

HHS/ASPE Webinar Series: Developing and Using a Learning Agenda Approach to Evidence-building

Webinar 2:

Eleanor Morefield (United States Department of Agriculture [USDA])

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

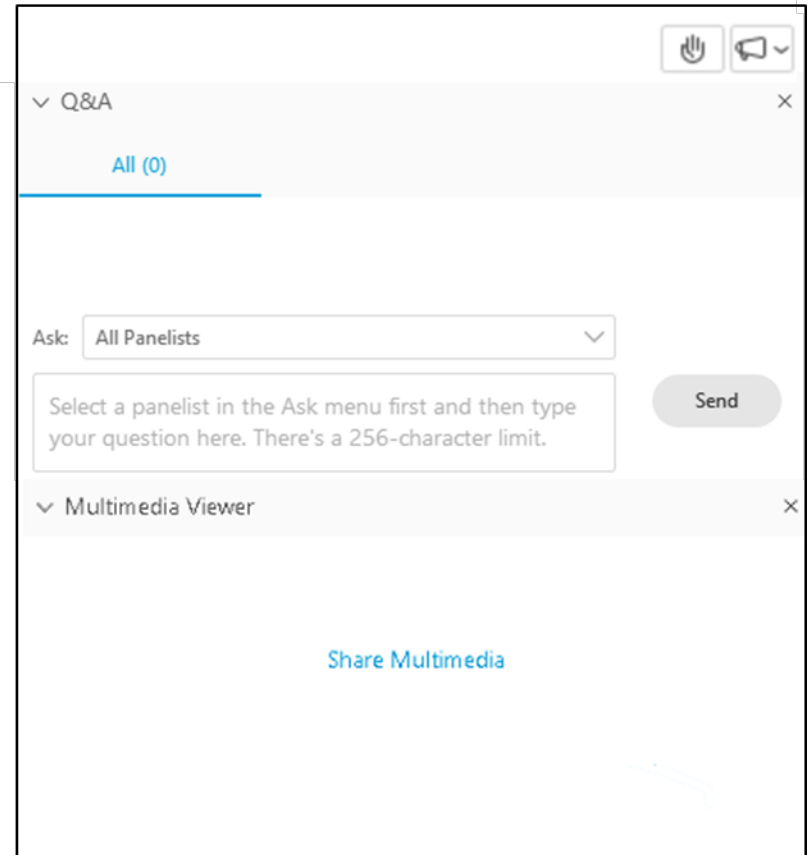
3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT



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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

Webinar Logistics

- Mute phone, unless speaking
- Q&A
- Hand raising
- Closed captioning (multimedia viewer)



Agenda

3:00–3:05	Welcome	Jessica McNab (Mathematica)
3:05–3:15	Recap of webinar series and events to date	Amanda Cash (ASPE)
3:15–3:45	Speaker presentation	Eleanor Morefield (USDA)
3:45–3:55	Q&A	All
3:55–4:00	Wrap-up	Jessica McNab



Meet the Speakers



Jessica McNab, Researcher and Task Lead (Mathematica)

Jessica leads curriculum development and facilitates shared learning for technical assistance projects focused on quality improvement and delivery system reform. In previous roles, Jessica led a team of improvement specialist at a managed care hospital system and directed technical assistance focused on rapid cycle improvement in hospitals.



Amanda Cash, Acting Director, Division of Data Policy (ASPE)

Dr. Cash's portfolio includes research on evaluation methodologies appropriate for complex federal programs, and she co-leads the Federal Task Force for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria. Her office is coordinating implementation and leading implementation of Title I of the Evidence Act, which is focused on implementing Evidence-Building and Evaluation Plans. She is an epidemiologist by training, but now she works primarily on evaluation, evidence, and antimicrobial resistance.



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Meet the Speakers – Con'd



Eleanor Morefield, Evaluator and Team Lead (USDA, FAS, OCBD)

Ellie serves on the Monitoring and Evaluation Staff (MES), for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) in the Office of Capacity Building and Development (OCBD). In this role, she provides monitoring and evaluation (M&E) technical assistance to three of USDA's international food assistance programs: McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition, Local and Regional Procurement, and Food for Progress.



