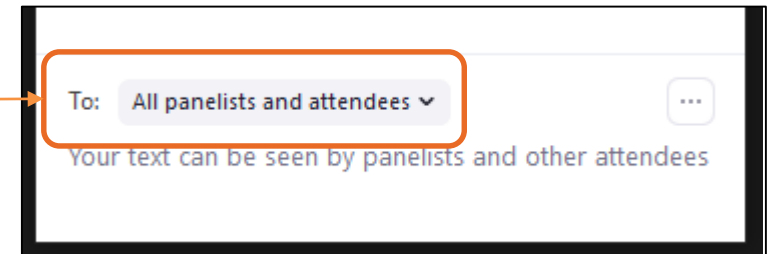




We look forward to talking with you shortly.

We invite you to share with other attendees in the chat your:

- Name
- Affiliation
- Location





Strengthening the Implementation of Responsible Fatherhood Programs

Introductory Webinar
August 12, 2020



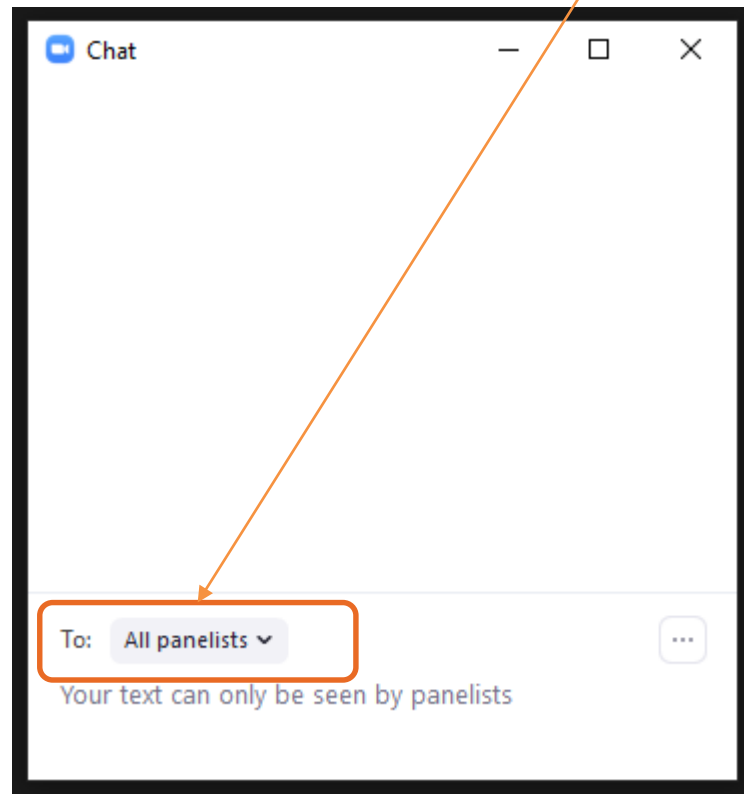
Kureem Nugent



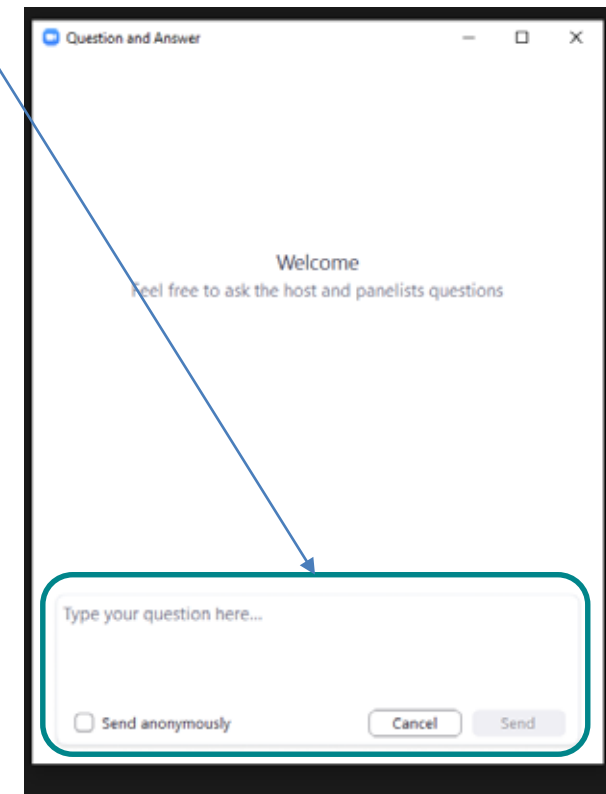
Housekeeping



Technical Difficulties



Questions For Discussion



Dina Israel, Kriti Jain & Katie Pahigiannis



POLL

What is your primary role within the fatherhood field?

Agenda

- Why SIF
- Study overview and goals
- SIF in action
- Questions: Study overview
- Nomination and selection process
- Questions: Nomination process
- Next steps

Agenda

- **Why SIRF**
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Why SIRF is Important

Fatherhood programs aim to enhance:

- Father-child interactions
- Parents' relationships
- Parents' capacity to parent as a team, and
- Fathers' economic stability*

**Please refer to the Fatherhood FIRE FOA for the required program focus areas for federally funded programs*

Why SIRF is important

Fatherhood programs aim to enhance:

- Father-child interactions
- Parents' relationships
- Parents' capacity to parent as a team, and
- Fathers' economic stability

Programs face implementation challenges

Why SIRF is important

Fatherhood programs aim to enhance:

- Father-child interactions
- Parents' relationships
- Parents' capacity to parent as a team, and
- Fathers' economic stability

Programs face implementation challenges

SIRF works closely with programs and fathers to understand ways to overcome these hurdles

Perspectives from the Field*

...When we're dealing with adult learners, **what are you giving them that meets their needs** [and] not just your need as a program?

