

Project Impact Health Aging (PIHA) 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?

- For questions about the curriculum, format, and content of PIHA, email us your question at annalise@dialoguesinaction.com and we will answer your question and add it to this list.
- If you have a question about your application, eligibility, or other administrative matters, please email healthyaging@uwbc.ca.

What is Project Impact Healthy Aging?

A transformative, 8-month developmental evaluation course offered annually by United Way BC. Tailored to members of the CBSS sector, the program equips teams within organizations with the tools, training, and coaching needed to evaluate and enhance their impact on older adults.

Do you have to have a degree or an evaluation background to participate?

No, this opportunity is available for learners with lived and learned experience. 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 and have varying educational and lived experience backgrounds. 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.

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

Funded by the Ministry of Health, this program is available to funded agencies at no cost. For those teams based outside the Lower Mainland, pre-approved travel costs are covered by United Way BC.

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 also highly recommend that *at least one* person on your team be directly involved in the day-to-day implementation of the program you are evaluating.

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?

Adding Additional Interview Support: 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 individuals (staff, partners, volunteers, board members, etc.) 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 during your qualitative data collection process. 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 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! Exact time required can vary, but here are some estimates to give you an idea:

Workshop Instruction Time (per member of the team, does not include travel time)

Virtual Workshops	In Person Conferences	Showcase	Total Time
5 sessions (2.5 hours each)	2, 1.5-day conferences (11.5 hours each)	4.5 hours (including set up and event)	40 hours

Work Time Outside of Workshops (can often be divided among team members)

- **Self-Study/Homework:** In addition to our monthly trainings, we estimate that teams will spend an additional 3-4 hours each month working together outside of our instruction time.
- **Data Collection:** There will also be additional time required to collect and analyze qualitative data between the in-person sessions of Project Impact (mid-March to mid-May). This time commitment varies substantially per person based on how many people you choose to interview for your qualitative data collection and the number of people you have on your team. Each qualitative interview takes, on average, 1.5 hours (including writing up your notes and conducting an initial analysis of the data from each interview) and interviews are typically 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.

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

The afternoon virtual workshops will be 2.5 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.

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
12:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Lunch (provided), Workshop content + some teamwork time
5:00 PM on	Additional work with your team and coach, as needed

Day 2

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Light breakfast (provided), Workshop content + some teamwork time
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM	Working Lunch (provided)
12:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Workshop content + some teamwork 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 virtual 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 them answer questions and clarify the content after you watch the recordings and talk with your team.

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.