

Project Impact Healthy Aging FAQs

Here are the answers to some of the top questions we get asked about Project Impact. Didn't find what you're looking for? Email us your question at info@dialoguesinaction.com and we will answer your question and add it to this list.

How long does Project Impact last?

Project Impact will provide a team from your organization with graduate-level training in evaluation and coaching to walk your team through each step of conducting an evaluation of your own program over the course of 8 months.

What will we accomplish during Project Impact?

Each team will choose a signature program or a primary area of impact to evaluate. Through the course of Project Impact, your team will develop and pilot evaluation strategies to collect data, determine findings, communicate impact, and produce data-informed program experiments and innovations. Through the process, your team will grow the capability to design and implement further evaluations on your own.

At the completion of the project, each participating organization will have:

- **tested instruments and protocols** for a signature program,
- **evaluation findings** to communicate to stakeholders,
- an **evaluation strategy** for ongoing implementation,
- **internal capacity** to design and implement evaluation, and the
- **enrichment of evaluation partnership** with other healthy aging programs.

Who should be on my organization's Project Impact evaluation team?

We ask that you have a team of 2 to 5 people participate in Project Impact. *At least* one person on your team should be able to influence program direction and have an in-depth understanding of organizational priorities and culture. We require that there be at least 2 people from your organization participate because a) we've found that participating in this project **builds the participants' investment** in the program and desire to make it better; b) the more people from your organization that understand this evaluation process, the **more likely it will be supported and sustained**; c) many hands make **lighter work!**

We have had everyone from executive directors and program directors to board members and volunteers participate in Project Impact. Some key questions that can help you determine if the person is a good fit for your evaluation team are:

- Will they make a valuable contribution in this evaluation process?
- Will being a part of this process have a benefit for them?
- Will having them be a part of this process have a benefit for your team?

What is the time commitment to participate in Project Impact?

Project Impact takes a significant time and energy investment from your team, and you'll get a lot in return! In addition to our monthly trainings, we estimate that teams will spend an additional 2-4 hours each month working together outside of our instruction time.

There will also be additional time required to collect and analyze qualitative and quantitative data between the in-person sessions of Project Impact (January to April 2023). This time commitment varies substantially per person based on how many people you choose to interview for your in-depth qualitative interviews and the number of people you have on your team. Each qualitative interview takes 1.5 to 2 hours (45 minutes-1 hour to conduct the interview, 15-20 minutes to write up your notes, and 30 minutes to conduct an initial analysis of the data from each interview) and interviews can be spread over the course of 6-8 weeks. On average, teams conduct 15-20 qualitative interviews, which adds up to an additional 22 to 40 hours divided among team members.

Having more team members lightens the workload for each of you, but we know that some programs have a very small staff. If you have partners, volunteers, or board members who can't join your team to participate in all of Project Impact, we can provide an opportunity to train them to help you conduct interviews. In addition to reducing the burden on your team, it is a great way to get others engaged in more deeply understanding and improving your impact.

What will our schedule be like for our virtual and in-person workshops?

The virtual workshops will be 3 hours long and will be held using Zoom. The workshops will have some lecture about core concepts intermixed with time for your team to discuss and put into practice what you learn. We will have a lot of content to cover in a short time, but we will be sure to squeeze in a 10–15-minute break halfway through each workshop.

The in-person workshops will start in the early afternoon on the first day and end in the afternoon on the second day. This will allow time for travel before and after the workshops and will only require participants to be away from home for one night. The schedule will look something like this:

Day 1

Morning	Travel
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Workshop content + some team work time
5:00 PM on	Additional work with your team and coach, if needed

Day 2

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Workshop content + some team work time
12:00 – 1:00 PM	Lunch (provided)
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Workshop content + some team work time

What happens if I cannot make it to a workshop?

We encourage you to make every session, but also know that busy professionals have demanding schedules. We have a couple of strategies to make sure you can get the most out of the project even if you have to miss a session:

1. **Tap into your team.** Another reason that we ask you to have a team for Project Impact is that if one person misses, the rest of the team can keep things moving. Plan to meet with your team soon after the session you miss to have them share what they learned with you. It will be a great way for you to get caught up and for them to reflect on their learning!
2. **Watch workshop recordings.** We will provide recordings of the key content from each session that you can review. You can then meet with your coach to ask any questions that you have.

3. **Meet with your coach.** You will have access to a coach throughout Project Impact to guide your team through the process. If you miss a session, schedule a time with your coach to have her answer questions and clarify the content after you watch the recordings and talk with your team.

I don't have an evaluation background. How will I be able to conduct an effective evaluation of my program?

We hear this a lot and we don't believe you have to be an expert in research and evaluation to conduct a meaningful evaluation focused on the impact of your program. We have developed a method that has worked for hundreds of people in hundreds of organizations who are not evaluators. Your team will receive instruction in the core concepts and get one-on-one coaching to help bring the concepts to life for your program.

Why don't you just do our evaluation for us?

We love evaluation and we do take on external evaluation projects ourselves, but we believe that evaluation is most powerful when it is in the hands of the people who can act on it. Our approach seeks to build your evaluation capacity to enable your team to reflect on your program's impact and focus on how to make it even better. Evaluation is an act of leadership, and we believe you should have the skills to lead your organization toward a deeper impact.

OTHER PROGRAM QUESTIONS



United Way
British Columbia

Working with communities in BC's Interior, Lower Mainland, Central & Northern Vancouver Island

What days will the sessions take place?

The in-person two-day conference dates happen in the Lower Mainland at 4543 Canada Way, Burnaby BC.	Monday, November 20, 2023, from 1 – 4 p.m. Tuesday, November 21, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2024, from 1 – 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The sessions on Zoom are scheduled for:	Monday, January 22, 2024, from 1 – 4 p.m. Monday, February 12, 2024, from 1 – 4 p.m.
The showcase event happens in the Lower Mainland during senior's week on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in the Lower Mainland.	

How much is the registration fee and are travel costs covered?

The program is fully funded by the government of BC so for accepted teams there is no registration fee. For those teams based outside the Lower Mainland, travel and food purchased while traveling are covered by United Way BC.

How do we apply?

Applications open on Wed, May 17, 2023, and remain open until midnight, Wednesday, June 7th. Go [here to fill out the application form](#), and please reach out to estherm@uwbc.ca if you have any issues with the application process.