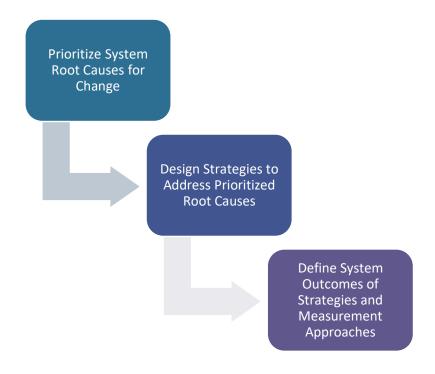
Systems Building/Change Evaluation & Measurement Workbook

Use this workbook to define system outcomes you are aiming to bring about through your strategies related to system root causes affecting the health and wellbeing of children and families in your region. The workbook can also help with selecting measurement approaches to evaluate changes in these system root causes. See the NCPC Summer Institute for Systems Building series for details on how to understand and change system root causes affecting local child and family outcomes.

The guide is organized into the following three sections.



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Assess and Prioritize System Root Causes

Use the System Assessment process to understand how conditions within programs, organizations, systems, and communities are helping and hindering your outcomes. This process involves the following 3 steps:

- Step 1 set boundaries around the system you are hoping to understand by determining which child/family outcomes and disparities will be your focus.
- Step 2 identify questions to ask about system root causes affecting your outcomes and associated disparities and the methods to ask these questions with diverse perspectives and data sources.
- Step 3 map out themes from the information you gathered in step 2 and prioritize system "leverage point" root causes to focus on in strategy design.

See the <u>NCPC Summer Institute for Systems Change Session 2 Guide</u> for more details on how to carry out the System Assessment process. See the <u>Session 3 Guide</u> for more details on how to make sense of the assessment data and prioritize leverage points for change.

Use the table below to document the priorities emerging out of your System Assessment process.

SET BOUNDARY: What child and family outcomes are showing the biggest disparities in the data for your region and are prioritized by local families and partners?	
PRIORITIZE SYSTEM ROOT CAUSES: Of the system root causes that are affecting these outcomes and disparities, which have you prioritized for change?	





Design Strategies to Address Prioritized Root Causes

Design powerful systems building and change strategies to address your prioritized leverage point root causes and improve equitable outcomes for children and families in your region. This process involves the following 3 steps:

- Step 1 Review bright spots and <u>strategy examples</u> relevant to your prioritized root causes.
- Step 2 "Ideate" systems change strategy ideas to address your prioritized root causes with diverse perspectives, drawing on powerful strategy design tips.
- Step 3 Prototype the best systems change strategy ideas with end users to refine and improve them.

See the <u>NCPC Summer Institute for Systems Change Session 4 Guide</u> for more details on how to design systems change strategies.

Use the table below to document your prioritized systems change strategies to address the root causes listed on the prior page.

Strategies	Root Causes each Strategy is Addressing (reference prior page)





Develop System Outcomes and Methods

Identify the outcomes you anticipate your strategies will likely help to bring about throughout the strategy design process. These outcomes will help you eventually test out your strategies to see if they are starting to make a difference (and then scale or redesign them depending on what you learn). Outcomes can also help to further clarify your strategy ideas. As you get clearer on what changes you want to bring about, you may find the need to adjust or expand your strategies to help bring about these outcomes.

Research Finding:

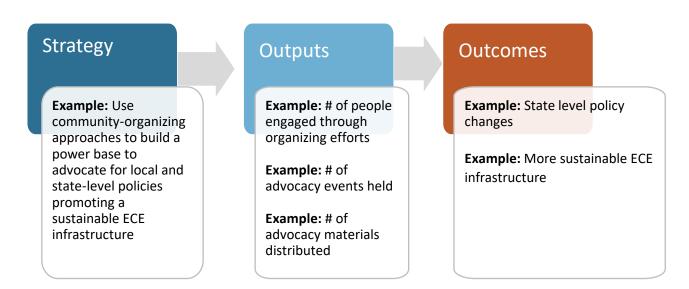
People are more likely to have buy-in around outcomes if they had a role in defining them.