When asked the question of what made [fathers] keep coming, it was learning things about parenting that no one ever took the time to say, **"Here's why you are specifically important..."**

Realistically, **if you just show a little compassion, a little care and you put [fathers'] desires and needs first**, [...] that will go a long way, much further than any educational level or [incentives] that you can offer.

*The quotes included here come from interviews conducted in April 2020 with program staff involved in the Building Bridges and Bonds project.

Why Participate?



Financial support



Program support



Deep data analysis



Professional development



Peer learning community



Usable and broadly applicable lessons

Agenda

- Why SIRF
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Oscar Cerna



SIRF will allow us to collaboratively develop and test promising ideas to overcome program implementation barriers

SIRF at a Glance



Using learning cycles to identify promising solutions to program implementation challenges



Seeking up to 10 partner programs

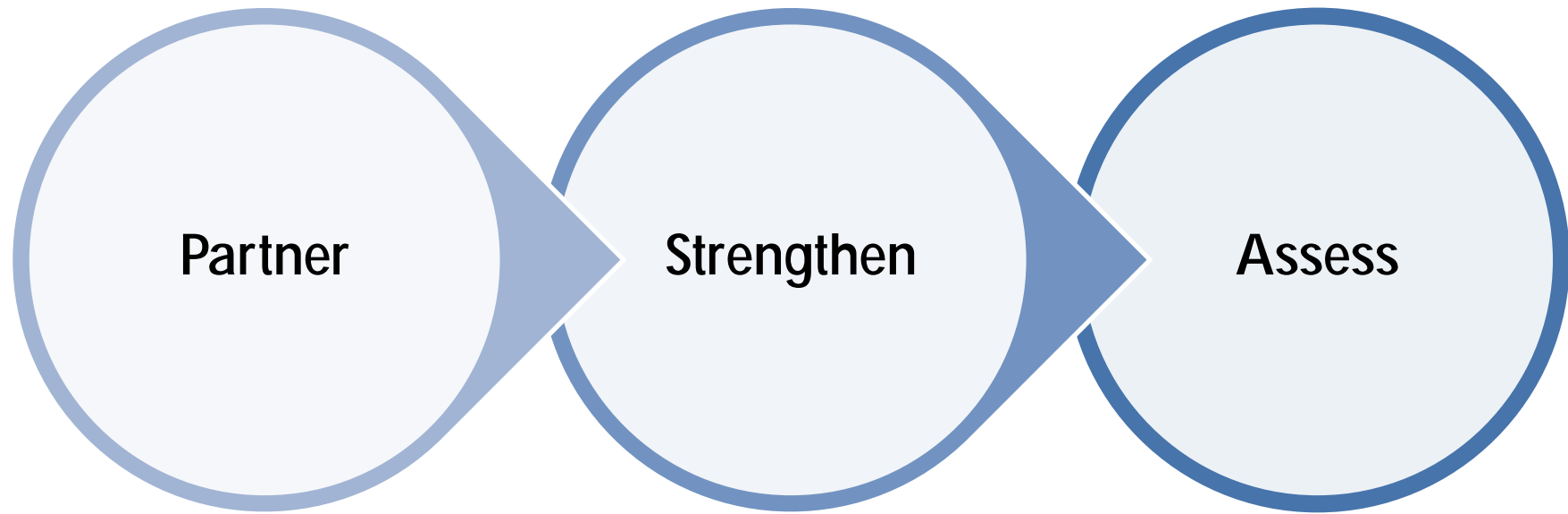


Funded by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families



Conducted by MDRC, in partnership with MEF Associates, Insight Policy Research, leaders in the field, and programs like yours

