# Evaluating Systems Change: At a Glance

## Systems Change Addresses Key Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Improving the political environment that surrounds the system</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Components</td>
<td>Establishing programs and services within the system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>Creating strong and effective links across system components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Developing the supports systems need</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scale</td>
<td>Ensuring a comprehensive system is available to as many people as possible</td>
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</tbody>
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## Systems Change Evaluation Addresses Key Questions

- Did the systems change intervention do what was intended?
- Did the intervention produce results?
- How did the intervention make a difference?
- Can an impact be attributed to the intervention?

Guided by a Theory of Change

- What actions will the intervention undertake?
- How is the system expected to change as a result?
- How will the intervention help achieve intended outcomes?

## Phases of a Systems Change Evaluation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Orientation</th>
<th>Planning</th>
<th>Data Collection Instruments</th>
<th>Baseline Data Collection</th>
<th>Follow-up Data Collection</th>
<th>Change: Baseline to Follow-up</th>
<th>Analyze Intervention’s Contribution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn about the planned system change and its context.</td>
<td>Identify research questions and develop data collection plan.</td>
<td>Develop data collection instruments.</td>
<td>Collect data on institutional structure, current programs, and services.</td>
<td>Collect follow-up data and perceptions of change and effectiveness.</td>
<td>Analyze data to determine the extent to which changes have taken place.</td>
<td>Use the theory of change as a guide to assess how the intervention contributed to the changes achieved.</td>
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## Quick Tips

- Involve evaluators early in discussions about systems and organizational change efforts.
- Engage stakeholders in evaluation planning to help gain buy-in for the evaluation.
- Clearly define the scope and boundaries of the evaluation.
- Clarify what outcomes can and cannot be expected at which points in the initiative’s implementation.
- Develop benchmarks to document incremental progress toward systems change.
- Ensure the evaluation serves the needs of child welfare practitioners and advances knowledge for the field.


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