Transformative Change
Framing the Evaluation

The purpose of this tool is to act as a facilitation guide on the use of evaluative data to facilitate scaling the innovation. This tool is associated with the following guiding principle:

Scaling of transformative change will occur if evidence collected through ongoing and responsive evaluation is used strategically.

This tool is designed to guide a discussion of stakeholders to framework evaluation of the innovation(s) that are being scaled. This group discussion is designed to help participants to determine how they will use evaluative evidence and what types of evaluation is important for the scaling project.

In a meeting of key stakeholders, use the following questions to discuss what has been learned through evaluation of the innovation(s). It is important to include a variety of stakeholders in this conversation, including, if possible, internal and external evaluators who have worked on the innovation(s), individuals familiar with implementation of the innovation(s), and individuals who will be impacted by the innovation(s) as it scales.

Framing the Evaluation Questions

1. How will evaluation be used to assess the scaling of the innovation? Who will use this information, and how will it contribute to the scaling process?

2. Who will be engaged in the evaluation of the scaling process? Will third party evaluators, administration, faculty, institutional research, and others be involved? What will their roles be?

3. How can the guiding principles in the Transformative Change Initiative (TCI) Framework be used to guide and support this evaluation?

4. How will you know if the innovation(s) is having (and continuing to have) a positive impact on students’ experiences and outcomes as it is adopted and adapted in new contexts?
5. What data are necessary to measure the spread and endurance (scale and sustainability) of the innovation(s)? What data are necessary to measure the impact of the innovation(s) as it is scaled?

6. What evaluation design (e.g., developmental, formative/summative, quasi-experimental, experimental, surveys, mixed-methods) will be used to evaluate the implementation and impact of the innovation(s) as it is scaled?

7. What resources will be needed to evaluate the scaling of the innovation?

After discussing the group’s responses, write a short summary that can be used as a framework for developing an evaluation plan. Based on this summary develop an action plan that outlines the first 2-4 steps in the evaluation process, and a timeline for each step. Finally identify a regular interval to review progress toward these initial steps and to plan future steps.

For reading/resources on Transformative Change, see the Transformative Change Initiative booklet: http://occrl.illinois.edu/files/Projects/CCTCI/2014-tci-booklet.pdf