

Evaluating Transformative Change in Community Colleges

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Transformative Change Initiative

Trade Adjustment Act Community Community College Career Training Act

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (2009) - Largest federal investment in community colleges - ~\$2B
- Workforce / CTE programs of study for TAA-eligible workers and other low-skilled adults
- Strategies to improve outcomes: retention, completion, credentials, and employment



TAACCCT seeks to...

- “Fund the development of innovative programs or replication of evidence-based strategies and award grants to eligible institutions to...
 - [Use] data to continuously assess the effectiveness of their strategies in order to improve their programming [and]...
 - Build knowledge about effective practices so that, in the future, institutions can replicate practices that are effective and identify and strengthen practices in need of improvement.”

(TAACCCT Round One SGA, p. 2-3)

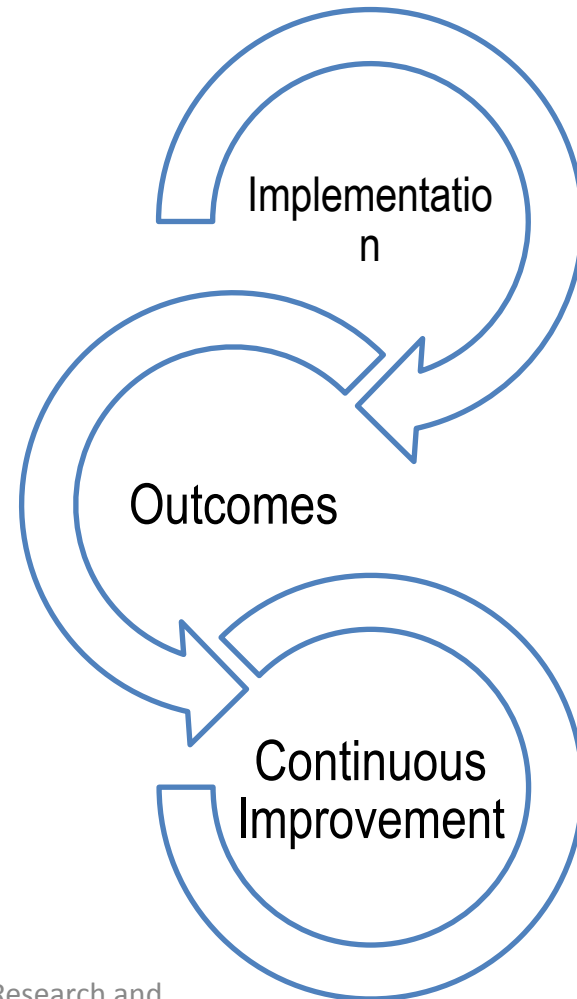


Three Linked Evaluations

Implementation evaluation of the core strategies and programs of study

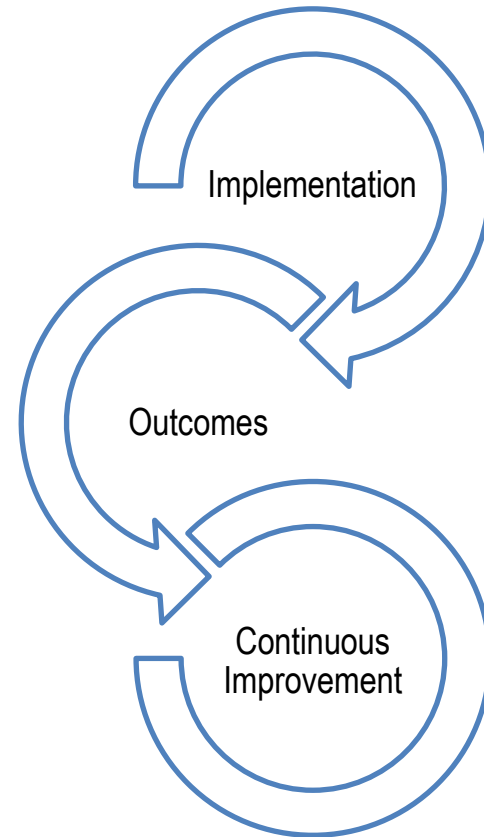
Impact Evaluation of short- and longer-term education and employment outcomes

Continuous Improvement and enhanced use of data to support capacity building and sustainability



In reality...

Performance Reporting



Transformative Change Initiative

Dedicated to assisting community colleges to scale up innovations that improve student outcomes and program, organization, and system performance.



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The Transformative Change Initiative
Office of Community College Research and Leadership and The Collaboratory

“Transformative Change” is...



- Strategies
- Programs of Study
- Policy
- System Change

Without sacrificing historic commitment to access, equity and opportunity



Evaluation Collaborative

- Network of third party evaluators of TAACCCT grants (80 and growing)
- Dedicated to evaluation aligned with transformative change
 - Meetings, Blogs, Profiles



This Session

- Examine the tensions between “rigorous” evaluation and other evaluation designs (developmental, continuous improvement)
- Share experiences and insights into how evaluation designs are influencing the kinds of transformative change that could be associated with TAACCCT



Discussion Questions

- How are you balancing “rigorous evaluation” with “capacity building”?
- How are you overcoming the performance = scorekeeping orientation of the TAACCCT grant?
- How are you integrating continuous improvement, sustainability, scaling, etc. into your evaluation?
- What would you like to do to evaluate TAACCCT that you have not been able to do so far?



What Do You Think?



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Learn more at http://occr.illinois.edu/projects/transformational_change/



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