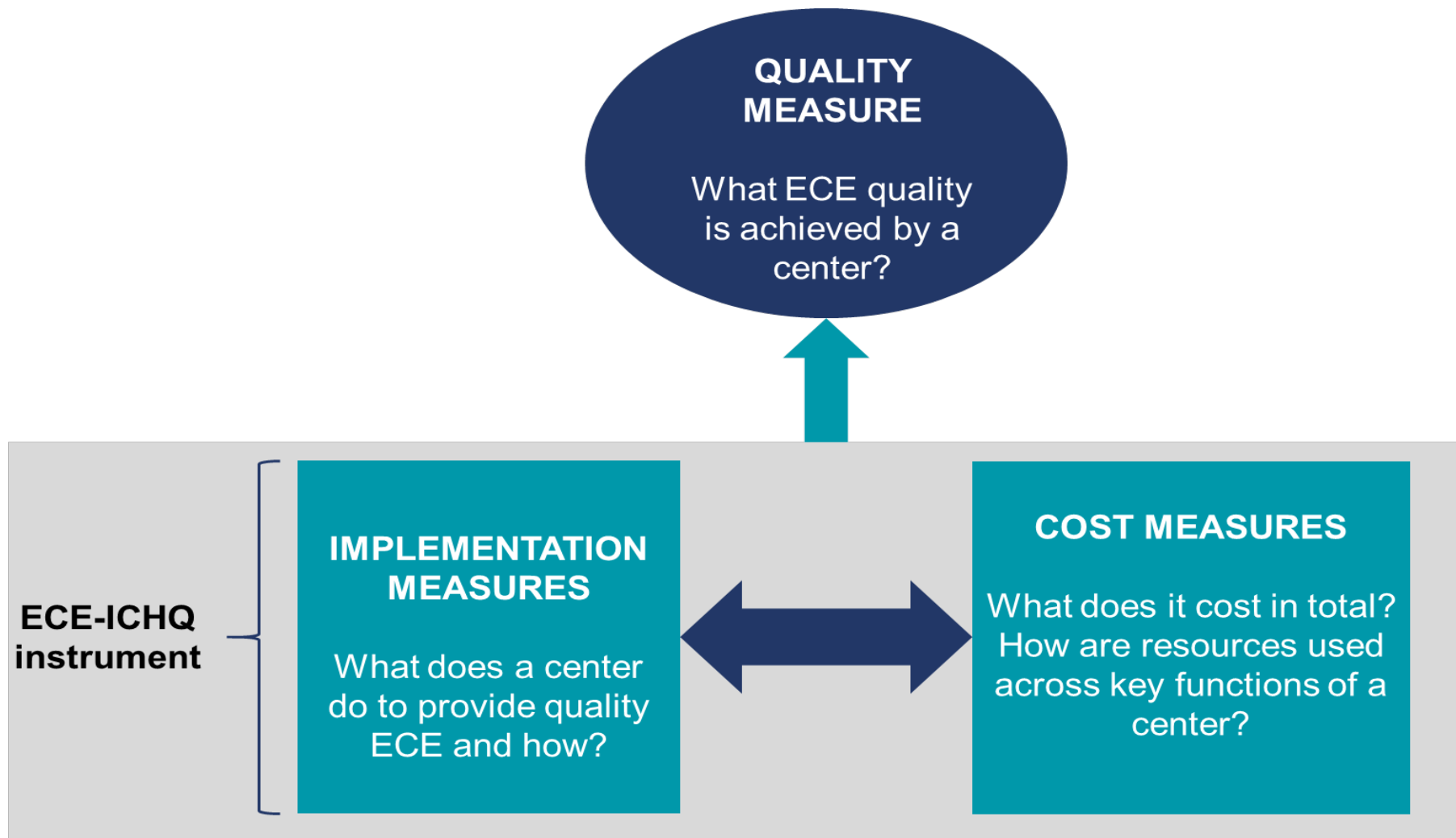
# What ECE-ICHQ Will Measure

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- ***What* a center does to support quality**
  - How features are defined (teacher-child ratios, group size, staff qualifications)
  - What practices are in place (curriculum use, child assessment)
- ***How* quality features and practices are supported and implemented within a center**
- ***How much* the ECE services cost and how resources are allocated within the center**