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Series' Objectives

- The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) is the policy think tank for the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Our office is leading implementation efforts for Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (Evidence Act).
- The webinar series aims to:
 - Consider the array of strategies to create and implement evidence-building and evaluation plans as required by the Evidence Act
 - Support an ongoing, readily accessible resource for federal agency staff and others who may be implementing evaluation planning efforts
 - Support the creation of a summary report that will draw from the webinar series and other relevant literature

Webinar 1: NIH

- Drs. Marina Volkov and Ajay Vatave



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Polls: Baseline Data

- Learning interests
- Stage of implementation



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FAS, USDA

ELEANOR MOREFIELD, EVALUATOR, TEAM LEAD, M&E STAFF, OCBD

OCBD, MES

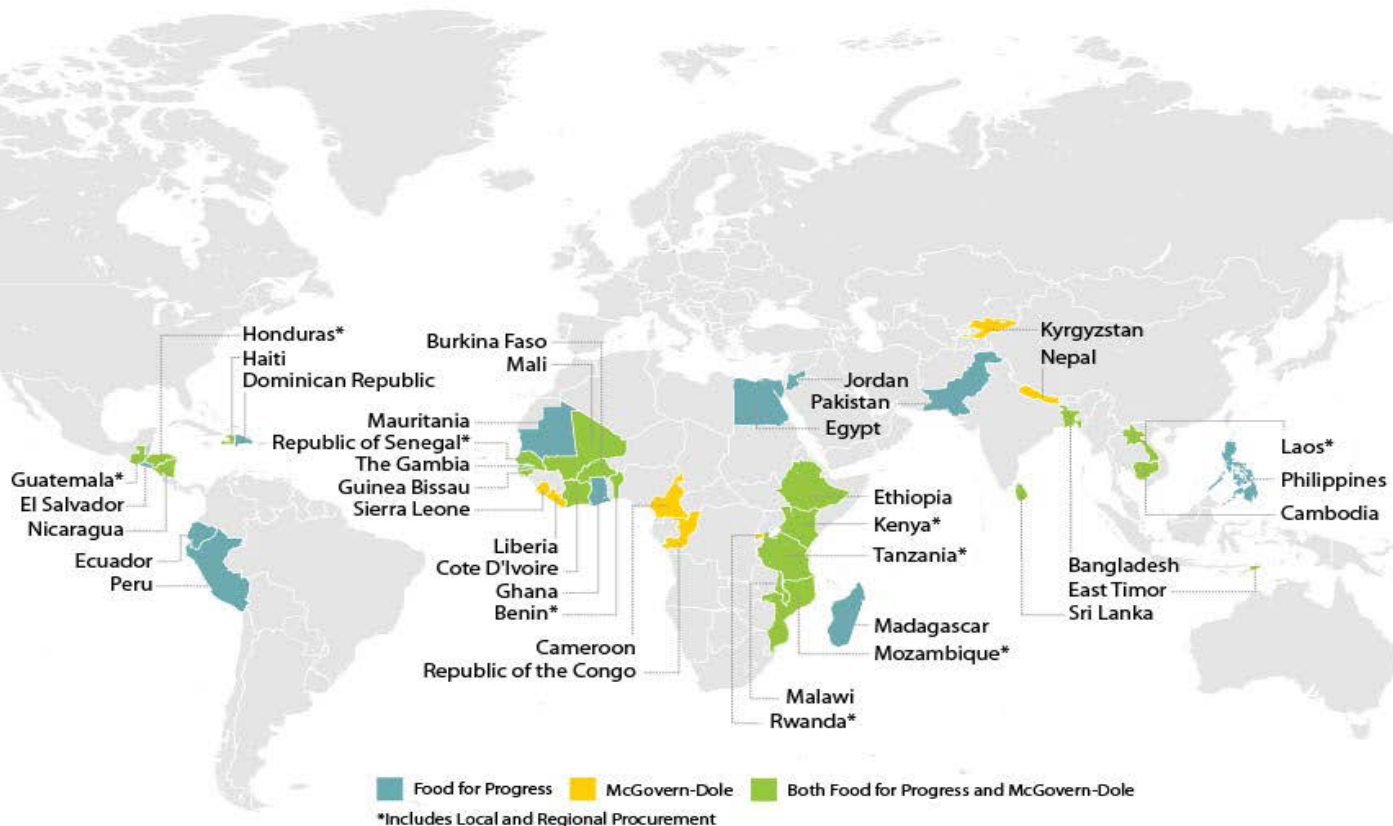
- Links U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security.
- Leads USDA's efforts to help developing countries:
 - Improve their agricultural systems
 - Build trade capacity
 - Administer food aid programs to help meet recipients' nutritional needs and also support agricultural development and education



OCBD, MES

- MES provides technical assistance in performance management and evaluation of capacity-building and development programs, including food assistance programs.

