



Linking Data Across Systems and Over Time to Improve Child Outcomes

Kathy Hebbeler, Early Childhood Outcomes Center,
SRI International
Elizabeth Laird, Data Quality Campaign

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Early Childhood Outcomes Center



- Initially, a 5-year project funded by OSEP in October 2003.
- Funded again October 2008 for another 5 years.
- Provide national leadership and technical assistance to states to advance the implementation of high-quality outcomes systems for early intervention and preschool special education programs.

Data in 2009



- Data as a tool
- Data system is an important part of the system that supports service delivery
- Data are meant to be used – and that includes by the state

Proposition



All children in your state are not achieving the best possible outcomes.

Proposition



There is something systematic about which children are not achieving the best outcomes.

Systematic?



- There is variation in outcomes by district/program (i.e., Some are doing a better job than others)
- There is variation by type of child (i.e., Some groups are achieving better outcomes than others)
 - Disability
 - Family income
 - Race/ethnicity
 - Age/Grade level

If ...then

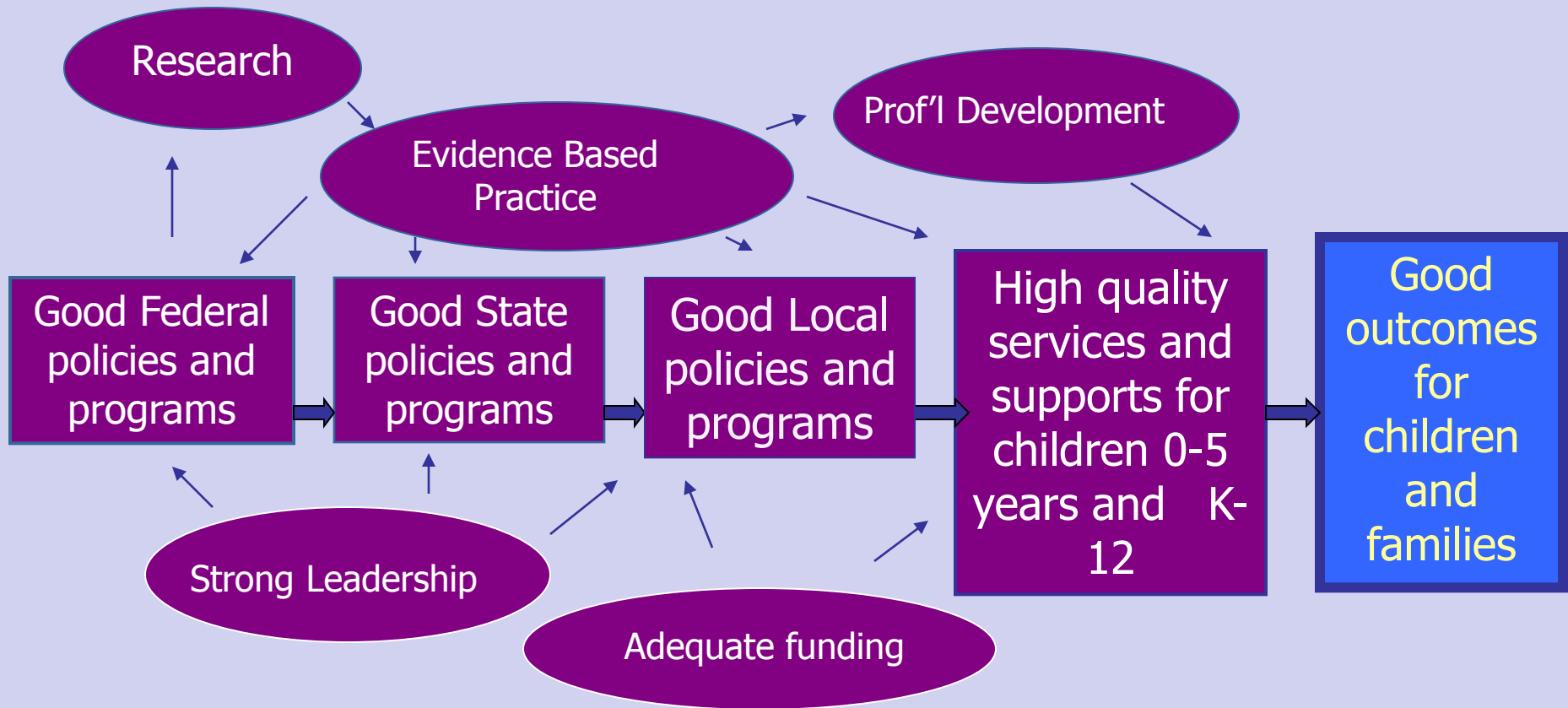


All children in your state are not achieving the best possible outcomes.