What is an outcome, anyway?

An outcome is a change resulting directly or indirectly from your strategies. Outcomes tell you to what degree your change goals have shifted over time and are important for guiding decisions about whether to continue, adapt, or scale up your efforts.

Outcomes are different than outputs.

Outputs are products of the activities you carry out as part of your strategies. People often confuse outcomes and outputs (even people with a lot of experience in this work). A good habit is to always define the difference at the beginning of meetings or sessions so everyone has a common understanding and shared language.

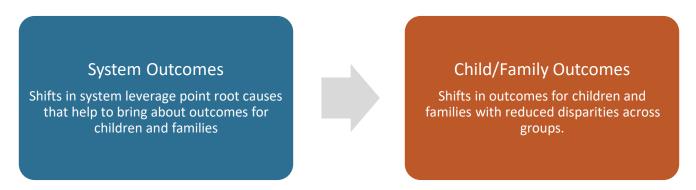






System Outcomes

Outcomes represent the changes you want to see emerge from the contribution of your strategies alongside other initiatives in the region. Your strategies can help to bring about two types of outcomes: **System Outcomes** and **Child/Family Outcomes**. You already listed your prioritized child and family outcomes on page 2. Many of the programs in your region are most likely directly focused on bringing about these child/family outcomes. In contract, system outcomes represent changes in <u>system conditions</u> that can sustainably improve child/family outcomes for all children and families – not just those reached by programs. These outcomes are the focus of your systems change strategies.



How can you define system Outcomes? Flip your prioritized system root causes into positive outcome statements. See the example below:

LEVERAGE POINTS ROOT CAUSES	SYSTEM OUTCOMES
Many organizational decision-making processes are not accessible to families from priority populations in terms of their times and locations. (Decision-Making)	More (%) organizational decision-making processes are accessible to families from priority populations in terms of their times and locations.
Information on available home visiting is not reaching families from priority populations. (Connection)	More (%) processes in place to ensure information on available home visiting is reaching families from priority populations.
There is a lack of licensable facilities in the region to expand ECE settings and/or accept special needs children. (Environments)	More (%) licensable facilities are available in the region to expand ECE settings and/or accept special needs children.

Your strategies will bring about different outcomes at different points in time depending on how long it will take for those outcomes to change.

- Short term outcomes are changes occurring 1-2 years after launching your strategies.
- Mid-term outcomes are changes occurring 3-5 years after launching your strategies.
- o Long-term outcomes are changes occurring 6 or more years after launching your strategies.

See the **Menu of Example System Outcomes** on the next page for ideas. Also draw on input from relevant perspectives, articles, books, and evaluation reports related to your prioritized leverage points/root causes to help you define your outcomes over time.





Menu of Example System Outcomes, Indicators, and Measures

Adapted from Karla et al., 2021 and ORS Impact

The table below includes example short and long term outcomes and indicators and measurement approaches for each of the system leverage point root cause areas included in the System Assessment process. Remember, outcomes are usually at a higher level of description and are useful for informing strategy and communication. Indicators are more specific and are used for actually measuring changes in the outcomes. Partnerships should connect with NCPC's Learning and Evaluation department for support around defining system outcomes and indicators.

Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators
Shared Mindse	ts	
	Increased awareness of issue among target audiences • Number of people reporting they are aware of the issue • Number of people demonstrating basic knowledge/ understanding of the strategy messaging/narrative frame related to the issue	Increased alignment of attitudes and beliefs with strategy narrative framing • Number of people using desired language to speak about issue • Number of people in agreement with narrative framing: Agree with explanation of root causes of issue; Agree with proposed solutions
Attitudes, Beliefs, Values about an issue	Rating Tool" section starting on page 57 of Handbook of Data Collection Tools: Shifts in protocols for individuals and focus groups, as well as methodological notes	n Social Norms (ORS Impact). Includes interview participant observation checklists, and survey samples, ire (European Social Survey Source). Includes example
Narratives and media/cultural discourse about an issue	Increasing visibility of issue that narrative is targeting across different forms of media • Number of articles, op-eds, comments on issue • Number of key commentators or influencers engaging with issue Increasing visibility of narrative frame across different forms of media • Number of uses of specific language and messaging in print and broadcast media • Number of uses of relevant research and data in print and broadcast media • Volume of specific language, phrases, hashtags, and graphics on social media	Issue increasingly framed in desired ways across different forms of media • Number of media articles using broader narrative framing to talk about issue • Number of broadcast media articles or segments that use desired framing to talk about the issue • Share of voice on social media compared to other narrative framings





Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators
	 Use of specific language and messaging by key individuals/ influencers on social media 	
		ool for coding texts and quantitatively and qualitatively
Behaviors or behavior intentions resulting from shifted mindsets	analyzing the presence and meaning of lan Increased engagement of target audiences in behaviors that support organizations or coalitions engaged in narrative change work • Number of people expressing intention to act in ways that reflect internalization of new narrative • Number of people participating in relevant events/workshops/trainings • Number of people making financial contributions	Increased engagement by target audience in behaviors in support of issue, that reflect narrative framing • Number of people reporting changes in their behavior in line with new narrative framing • Number of people participating in actions that support issues • Frequency of people participating in actions that support issues
about an issue	understand people's behavior intentions	Questionnaire. Guide for developing a tool to niversity of Kansas). Steps for creating and conducting
Goals		
Goals and	Increased alignment of Partnership/Coalition goals and outcomes with system conditions • Number of Partnership/Coalition change goals and strategies addressing prioritized leverage points from assessment	Increased inclusion of Partnership/Coalition priorities within regional organizations' strategic plans • Number of organizations including the prioritized leverage points and strategy elements within their internal strategic plans
outcomes aligned with Partnership/ Coalition priorities	Example Measurement Tools • CSSP's Early Childhood Systems Performan	•





Leverage Points

Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators

Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators

Power & Decision-Making

Individuals with lived experience engaged in collaborative decision making Increased authentic engagement of individuals with relevant lived experience in

Partnership/Coalition decision-making processes

- Ratings of how effectively the Partnership/ Coalition engages individuals with relevant lived experience in their decision-making processes
- Percentage of parents engaged in Partnership/ Coalition decision-making opportunities reporting they were treated as full and respected partners
- Percentage of parents engaged in Partnership/ Coalition decision-making opportunities reporting they had influence over final decisions

Institutionalization of mechanisms to engage individuals with lived experience within Partnership/Coalition

- Number of permanent structures, procedures, and processes supporting the engagement of individuals with lived experience in decision-making that are operational within the Partnership/Coalition
- Number of individuals with lived experience in formal leadership positions within the Partnership/Coalition (e.g., collaborative governing body, committees, task forces, etc.)

Increased authentic engagement of individuals with relevant lived experience in regional organizations' decision-making processes

- Ratings of how effectively the regional organizations engage individuals with relevant lived experience in their decisionmaking processes
- Percentage of parents engaged in regional organizations decision-making opportunities reporting they were treated as full and respected partners
- Percentage of parents engaged in regional organizations decision-making opportunities reporting they had influence over final decisions

Institutionalization of mechanisms to engage individuals with lived experience within regional organizations

- Number of permanent structures, procedures, and processes supporting the engagement of individuals with lived experience in decision-making that are operational within regional organizations
- Number of individuals with lived experience in leadership positions within regional organizations (e.g., committees, task forces, boards, etc.)

Example Measurement Tools

- CSSP's Parent Engagement and Leadership Assessment Tool –page 9-13 for example items.
- <u>CSSP's Early Childhood Systems Performance Assessment Toolkit</u> see the "Advancing Equity: Rating Tool – Leadership" section starting on page 72 of the toolkit for example items.
- <u>Instrument for evaluating dimensions of group dynamics within community-based participatory research partnerships.</u> (Schulz and colleagues). See page 259 of article for measure questions.
- Engaging parents, developing leaders: A self-assessment and planning tool for nonprofits and schools. Annie E. Casey Foundation. A tool to help organizations and groups assess their capacity and infrastructure for supporting the engagement of individuals with lived experience.