Study Goals

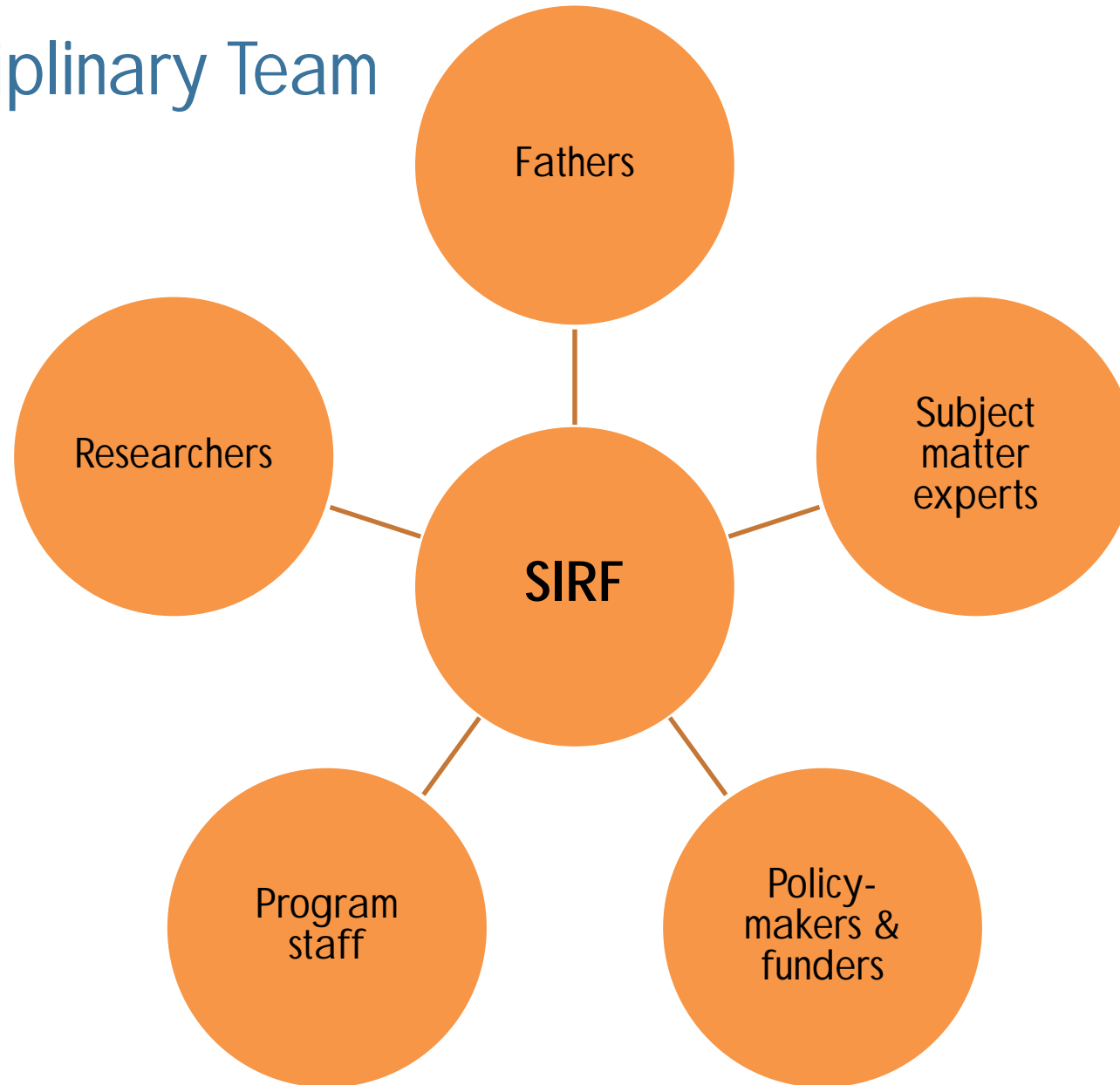


- With programs to conduct rapid learning cycles

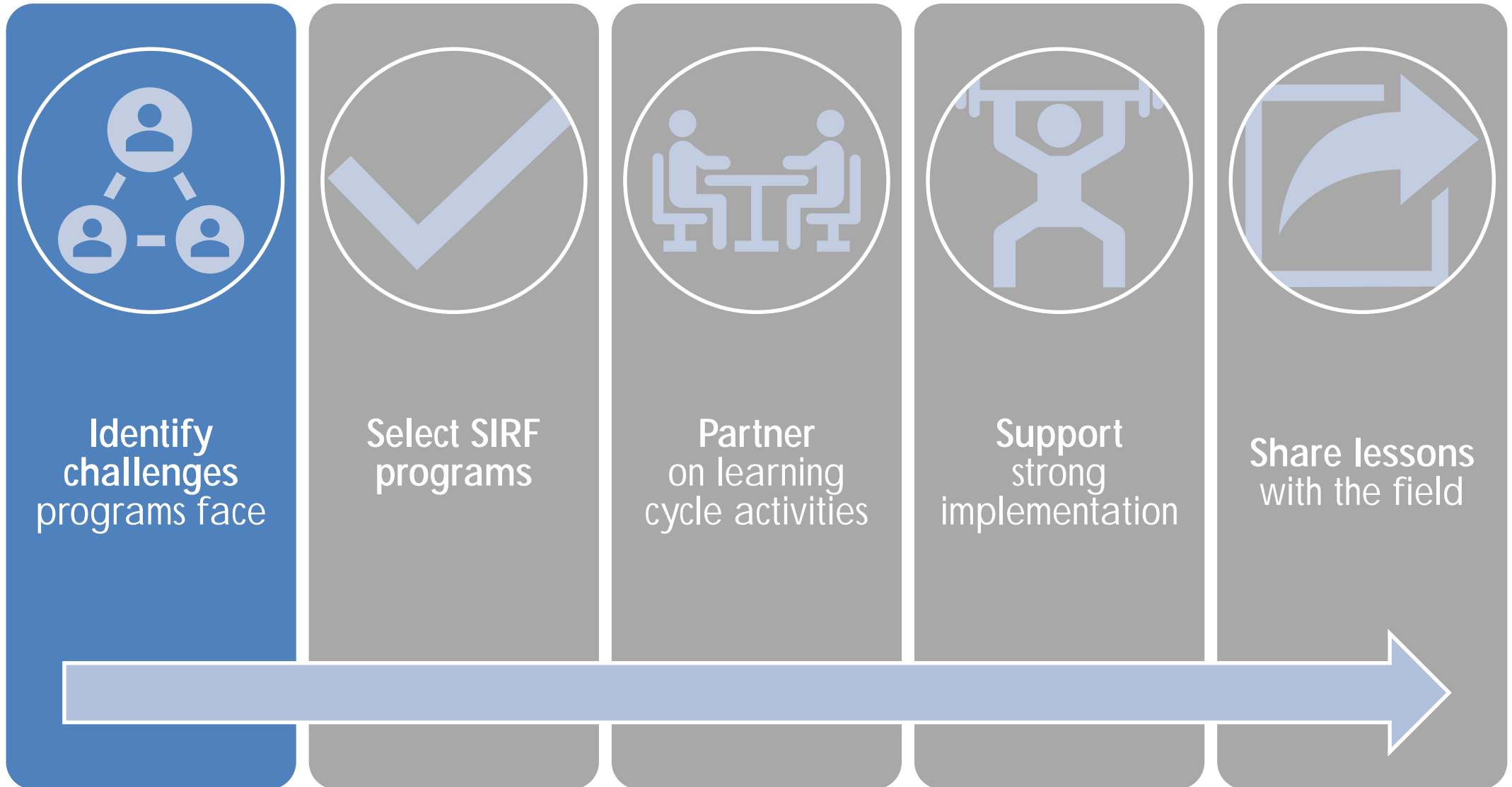
- Programs
- Research practices

- Whether new approaches increase
 - Recruitment
 - Engagement
 - Retention

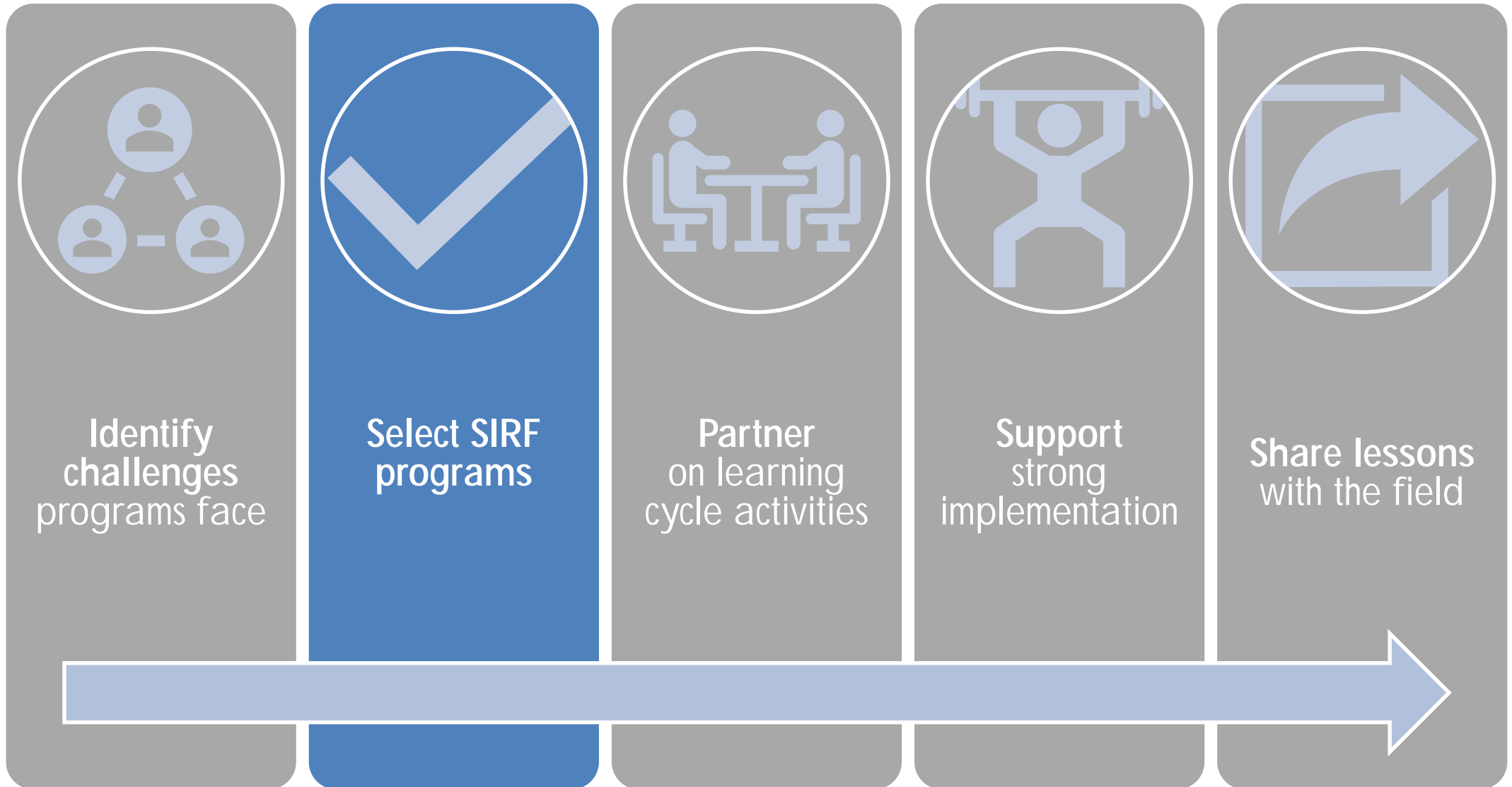
Interdisciplinary Team



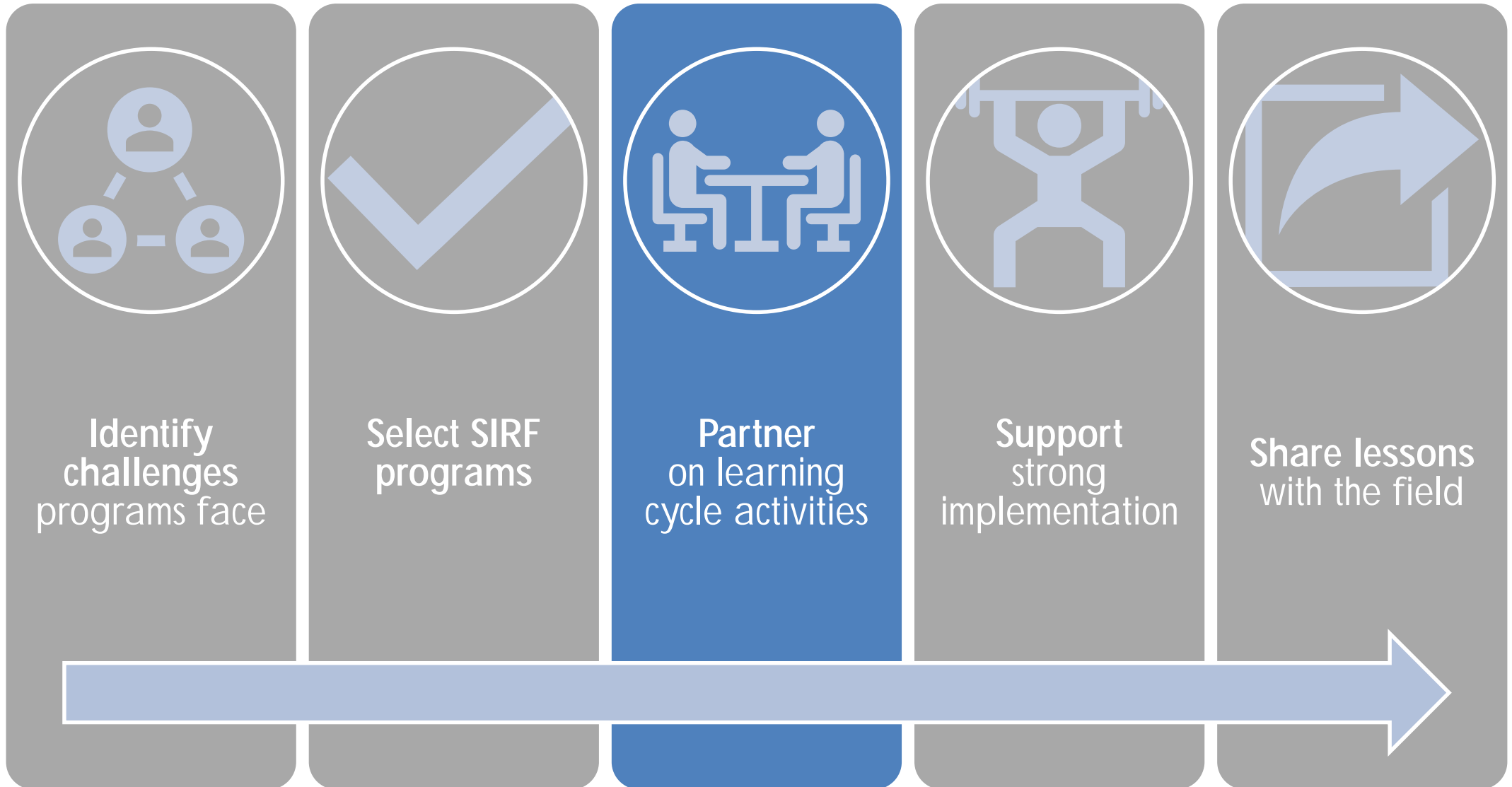
The SIRF Approach



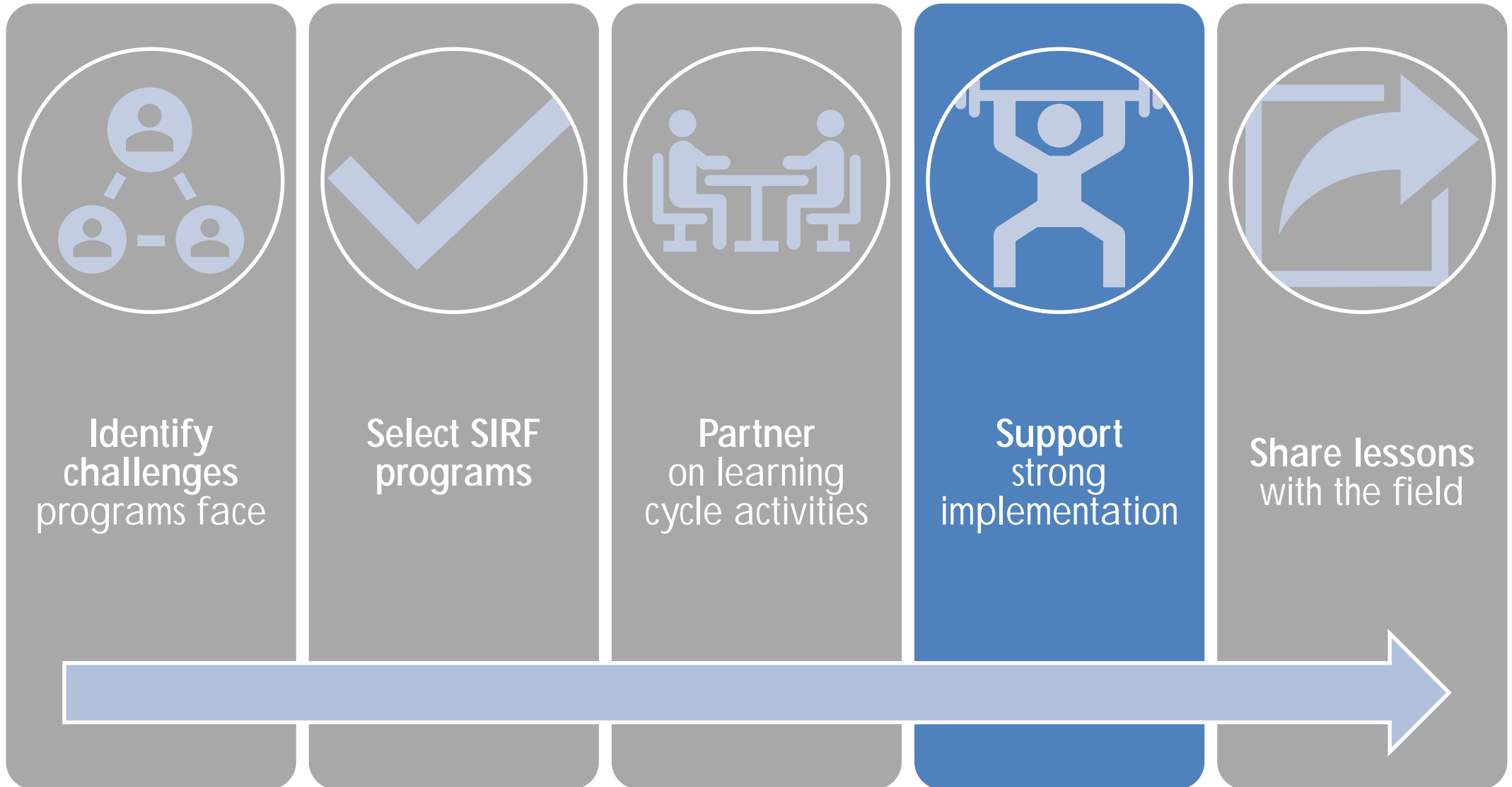
The SIRF Approach