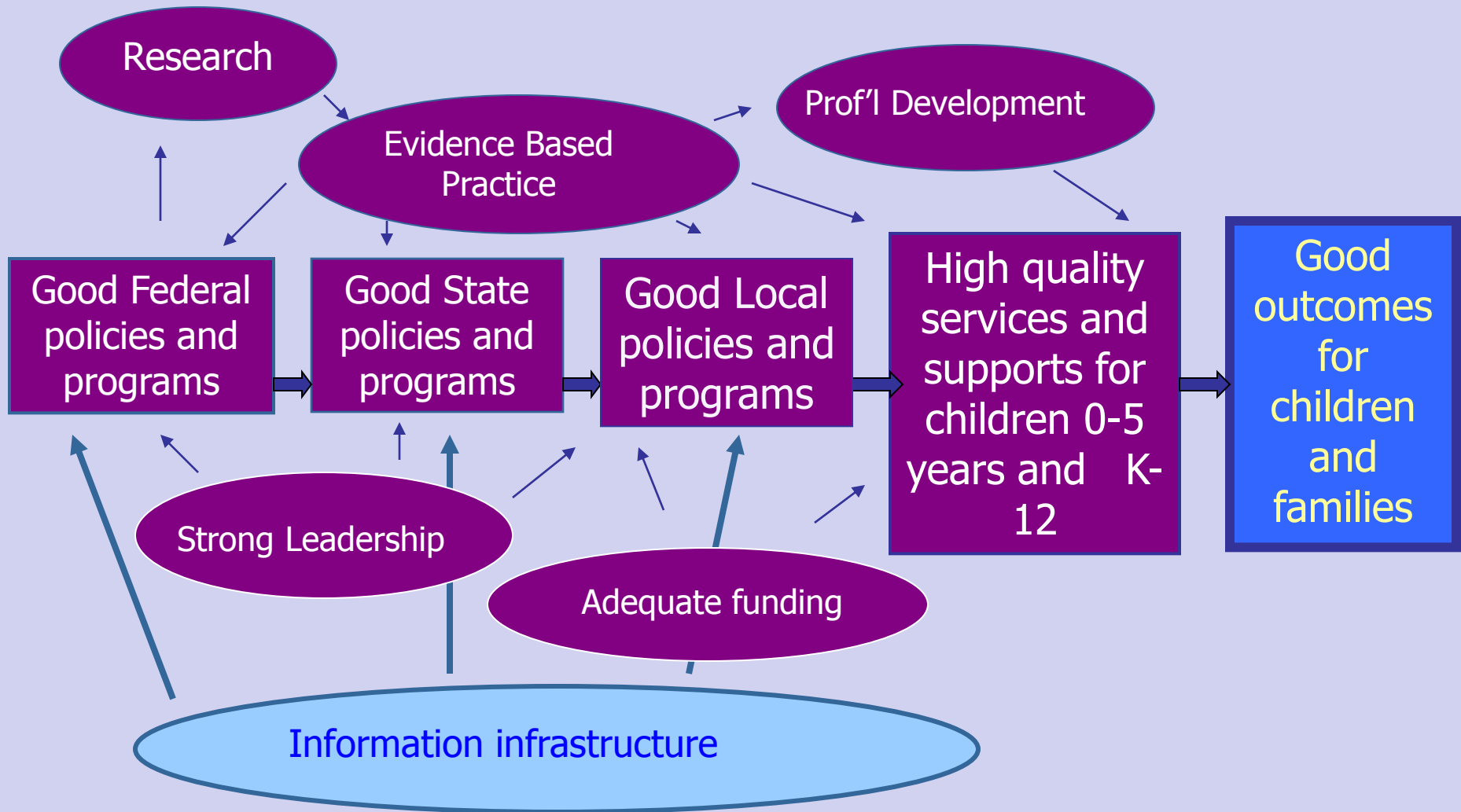
Data are the tool that will allow the state to find these children...and address the problem.

But how do you find the problem?

Good Outcomes Result from a Good System



Good information is key component of a good system.