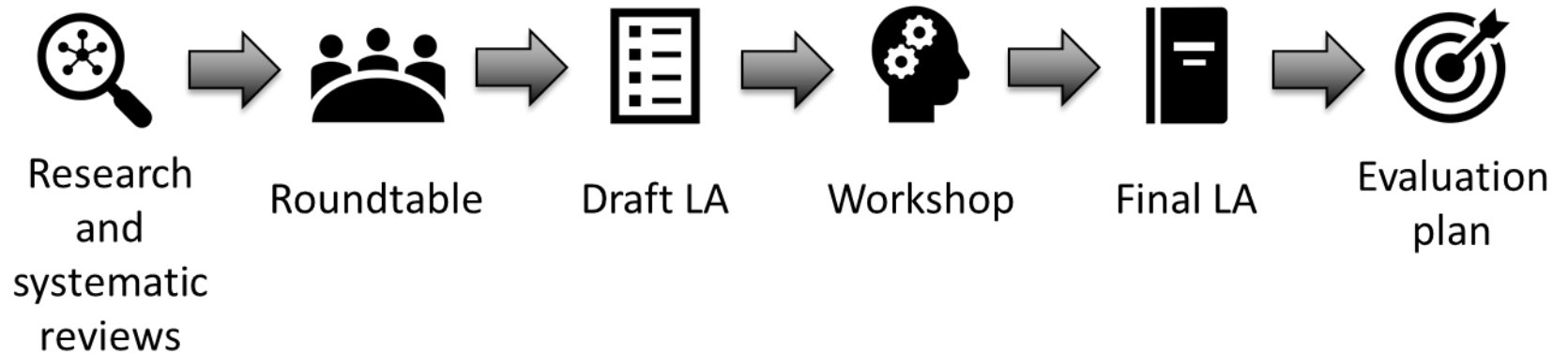
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
Active Food Assistance Projects as of January 29, 2019



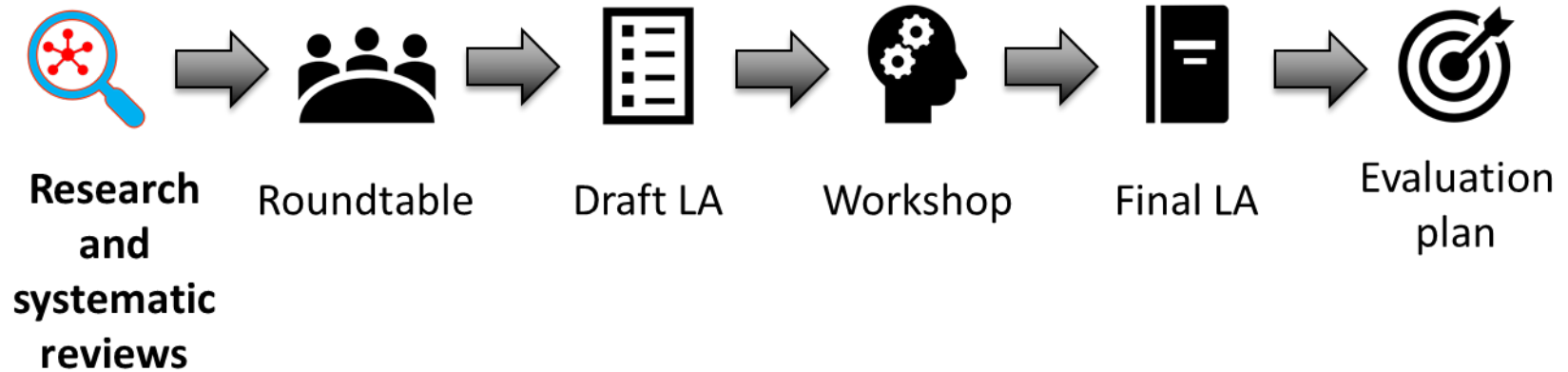
What is a Learning Agenda (LA)?