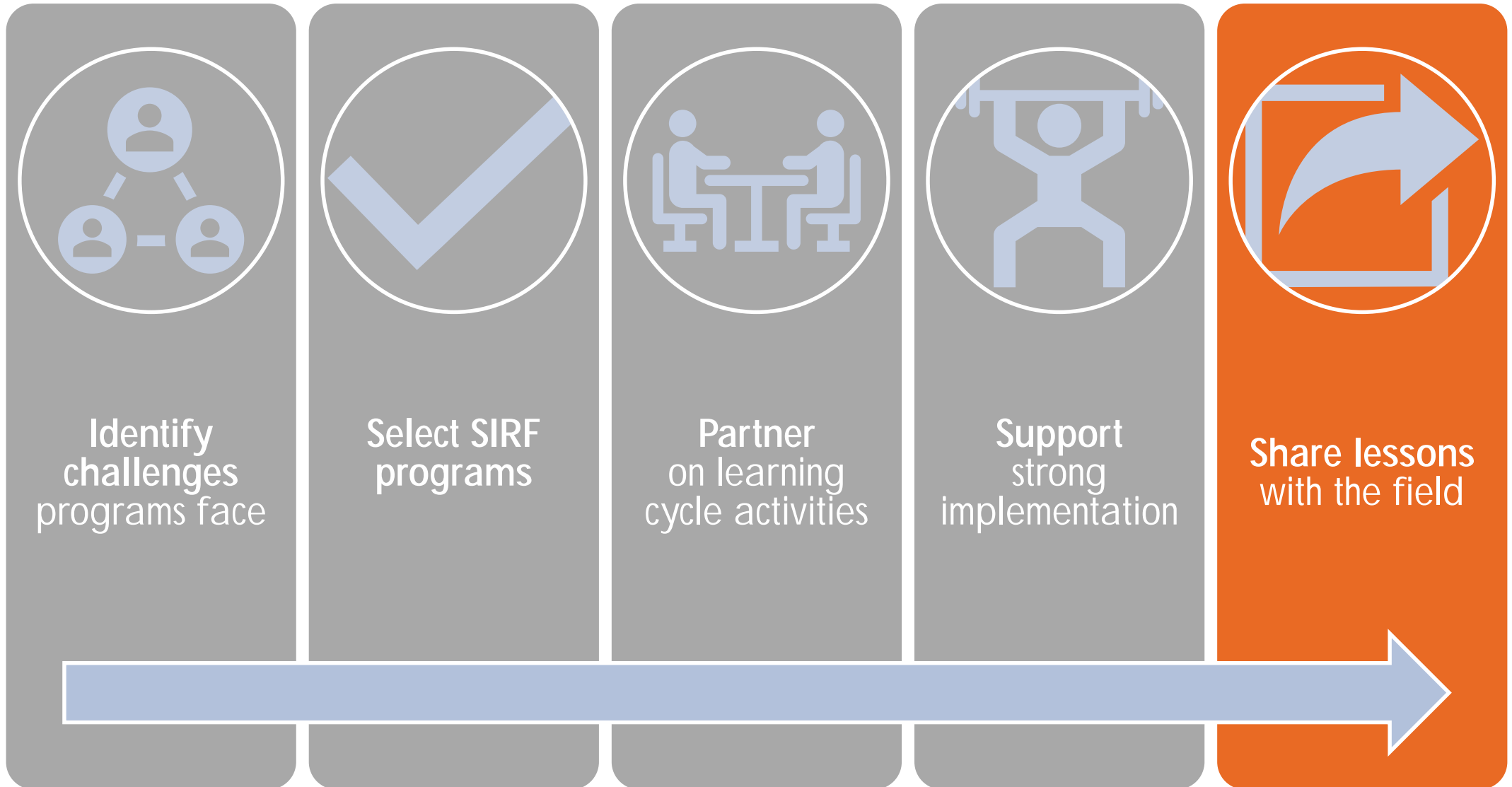
The SIRF Approach



The SIRF Approach



The SIRF Approach



Potential SIRF Strategies

Identify and meet fathers' needs	Example: Enhance initial assessment of needs – e.g. modify materials or processes
Foster peer support & networks	Example: Use peers as system navigators to help address participation barriers, referrals
Develop staff capacity	Example: Enhance group-based supervision and peer learning techniques