# ECE Quality and ECE-ICHQ Measures

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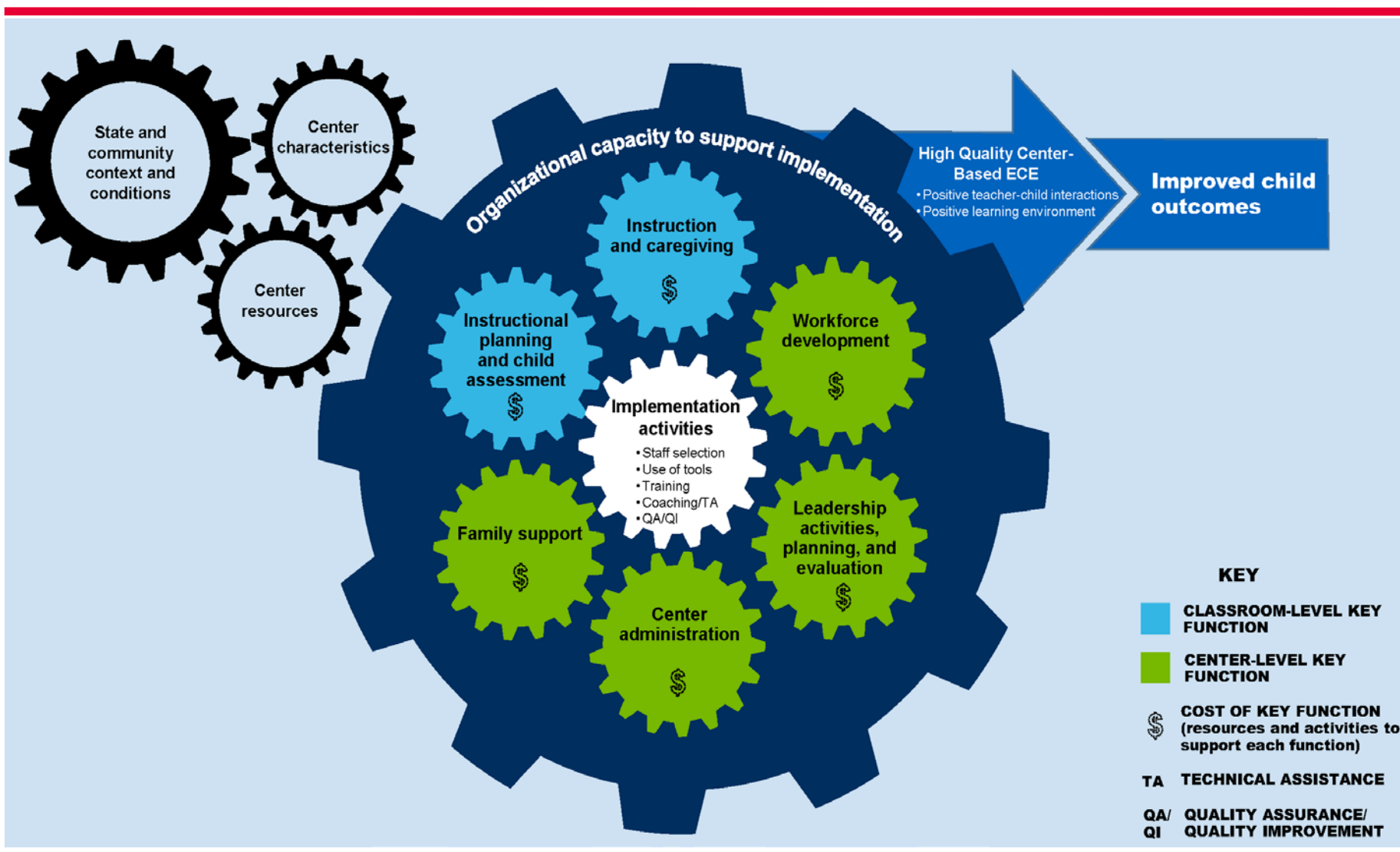


# Goals in Assessing Implementation

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- **Measure variations in organizational capacity to support implementation**
- **Measure variations in implementation activities that can make quality happen**
- **Examine the relationship between implementation and costs**

# Draft ECE-ICHQ Conceptual Framework





# Organizational Capacity Factors that Support Implementation

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- **Openness to change**
  - Ability to adjust or develop policies and procedures
  - Use of staff input
- **Work climate**
  - Shared goals and decision making
  - Frequent and open communication
- **Supports and infrastructure**
  - Leadership
  - Accountability
  - Commitment of resources

# What Do We Know About Organizational Capacity Factors?

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- **Unique contribution of any one factor over another is not known**
- **No specific insight into the level or potential thresholds at which factors may be most influential or in what combination to support positive outcomes**
- **The combination of organizational factors necessary for successful implementation may vary based on context**

# Implementation Activities that Can Make Quality Happen

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- **Staff selection**
- **Selection and use of tools (such as, standardized assessments, curriculum, performance appraisal forms)**
- **Training**
- **Coaching and technical assistance**
- **Quality assurance/quality improvement**
  - **Activities include supervision, staff performance, organization performance, feedback mechanisms, data-based decision making**

# What to Measure to Capture Implementation Variation?

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- **Intentionality and consistency of implementation activities**
- **Prevalence of activities within a center**
  - Targeted to specific staff
  - Targeted to specific classrooms or age groups
  - Comprehensive throughout the entire center
- **Stage of implementation**
  - Preparation or initial implementation, steady-state implementation

# Implementation Data Collection Approach

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- **Data collection tools structured around elements of the conceptual framework**
- **Data collection methods and tools**
  - Document review
  - Self-administered questionnaire
  - Interviews with center director and education manager
- **No plan for observational tools**

# Considerations for ECE-ICHO

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- **Different combinations of organizational capacity factors and implementation activities can affect successful implementation**
  - Need to start broad and refine
  - Concern about burden on programs and staff
- **Can measure “how” but limited in ability to measure “how well”**
- **Composition of or thresholds for factors key to successful implementation are not known**
  - What type of measure(s) to produce?

# ECE-ICHQ Project Contacts

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