- A set of unanswered research questions whose answers will strengthen USDA programs and contribute to a broader knowledge base for all
 - *A tool to identify relevant evidence gaps and from them prioritize timely research*
 - *Supports programs' ability to use rigorous evidence, evaluation, and research in strategic decision making*

Anatomy of a LA



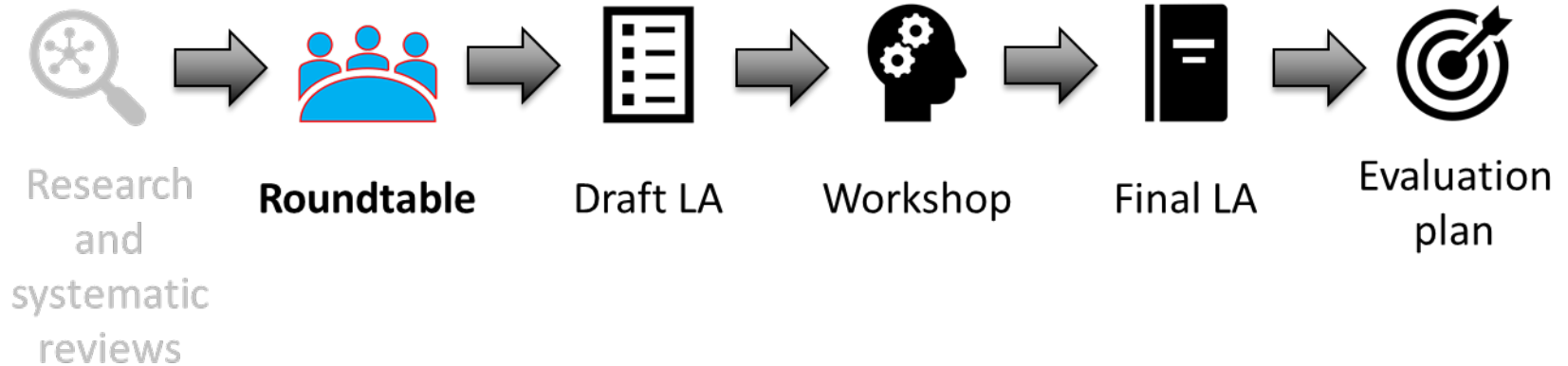
Anatomy of a LA



Evaluators conduct a series of preparatory research activities:

- Desk review
- Intervention mapping
- Systematic reviews

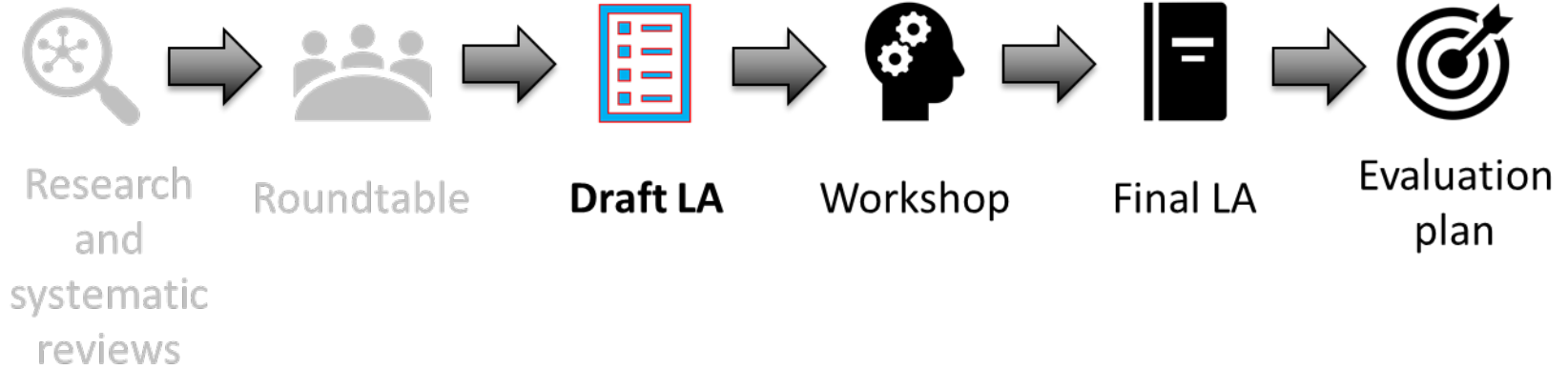
Anatomy of a LA



Roundtables of subject matter experts:

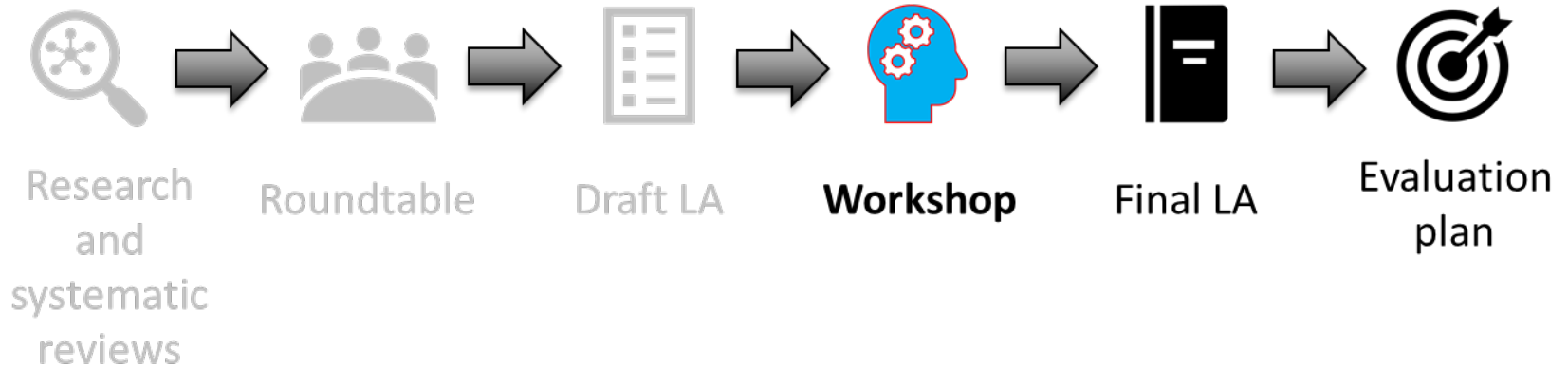
- USDA expertise
- External expertise

Anatomy of a LA



LAs drafted!

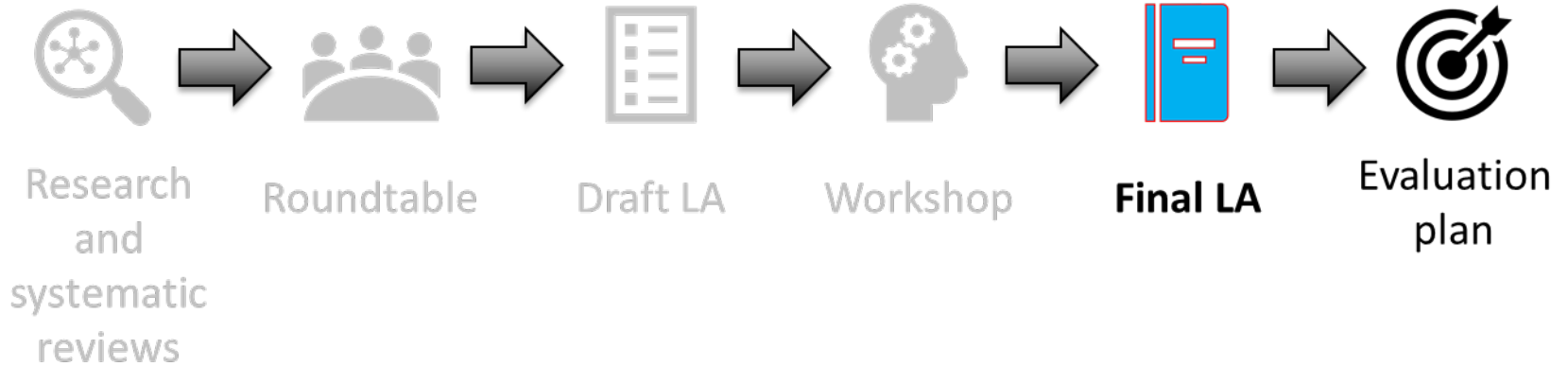
Anatomy of a LA



Workshop discussion: Do draft LA questions...