CONNECTS

A SPECIAL POLICY ISSUE FROM THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION WINTER 2009



Stories in this issue:

Reduce poverty and promote opportunity

Profile: Refundable tax credits aid non-custodial fathers

Rebuild the nation's child welfare system

Profile: Guardianship furthers goal of permanent families for children

Reform the juvenile justice system

Profile: Former juvenile justice system youth serve as probation officers

Improve the nation's data on children and families

Support legislation that helps strengthen vulnerable families

Additional resources

Improve the nation's data on children and families

Good decisions are based on good data, and a hallmark of Casey's approach is using sound data to advocate and build strategies for change. KIDS COUNT consistently earns high marks and gets attention from policymakers for tracking changes in the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. However, the nation's ability to make the best program and policy decisions is often stymied by inadequate data.

Census Data

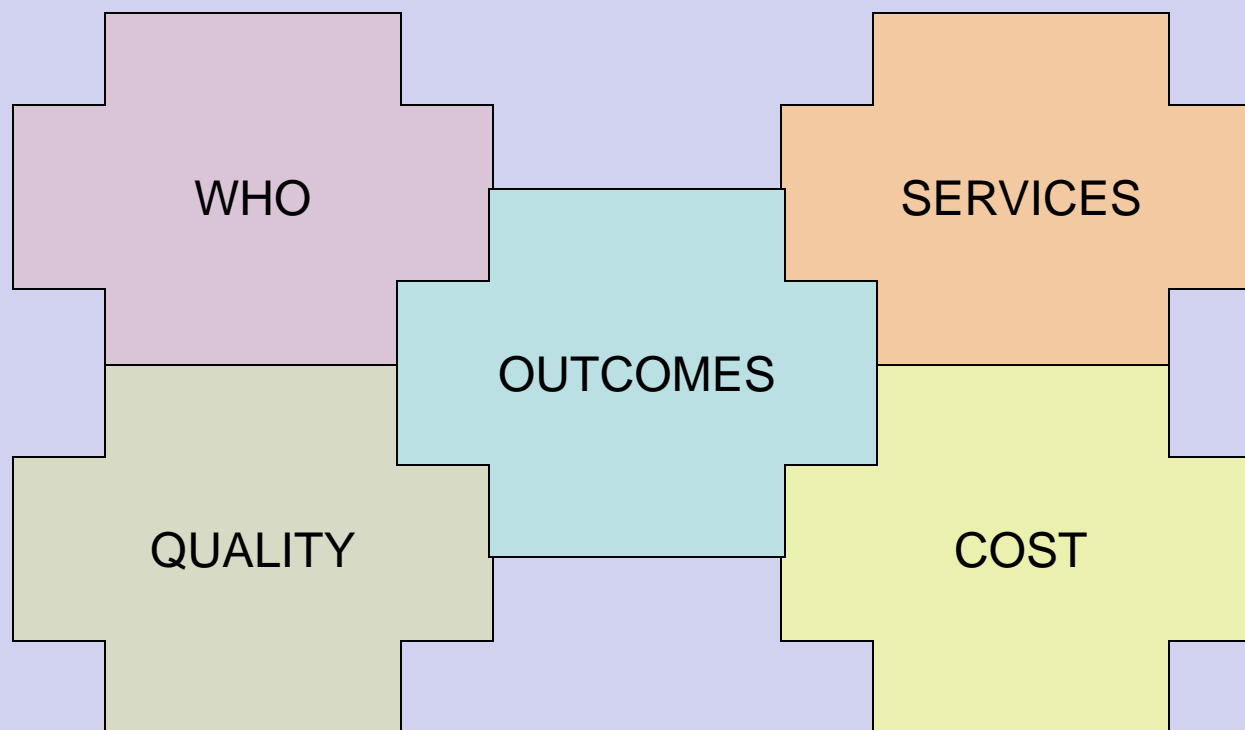
Most pressing is the need to ensure that the 2010 Decennial Census is adequately funded, managed, and promoted. The government relies upon the data to determine how to distribute nearly \$400 billion each year for important programs and how many representatives a state gets in the U.S. House. The public and private sectors and nonprofits also use the data to evaluate initiatives, analyze target populations, and allocate resources. An undercounted community loses out.

"As we approach the 2010 Census, we must get an accurate count to provide low-income populations and communities their fair share of public funds—and political representation," says William O'Hare, a Casey Foundation senior fellow.

