

Evidence For ImprovementSM

Professional Learning

Improvement networks engage in complex work to advance their goals, and they can often struggle to organize and complete the analytic tasks integral to improvement. Network leaders must navigate the challenges presented in these complex contexts in order to build and sustain high-functioning learning systems. Analytic partnerships that can help make visible the work and impact of a network to its leaders stand to significantly advance the learning within a network.

Evidence for ImprovementSM course introduces an analytic framework that clarifies and aligns the work of an improvement network. Through the course, individuals who support the analytic activities of networks and network leaders will learn how to use the framework to consider a network's activity as it relates to the working theory of improvement, collaboration among partners, concerns about scaling, and interaction with the environmental context. Course activities emphasize the importance of simultaneously engaging with the work in each of these areas, as well as the implications that doing so has for the collaboration between network leaders and an analytic partner(s).

WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE FOR IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK?

Evidence for Improvement (EFI) is an integrated approach that explains how a variety of tools and practices drawn from diverse forms of program evaluation can inform the leaders of improvement networks in their work of advancing productive change. The framework conceptualizes the work of a network at three nested levels that can each be described and measured. The EFI framework is designed to enhance a network's internal learning processes, which can, in turn, lead to more positive impacts for educators and students.

WHAT ARE IMPROVEMENT NETWORKS?

The improvement networks described by the EFI framework have two defining characteristics. First, they are communities of shared accomplishment; improvement networks bring together participants who are committed to advancing a collective goal. Second, these communities are learning their way into improvement. This learning orientation means that, rather than implementing a known solution, these networks expect to study their problem, learn through such systematic inquiry, and continuously refine the changes that they make. The EFI framework reflects the importance of drawing on a rich body of evidence to inform a network's practices over time and to advance the network's efforts to improve outcomes across diverse contexts and student populations.



WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Through this course, participants will:

- Understand the EFI framework
- Identify key approaches, techniques, and tools used by analytic partners at each of the four areas of inquiry—working theory of improvement, collaboration among partners, concerns about scaling, and interaction with the environmental context—and have an introductory understanding of how they are applied
- Describe how and why analyzing each of the improvement network levels—environmental contexts, improvement enterprise, and working theory of improvement—is important to a well-functioning improvement effort
- Articulate the role of analytic partners and how that role differs from that of traditional evaluators

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

This is an interactive workshop that is offered virtually as three half-day sessions. Sessions include hands-on activities, small group discussions, and opportunities for individual reflection.

Registration for this course is \$995 per person.

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

This course is designed for individuals who support the analytic activities of a network, network leaders, and evaluation professionals. Analytic partners and network leaders who are currently collaborating may find it particularly useful to attend together because the course includes opportunities to reflect on current practices and consider new ways for evidence to be used to inform activities at each of the improvement network levels.

Participants should have basic knowledge of improvement science (e.g., engaged in an improvement effort, attended a Carnegie Summit on Improvement in Education, completed Introduction to Networked Improvement BasicsSM) or familiarity with another continuous improvement methodology prior to attending.

Upcoming course dates and registration for **Evidence for ImprovementSM** are available in the Professional Learning section of the Carnegie Foundation website at www.carnegiefoundation.org/professional-learning.

There you can also learn more about the Carnegie Foundation and its other professional learning courses and sign up to receive updates about future opportunities.

For more information about this course, please contact professionallearning@carnegiefoundation.org.



Carnegie Foundation
for the Advancement of Teaching

51 Vista Lane, Stanford CA 94305
650-566-5100
www.carnegiefoundation.org

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching is committed to solving long-standing inequities in educational outcomes. The Foundation addresses problems that impact large numbers of students; tests innovations on the ground; understands what works, why, and in what contexts; and shares what it learns for use by others. In so doing, Carnegie integrates the discipline of improvement science and the use of structured improvement networks to build the education field's capacity to improve.