Relevant crosssector partners engaged in collaborative decision-making Increased engagement of individuals representing relevant sectors in Partnership/Coalition decision-making processes

 Ratings of how effectively the Partnership/ Coalition engages individuals representing relevant sectors in their decision-making processes Increased engagement of individuals representing relevant sectors in Partnership/Coalition decision-making processes

 Ratings of how effectively the Partnership/ Coalition engages individuals representing relevant sectors in their decision-making processes





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Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators
	Outcomes/maicators	Outcomes/maicators
	Example Measurement Tools	
	CSSP's Early Childhood Systems Performance Assessment Toolkit – see the "Leadership Toolkit – see the "Leadersh	
	Partnership" on page 72 of the toolkit for ϵ	on page 60 and "Advancing Equity: Rating Tool –
Data-Driven	Increased use of data within Partnership/	Increased use of data within regional organizations'
Decision Making	Coalition decision-making processes	decision-making processes
Decision Making	Ratings of data-driven decision making	Ratings of data-driven decision making
	practices within the Partnership/	practices within the Partnership/ Coalition
	Coalition (e.g., using relevant research,	(e.g., using relevant research, evaluation,
	evaluation, and/or rapid feedback data	and/or rapid feedback data within their
	within their decision-making processes)	decision-making processes)
	Example Measurement Tools	- " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "
		ce Assessment Toolkit – see the "Using Data: Rating
	page 71 of the toolkit for example items.	ancing Equity: Rating Tool – Data" section starting on
		es on assessing organizational data maturity related to
	strategy, application, and analysis.	is on assessing organizational data maturity related to
	 <u>Data Culture Survey</u>. Adapt items starting of 	on page 11 to fit your context.
Power Base of	Increased advocacy of individuals with lived	Increased power base of individuals with lived
Individuals with	experience	experience organized and collectively advocating to
Lived Experience	 Number of individuals with lived 	influence regional decisions
·	experience communicating with relevant	Number of individuals with lived experience
	policymakers and decision-makers about	engaged in collective advocacy efforts
	the issue	around the issue.
	Example Measurement Tools	
		tafford and colleagues - could adapt these questions to
	your topic area Advocacy Questionnaire by Students Work	ing Against Tobacco - could adapt these questions to
	your topic area	ing Against Tobacco - could adapt these questions to
	 Sign in sheets for collective advocacy effort 	ts.
Dalisias & Drast		
Policies & Prac	uces	
	More policy debates frame issue in alignment	Improvements in policies at multiple ecological levels
	with strategy narrative	 Number of new or revised policies passed (at
	New policy debates emerge around issue	community, county, region, and/or state
	(in cases where issue was not on the	levels) that reflect Partnership/Coalition
	agenda)Desired language used to describe issue	change prioritiesNumber of policies being implemented (at
Policies and	and communities	community, county, region, and/or state
Practices at	 Problem and solutions framed in ways 	levels) that reflect Partnership/Coalition
multiple levels are	that reflect changed narrative	change priorities
aligned with		Number of harmful legislation or policies
Partnership/	Increased political will among decision makers	averted (at community, county, region,
Coalition goals	Number of decision makers (across	and/or state levels) that did not reflect
	community, county, region, and/or state	Partnership/Coalition change priorities
	levels) indicating increased willingness to	
	take desired action on issue	
	 Legislation introduced that reflects framing of problem and appropriate 	
	solutions	





Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators	
	 Example Measurement Tools Unique Methods in Advocacy Evaluation. (Coffman & Reed) Provides example measures and methods for evaluating results of policy advocacy. CSSP's Early Childhood Systems Performance Assessment Toolkit – see the "Policy Change: Rating Tool" section starting on page 64 of the toolkit for example items. 		
Connections			
Exchanges of information and resources	 starting on page 33 of the toolkit for example Social Network Analysis toolkit. Describes radata. See page 15 for example survey ques 	methods for gathering and analyzing social network	
Gathering of relevant data	Improved data gathering on system conditions affecting child and family outcomes • Number of processes in place to gather ongoing data on system conditions affecting the Partnership/Coalition's outcomes. • Rating of how routinely data is disaggregated by race, ethnicity, neighborhood, or other relevant factors. Example Measurement Tools	Improved data gathering on system conditions affecting child and family outcomes • Number of processes in place to gather ongoing data on system conditions affecting the Partnership/Coalition's outcomes. • Rating of how routinely data is disaggregated by race, ethnicity, neighborhood, or other relevant factors.	
Human Resource		e 71 of the tookit for example items.	
Skills, knowledge, and lived experience	Increased competency around relevant skills and knowledge among selected individuals (e.g., staff, parent leaders, etc.) • Number of selected individuals reporting and/or demonstrating increased competencies in relevant skills and knowledge • Number of external partners reporting on increased competency around relevant	Increased mastery/expertise in relevant skills and knowledge • Number of selected individuals reporting and/or demonstrating mastery/expertise in relevant skills and knowledge • Number of requests from other organizations/partners/initiatives for technical assistance support utilizing relevant skills and knowledge	





Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators
	skills and knowledge among selected individuals More staff and leaders in regional organizations represent the communities they support and/or serve. • Proportion of top and mid-level leaders within regional organizations who represent demographic characteristics and lived experiences of the communities they support and/or serve. • Proportion of staff within regional organizations who represent demographic characteristics and lived experiences of the communities they support and/or serve.	 Degree to which technical assistance efforts utilizing relevant skills and knowledge provided to other organizations/partners are rated as highly effective. More staff and leaders in regional organizations represent the communities they support and/or serve. Proportion of top and mid-level leaders within regional organizations who represent demographic characteristics and lived experiences of the communities they support and/or serve. Proportion of staff within regional organizations who represent demographic characteristics and lived experiences of the communities they support and/or serve.
Programs & Op	Rating Tool – commitment to advancing ed example items. Comparison of the demographics of organi with those of community members they er	ce Assessment Toolkit – see the "Advancing Equity: quity" section starting on page 71 of the toolkit for zational leader/staff (using organizational HR records) ngage or serve (using census data)
Accessibility	 More needed programs are accessible to the population of intended end users in the region. Reach of program compared to population of intended end users; compared across census tracts in region to identify disparities. Cost of program to intended end users in the region (taking into account available subsidies). Ratio of program slots available for selected age groups compared to demand in region. Ratio of program slots available at different times of the day compared to demand in region. 	 More needed programs are accessible to the population of intended end users in the region. Reach of program compared to population of intended end users; compared across census tracts in region to identify disparities. Cost of program to intended end users in the region (taking into account available subsidies). Ratio of program slots available for selected age groups compared to demand in region Ratio of program slots available at different times of the day compared to demand in region.
	 Example Measurement Tools Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support Participant Survey Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening & Support Program Self-Assessment CSSP's Early Childhood Systems Performance Assessment Toolkit – see the "Reach" section 	

starting on page 21 and "Advancing Equity: Rating Tool – Access and Quality" on page 73 of the

toolkit for example items of the toolkit.

More needed programs are of higher quality.

Number of programs adopting

evidenced-based, developmentally

appropriate curriculums or practices



Quality



More needed programs are of higher quality.