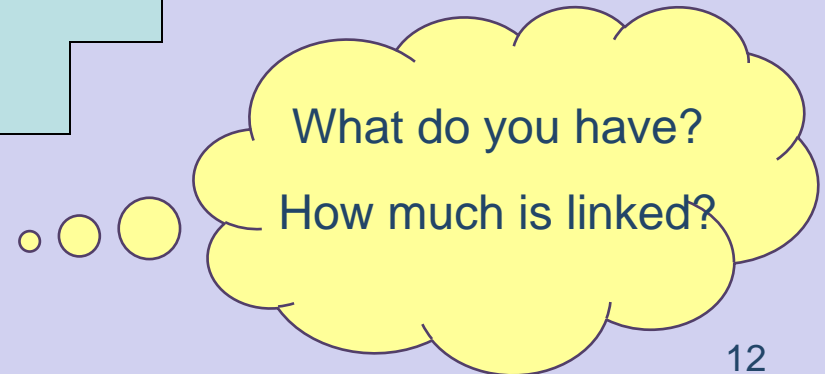
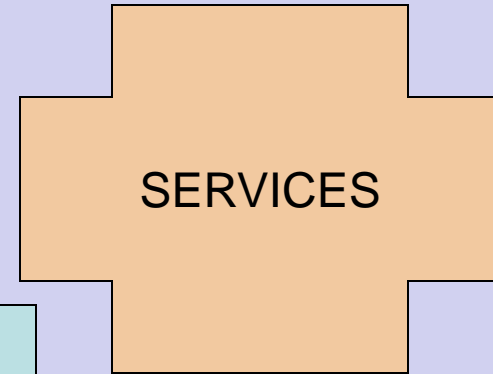
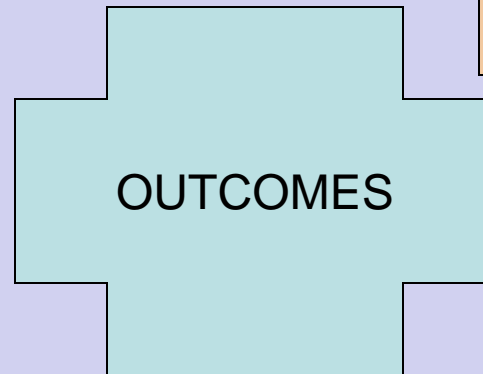
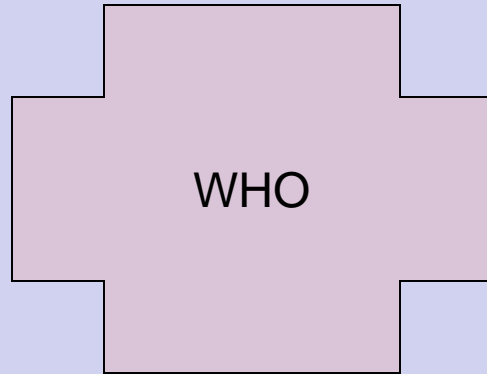
The Obama administration should nominate, and the Senate should confirm, a strong new Census Bureau director quickly so that the agency has effective leadership. It is also important to stave off proposed cuts, relative to what was spent in 2000, in advertising and outreach that can make critical differences in Census response rates. And residents should be hired to follow up with people who do not return their Census forms, particularly in historically undercounted communities.

To make the Census more efficient and effective and less vulnerable to partisan attack and manipulation, the federal government should make the Census Bureau more independent; for example,

