CONTEXT OF THE CCL PROJECT

- Improvement methods that focus on promoting sustained organizational change hold promise for early care and education programs (ECE)

- Traditional quality improvement strategies in ECE target directors or individual teachers and classrooms

- With limited resources, it is important to understand which improvement methods are most effective in ECE programs
PURPOSE OF THE CCL PROJECT

- Assess the feasibility of implementing a Breakthrough Series Collaborative (BSC) in Head Start and child care settings

- Design an evaluation plan to examine the effectiveness of the BSC in supporting and sustaining:
  - Teacher practices
  - An organizational culture of quality improvement
  - Children’s development
Overview of the Breakthrough Series
Collaborative Methodology
BSC Maxims

“Every system is perfectly designed to achieve the results it gets”

We can learn more from collaborating than from working alone

All improvement requires change, but not all changes lead to improvement

Bridge the gap between knowledge and practice
2. Five Key Elements of a BSC

Five Key Elements of a BSC

- Multi-Level Inclusive Teams
- "The Model for Improvement"
- Faculty / Content Experts / Coaches
- Change Package (Driver Diagram)
- Shared Learning Environment
3. The Work of the Teams

The BSC Process for CCL BSC

Exploration
Select Topic

Select Participants
Select Content Experts
Pre-Work

Outreach to Potential Participants
Develop Driver Diagram

Supports
E-mail  Website  Calls  Monthly Reports  Self-Assessments  Onsite TA

Adapted from © 2001 Institute for Healthcare Improvement
Two overarching aims: increase positive social behavior in young children and reduce challenging behaviors

- SEL has well-established and evidence-based teaching practices
- SEL is an area in which instructional quality can be improved and teachers express interest in additional supports
Overview of the Culture of Continuous Learning (CCL) Feasibility Study
FEASIBILITY STUDY AIMS

- Assess the feasibility of **implementing** a collaborative quality improvement strategy in child care and Head Start settings

- Examine the feasibility of achieving meaningful and measurable **proximal outcomes** of the BSC for individuals and organizations with regard to quality improvement

- **Shape recommendations** for implementation and evaluation of an expanded BSC
SAMPLE RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Implementation:
1. How do participants experience the BSC?
2. What staff qualifications and skills were best aligned with BSC activities and goals?
3. What are the costs of implementing the BSC in early care and education settings?

Proximal Outcomes:
1. In what ways do participants change their beliefs, knowledge, practice, and perceptions as a result of participating in the BSC?
2. In what ways do programs change their culture as a result of the BSC?
3. How and to what extent do quality improvements spread within ECE programs and systems, beyond just the participants in the BSC team?
THANK YOU!

For more information:

Elizabeth Shuey, OPRE  Elizabeth.Shuey@acf.hhs.gov

Kathryn Tout, Child Trends  ktout@childtrends.org