Number of programs effectively

implementing evidenced-based,

Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators	
	 Number of programs adopting culturally responsive curriculums or practices Number of programs intentionally designed to address racial inequities. 	developmentally appropriate curriculums or practices Number of programs effectively implementing culturally responsive curriculums or practices Number of programs effectively implementing components to address racial inequities.	
	Example Measurement Tools Standards of Quality for Family Strengthen Standards of Quality for Family Strengthen CSSP's Parent Engagement and Leadership items.		
Natural and Bu	ilt Environment		
Natural Environment	Plans to improve the condition of relevant natural environment resources in priority communities • Number of approved plans to improve the condition of relevant natural environment resources in priority communities. • Rating of the condition of relevant natural environment resources in priority communities, such as: water sources, green spaces, air quality. Improved the condition of relevant natural environment resources in priority communities. • Rating of the condition of relevant natural environment resources in priority communities, such as: water sources, green spaces, air quality.		
	Example Measurement Tools Child Opportunity Index (COI 3.0). Pollution sub-domain, healthy environments sub-domain. Contact diversitydatakids.org to access county level data for these indicators. County Health Ratings database. See indicators under the label Physical Environment		
Built Environment	Plans to improve availability or condition of relevant built environment resources in underserved communities • Number of approved plans to improve the availability or condition of built environment resources such as: key businesses (grocery stores, pharmacies, banks), water filtration systems, schools, libraries, community centers, roads, public transportation, cellphone service, internet access, affordable housing. Example Measurement Tools • Child Opportunity Index (COI 3.0). Housing resources sub-domain. Contact diversitydatakids.org to access county level data for these indicators. Improved availability and/or condition of relevant built environment resources in underserved communities • Number of improvement to the availability or condition of relevant built environment resources in underserved communities • Number of improvement to the availability or condition of relevant built environment resources in underserved communities • Number of improvement to the availability or condition of relevant built environment resources in underserved communities • Number of improvement to the availability or condition of relevant built environment resources such as: key businesses (grocery stores, pharmacies, banks), water filtration systems, schools, libraries, community centers, roads, public transportation, cellphone service, internet access, affordable housing. Example Measurement Tools • Child Opportunity Index (COI 3.0). Housing resources sub-domain. Contact diversitydatakids.org to access county level data for these indicators.		
Financial Resou	irces		
Leverage Points	Example Short Term* Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term Outcomes/Indicators	
Financial Resources	Increased commitment to allocating sufficient resources to support desired systems changes	Shifts in resource allocations to support desired systems changes • Increased public funding for desired changes	





Leverage Points	Example Short Term System Outcomes/Indicators	Example Long Term System Outcomes/Indicators
	Number of written or spoken commitments to allocating resources to support desired changes	 Increased private for funding for desired changes Increased adoption of sustainable financing mechanisms (See this detailed typology of potential funding sources from ReThink Health) Number of sustainable financing mechanisms adopted in the region to
		support desired systems changes.
	Example Measurement Tools	
	• Fiscal Mapping for Early Childhood Services and Interventions: A How To Guide (Center for Health	
	Care Strategies). This how-to guide provides a framework and steps to complete a fiscal mapping	
	process, from pre-work through finished product.	





Data Reporting for Smart Start Systems Building and Change

Identify the Roots Causes being Addressed in this work currently:

4	3	2	1
Strategies for Addressing Root Causes that are Currently being Implemented	Short-Term Outcomes of Strategies that Can Contribute to Changing Prioritized Root Causes	Community System Root Causes Affecting Desired Impacts	Long-Term People Impacts Desired
In less than 2000 characters please address the following questions: 1) What strategies are you currently implementing to address your prioritized root causes? (Name the root cause associated with each.) 2) What is the current stage of implementation for each strategy? 3) What implementation successes have you experienced? 4) What are the areas for future improvement in implementation?	In less than 2000 characters please address the following questions: 1) What short-term milestone outcomes are you working to achieve as you try to ultimately shift	In less than 2000 characters please address the following questions: 1) What are the most important community system "leverage point" root causes affecting your Impacts that you have prioritized for change? 2) What assessment processes or other data sources did you use to identify these community system root causes? 3) How are you or will you measure changes in these community system root causes over time? 4) What are your findings so far? What progress have you started to make in these community system	In less than 2000 characters please address the following questions: 1) What long-term child and family Impacts are you working to achieve? 2) How are you or will you measure changes in these impacts over time?
Respond here.	Respond here.	root causes? Respond here.	Respond here.





	<u> </u>	<u> </u>			
In less than 1000 characters, please share any areas where you could use additional resources or support with this work.					
Respond here.					





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