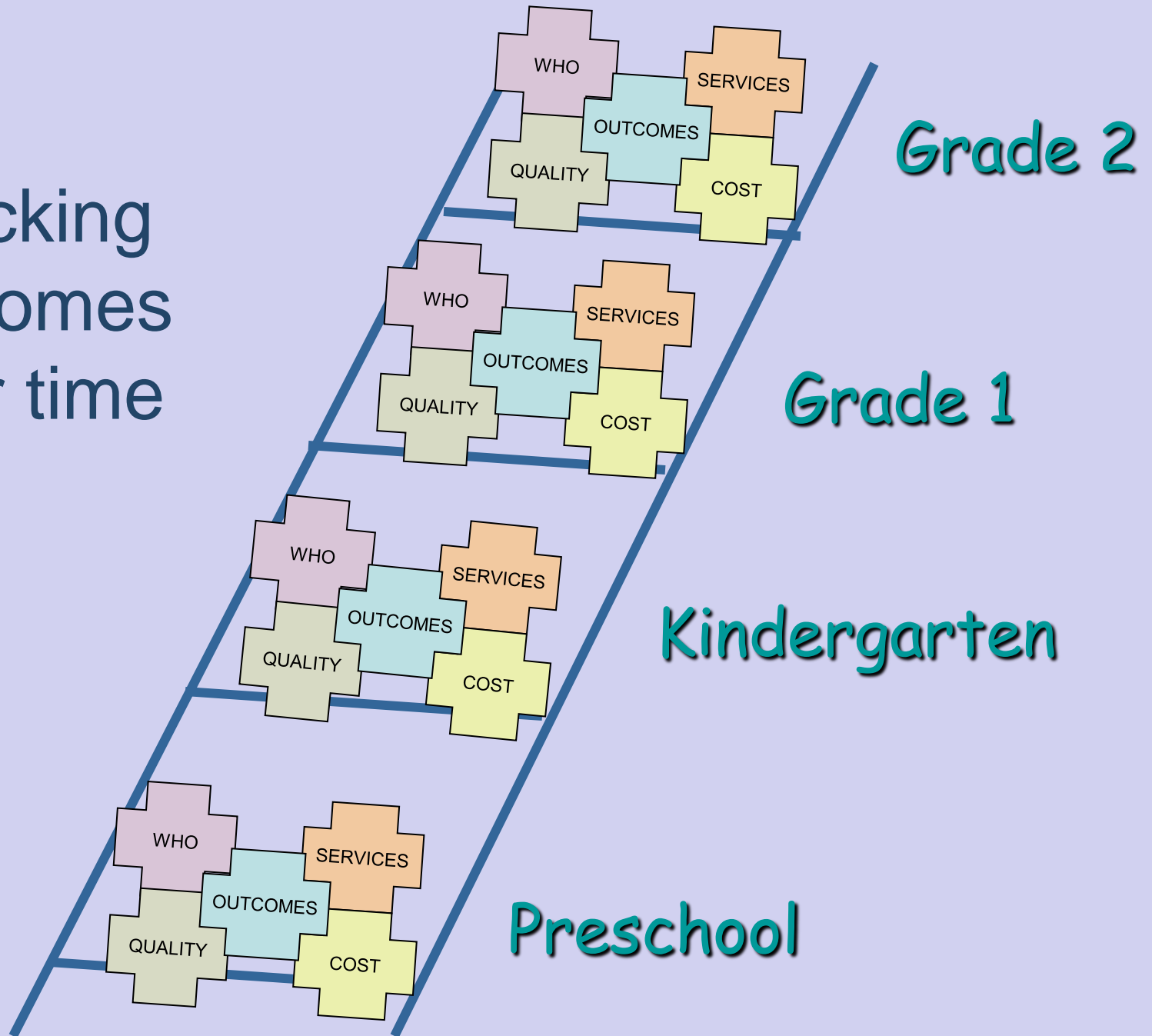
Information Infrastructure: Data Needed for Program Improvement



Where is your state now?



