

Funder-Grantee Systems Change Readiness Assessment Tool

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How can funders, grantees, and evaluators best work together on systems change initiatives that involve co-designing strategies and learning tools that are responsive to community needs? To address this question, Engage R+D, in partnership with David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Oakland Public Education Fund, researched this topic and identified four factors that can help funders and grantees work together effectively.

Four key ingredients funders and grantees need to successfully collaborate on systems change:



Relationship Orientation

Building trusting relationships among grantees, funders, and others



Flexibility

Willingness to adapt program strategy as understanding develops and context evolves



Systems Orientation

Seeing things through the lens of the entire system that influences the issue(s) you are seeking to address



Learning Orientation

Commitment to learning and continuous improvement

How will you know when you're ready?

As part of this work, the team is piloting a tool to help funders and grantees assess their readiness to work in collaborative partnership when pursuing systems change strategies. The tool is designed to provide recommendations for right-sizing co-learning to different readiness levels within these four areas.

Upon completing the tool, we also offer a discussion guide to help facilitate a conversation with your partner about how you can best work together on systems change efforts that require deep collaboration. It can be used towards the start of a systems change engagement and re-visited throughout to ensure alignment around common goals.

Want to try it? We're currently looking for partners to help us pilot this tool. If you'd like to participate, sign up here:

<https://www.engageerd.com/tool>