

"Evidence-based program" means a program with either impact evidence or implementation evidence that is relevant and credible and has an informed rationale.

"Evidence-building program" means a program that has an informed rationale and is undergoing an impact evaluation or implementation evaluation that is relevant and credible.

"Impact evidence" means that the full body of evidence for a program shows that the program was very likely to have caused improvement on an important outcome in similar contexts and for similar populations, based on one of the following categories of evaluation findings:

- Category A: At least three well-designed and implemented quasi-experimental or experimental design studies from more than one site that show the program caused a statistically significant positive effect on an important outcome.
- Category B: One or two well-designed and implemented quasi-experimental or experimental design studies that show the program caused a statistically significant positive effect on an important outcome.

"Implementation evidence" means a program has one or more well-designed evaluations using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods designs that indicate, in similar contexts and for similar populations, how well the program has been implemented, barriers that have been experienced during implementation, who the program has served, cost of implementing, who values the program, non-causal results associated with program implementation, and/or other information that can be useful for program improvement and successful implementation in other settings.

"Impact evaluation" means an evaluation of effectiveness through a method that may result in the program meeting the impact evidence definition above.

"Implementation evaluation" means an effort to study how a program is being implemented and the conditions under which a program is likely to be successful.

"Informed rationale" means the reasoning (such as a theory of change, logic model or narrative description) behind why a program is likely to improve important outcomes in similar contexts and for similar populations, based on research and input from participants and relevant stakeholders.

"Program" means an activity, strategy, intervention, practice or policy that has defined core features.