



**Session title:** Sustaining Your Innovations Part 1 & 2

**Session presenters/facilitators:**

Kathy Cox, EDI

Nick Rodriguez, EDI

**Overall summary of the session:**

After you invest in innovation, how do you sustain it so that it has a lasting impact? This session shared a framework and toolkit for identifying and sustaining grantees' highest priority reforms. Participants experimented with the toolkit to see its potential for supporting them on a range of topics, including planning, assessing progress, building staff capacity for long-term implementation, and stakeholder engagement. The two-part session engaged participants in two different sets of activities all with the objective of planning for sustainability.

**Key issues or questions discussed:**

1) *Understand the definition of sustainability*

Participants at tables were asked to provide their own definition of sustainability. Then the definitions were shared and discussed. Questions posed broadened the concept of sustainability. The presenters provided a rubric to give grantees a complete view of the elements of sustainability. The Rubric identified elements under Capacity, Performance Management, and Context to help grantees determine if their programs were doing everything to sustain their grants.

2) *Reaffirm grantees' priorities*

Grantees were then asked to share what success would look like by 2017. The goal was to get them to be more succinct and precise in defining success.

3) *Understand and use planning tool*

Grantees were presented with a sustainability profile that asked them a series of questions to help them think through sustainability goals by asking what their goals were as well as accomplishments that will help them achieve success. Revisiting goals stated earlier may help grantees to refocus on or rethink goals. Grantees completed a rubric to help them reflect on the goal setting and achievement process. They then identified strengths and weaknesses by element and compared those results across all grantees to see if patterns surface. Grantees discussed how the activity made them rethink where their strengths and weaknesses were.

4) *Identify next steps and potential support*

Grantees were asked to share their immediate next steps toward goal setting and sustainability. They were also asked what potential support they would need, such as technical assistance. In the second session, grantees were asked to identify one-year outcomes and then work backward to set actions and incremental milestones toward attaining those outcomes.

**Related resources that may be useful:**

Additional reference materials provided on CoP site:

Successful Implementation Resource—Scaling up

Successful Implementation Resource—Problem Solving

Successful Implementation Resource—Routines