Tracking
outcomes
over time





Starting to Build the Infrastructure: The Outcomes Measurement System



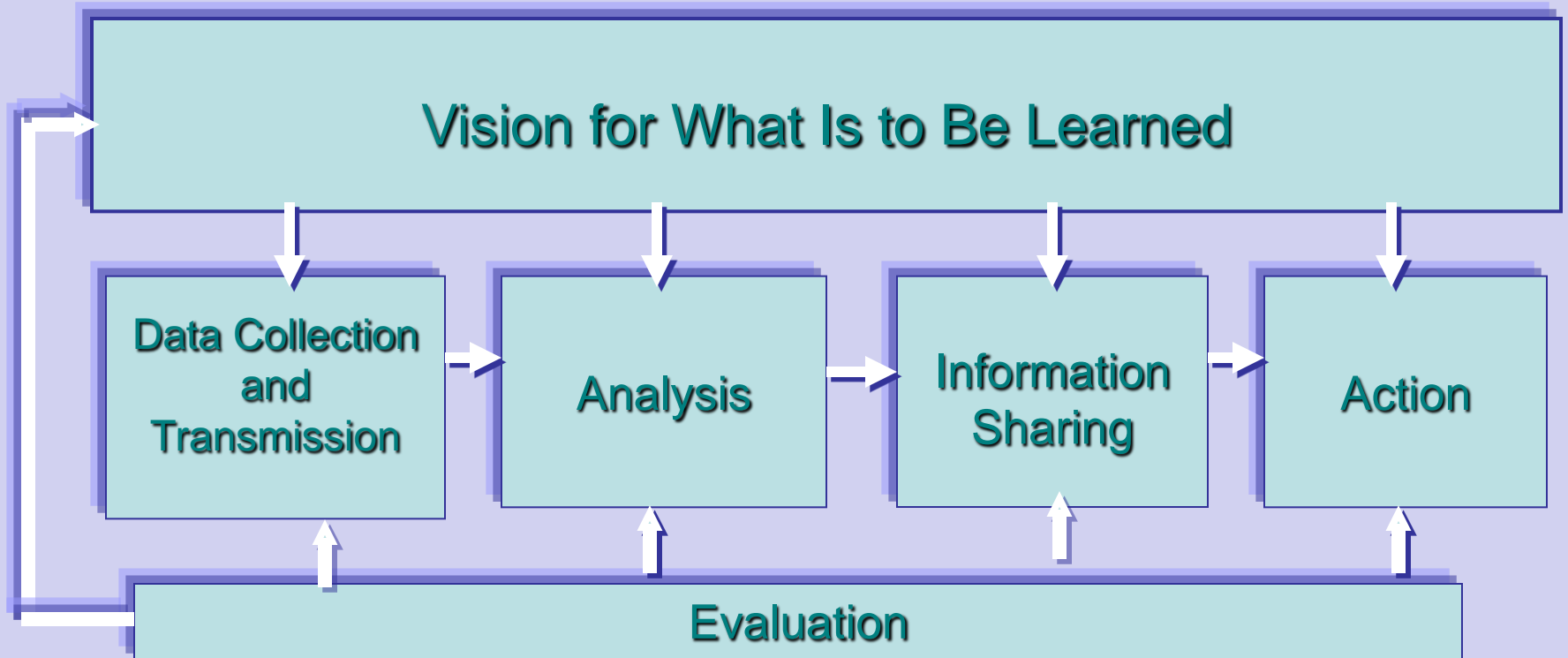
An outcomes
measurement system
is more than hardware,
software, and data

Framework Development



- ECO will be working with 7 partner states over the next two years to develop a framework for outcomes measurement.
- Framework provides the basis for a self assessment to allow states to track their own progress in building an outcomes measurement system.

Areas of DRAFT Outcomes Measurement System Framework



Self Assessment



- Is each area of the outcomes measurement system implemented?
- Is the area implemented in a way that reflects high quality?

Preliminary Thoughts on Elements



- The next slides show the DRAFT Areas and some possible DRAFT elements within those areas.
- Our work in the next 2 years will focus on refining the areas, the elements, and especially the quality indicators.

Vision



- State has a vision for its Child Outcomes Measurement System
 - State has articulated the outcomes that the service system is trying to achieve and for which children and families
 - Must collect data on the OSEP child outcomes and family indicators
 - Might have other outcomes or different organizing framework (e.g., State standards, early learning guidelines)
 - State has articulated why outcome data are being collected and the purposes for which the data are to be used.
- Etc.

Data Collection and Transmission



- State has a method capable of accurately capturing outcomes information
 - Method is adequate for all outcomes
 - Sampling plan is technically sound (if sampling)
- State has effective procedures for moving data from the local to the state level
- State has process for ensuring that ongoing supervision of the data collection process is occurring in all localities.
- Etc.

Analysis



- State has a process for developing questions of interest that to be addresses through the analysis
- State has capacity to analyze data to address its key questions
 - Either in-house or through arrangements with another organization
- All data users have capacity to interpret data
- State monitors data quality through data analysis.
- Etc.

Information Sharing



- State has identified key audiences for outcome information.
- State shares information with key audiences in a timely manner and in an appropriate format.
- Etc.

Action



- State regularly acts on what has been learned from data to improve programs.
- Etc.

Evaluation



- State conducts ongoing evaluation to examine the effectiveness of its outcomes measurement system.
- Etc.

Our Vision



- To provide detailed and validated information to allow a state to examine and refine its information infrastructure.
- Our goal for states: A high quality information infrastructure that can support the overall system in producing good service and supports.

Our Vision



High quality
services and
supports



Good outcomes for
children and families



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