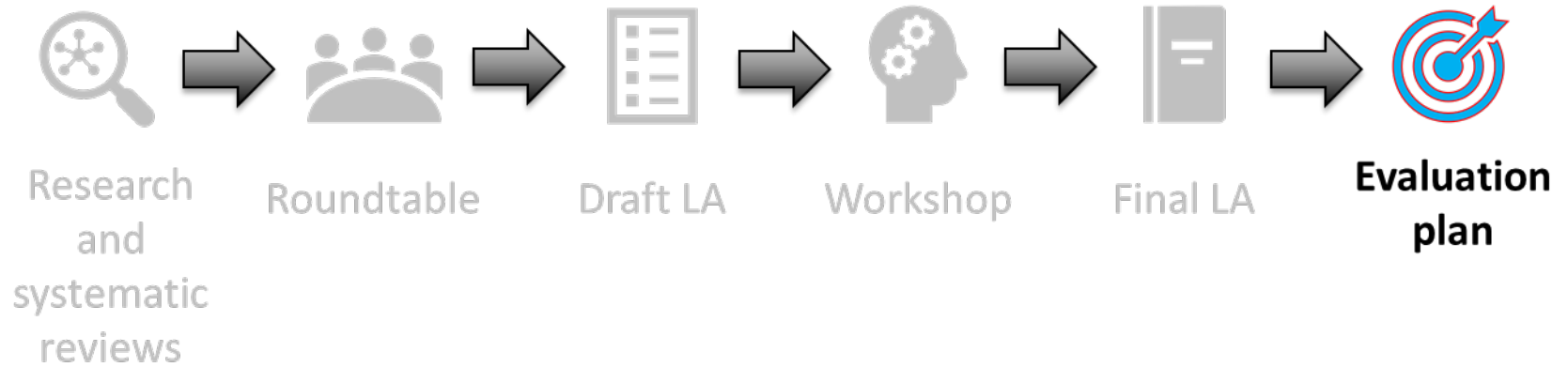
- *Adequately address evidence gaps?*
- *Inform program implementation and management?*
- *Reflect relevant issues of school feeding/ agricultural trade stakeholders?*

Anatomy of a LA



LAs finalized!

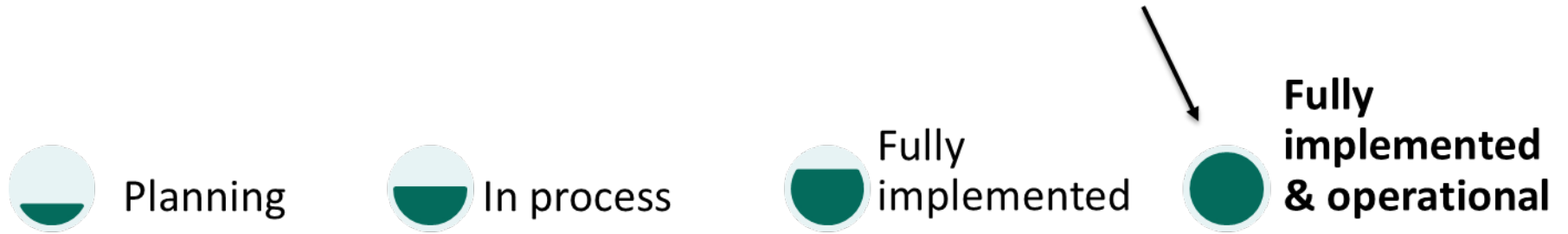
Anatomy of a LA



Evaluation plans reflect priorities within LAs:

- Help operationalize the LA
- Internal planning documents

Stage of Implementation



- McGovern-Dole Food for Education
 - LA finalized February 2016
 - Mapped and examined program interventions of preceding five years
 - 41 questions across 5 topic areas
- Food for Progress
 - LA finalized July 2016
 - Mapped and examined program interventions of preceding five years
 - 39 questions across 4 topic areas

Barriers and Strategies

Barrier

- What is a LA?
- What are evidence gaps?

Strategy

- Explain and engage
- Go for a quick win

Barrier

- Understanding the commitment

Strategy

- Learn from others' experience and plan accordingly
- Consider staffing

Barrier

- Maintaining momentum: Now what?

Strategy

- Develop evaluation plans
 - Champion use consistently
-

Expected Impact of LAs

- Increased emphasis on evidence → better use of evidence
 - Evidence-based program improvements
- Improved ability to make long-term research investments
- Greater collaboration with community of stakeholders

Lessons Learned

- High level of effort
- Long-term commitment
- Participatory process that engaged implementers

Q&A

What questions do you have for Ellie?



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Wrap-up

- Event materials- stay tuned!
- Registration links- Federal Evaluators' Listserve

Event	Date
Webinar 3: Tammy Tippie (DoD, Navy)	Mon., July 29, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT
Webinar 4: Mary Hyde (CNCS)	Tues., July 30, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT
Webinar 5: Cynthia Phillips, Rebecca Kruse (NSF)	Thurs., August 8, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. EDT
Webinar 6: Brittany Borg (SBA)	Tues., August 13, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT
<i>Webinar 7: Emily Schmitt (ACF)*</i>	<i>Wed., August 28, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. EDT</i>

**Tentative, registration forthcoming*



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Webinar Evaluation

- Quality
- Expectations (objectives)
- Content
- Actionability



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Thank You!

Please send feedback, comments, or questions to:

ASPE Evidence-Building Team

aspevidencebuilding@mathematica-mpr.com



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