Deliver flexible services	Example: Provide alternative formats for program delivery (e.g. virtual or one-on-one services)
Recruit fathers to participate	Example: Use behavioral science principles to update messaging

POLL

Of the program strategies we mentioned:

Identify and meet fathers' needs

Foster peer support & networks

Develop staff capacity

Deliver flexible services

Recruit fathers to participate

which do you view as most relevant for your program or the programs you work with most often?

SIRF Timeline

August-
October 2020

Nomination process

January-
March 2021

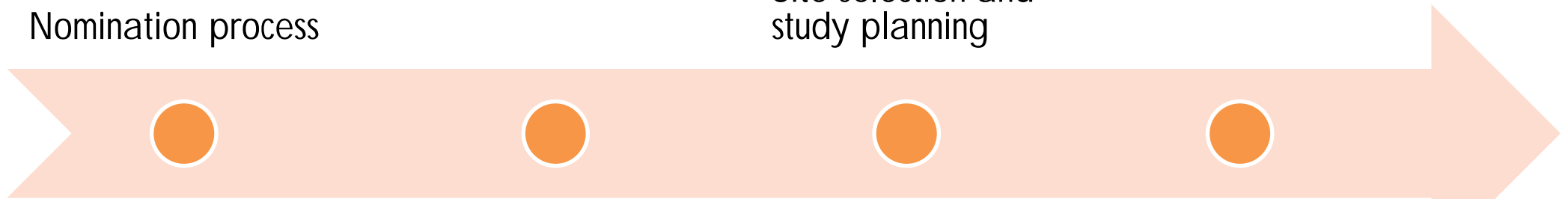
Site selection and
study planning

October-
December 2020

Discussions with
interested programs

April 2021-
March 2022

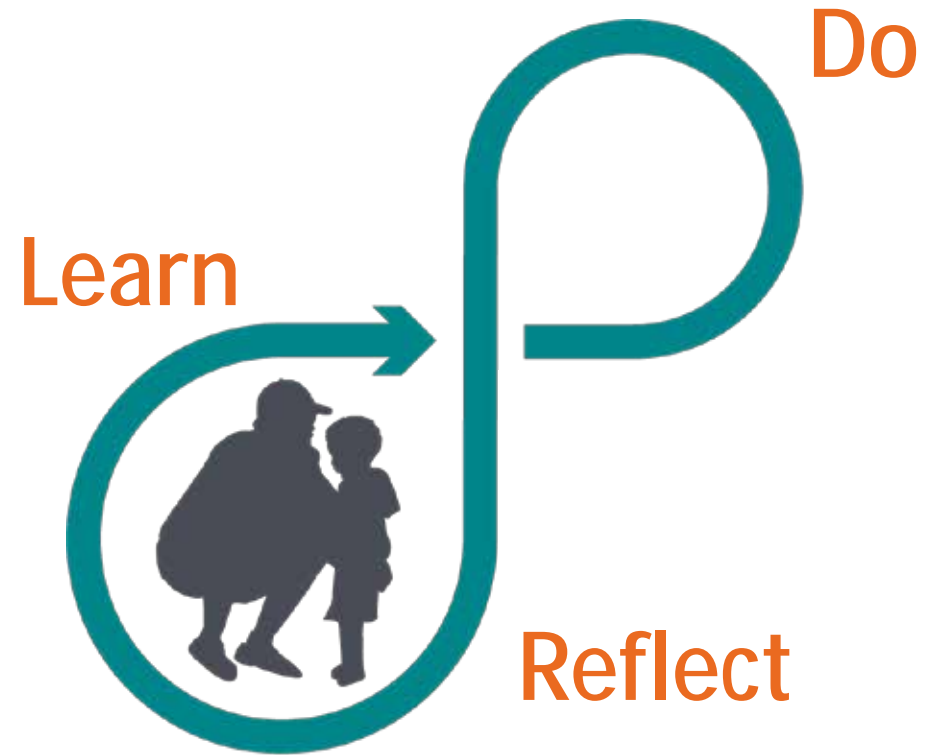
Learning cycles
implemented



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The SIRF Learning Cycle



Learn

Create SIRF implementation plan

Identify and train staff on the SIRF strategy

Do

Make it happen!
Implement SIRF strategy with a program improvement process

Reflect

Analyze data and other information to know what worked and what didn't

Adjust approach and begin new cycle

Learn

Create SIRF implementation plan

Identify and train staff on the SIRF strategy

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CQI vs. Local Evaluations vs. SIRF

Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

- Ongoing efforts to assess and improve program services and metrics
- Performed by all programs throughout grant period*

Local Evaluations*

- Designed by programs and evaluation partners
- May be experimental or non-, depending on funding level and approach selected

SIRF

- Federal evaluation, participation based on selection process
- Defined cycles of learning during study period

**This applies to federal Fatherhood FIRE grant recipients. Please refer to [the FOA](#) for details on grant requirements in these areas. Fatherhood programs who are not grant recipients may also participate in SIRF.*

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Donna Wharton-Fields



SIRF Nomination Process



SIRF
Strengthening the Implementation
of Responsible Fatherhood Programs

Nomination Process

SIRF is seeking nominations (including self nominations) for participation in a new, innovative study to support program implementation.

Has the nominated organization's staff tried to figure out how to increase the number of fathers that enroll in, attend, and complete its program?

SIRF is an opportunity to gain insights into why fathers enroll and participate in the organization's program. Using "rapid cycle learning" techniques, SIRF will co-design and test strategies to increase attendance, in collaboration with the Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

SIRF offers guidance on how to use organizational program data to quickly assess if its program strategies are working and troubleshoot when they are not.

Interested in submitting a nomination? Please go to the next page for instructions!

Who can participate in SIRF?

Any fatherhood program interested in learning more about how to improve its program is welcome to be nominated, whether or not the organization's program becomes a Family-focused, Interconnected, Resilient, and Essential (Fatherhood FIRE) ACF grantee.

Why SIRF?

- **Financial support** to enable new or existing staff to fully engage in this learning opportunity
- **Program support** as the organization designs and tests new service delivery strategies and strengthens its program
- **Deep data analysis** to fully understand the organization's data to inform program design
- **Professional development** including new training and program management tools for staff
- **Peer learning community** to share resources and lessons and connect with other fatherhood programs
- **Usable and broadly applicable lessons** to strengthen the field and inform future federal evaluations

What is the SIRF selection process?

Ready

Set

IDENTIFY
SIRF identifies potential program partners
AUG-OCT 2020

UNDERSTAND
SIRF and programs seek to understand context and fit
OCT-DEC 2020

SELECT
SIRF recommends to ACF programs to participate
JAN 2021

SOLIDIFY
SIRF and Programs develop a learning agenda to launch in March 2021
JAN-MAR 2021

Go

- We invite nominations from now until **October 9, 2020 at 5pm ET**
- **Any fatherhood program** is welcome to be nominated
- Nomination information is available at www.mdrc.org/SIRF and on OPRE's website: (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/resource/strengthening-the-implementation-of-responsible-fatherhood-programs-sirf-nomination-process>)

Letters of Nomination

- Letters of nomination may include information such as:
 - Organizational goals
 - Upcoming program changes
 - Responsiveness to current national and community contexts
 - Questions for the study team

How do I submit a SIRF nomination?

The SIRF team is now soliciting nominations, including self-nominations, for fatherhood programs to participate in the project, which begins in early 2021. These nominations will provide us with an opportunity to get to know the organizations' programs, staff, and participants, as well as identify study partners.

- Submit the organization's nomination to SIRF@mdrc.org with no more than 1,000 words describing the organization's interest (see suggested topics below).
- Nominations will be accepted between now and October 9, 2020, at 5:00pm ET.
- Questions are welcome. There will be a webinar [\[https://mdrc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_\[Gr6XssYS3KuyAP2Hb0SoQ\]](https://mdrc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_[Gr6XssYS3KuyAP2Hb0SoQ]) for prospective SIRF participants from 2-3:30 p.m. on August 12. You can also submit questions to SIRF@mdrc.org.

What are topics of interest for a nomination?

As we review nominations, the SIRF team would value learning about the following areas:

- **Organizational goals as they relate to SIRF priorities**
For example:
 - The organization's interest in exploring and solving issues related to recruitment, engagement, and retention;
 - An aspect of recruitment, engagement and retention the organization would want to strengthen or a question related to those areas that it wants to investigate more deeply.
- **Upcoming program changes**
For example:
 - Anything new the organization's program is planning to try soon.
- **Responsiveness to current national and community contexts**
For example:
 - How the organization's program has adapted or will adapt to serve fathers during COVID-19;
 - How the organization's program has adapted or will adapt as a result of recent protests against racial injustice and how fathers have been impacted;
 - How the organization's program has responded to other national or community crises or systemic challenges.
- **Questions you have for us**

What else should I know?

- In addition to the organization's submitted response, our team will review available ACF data.
- Responses may be shared with ACF but will not be associated with program names.
- We look forward to hearing from you!

FUNDING On behalf of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, MDRC is conducting this study with its partners MEF Associates and Insight Policy Research

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Thank you!



Additional questions? Contact:

SIRF@mdrc.org

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Kriti.Jain@acf.hhs.gov

Dina.Israel@mdrc.org