



**Program Lifecycle**

**Evaluation Lifecycle**

Phase I  
**Initiation**

Program is in *initial implementation(s)*, either as a brand new program or as an adaptation of an existing program.

Phase IA

Examines *implementation, participant and facilitator satisfaction*. Uses process and participant *documentation* and assessment and *post-only evaluation of reactions and satisfaction*.

**Process  
& Response**

Program still undergoing *rapid or substantial change* or revision, after initial trials.

Phase IB

Focuses on *implementation*, and increasingly on *presence or absence of selected outcomes*. Evaluation is *post-only*; outcome measures are under development with attention to internal consistency (reliability).

Phase II  
**Development**

*Scale and scope of revisions are smaller*; most program elements are still developing while a few may be implemented consistently

Phase IIA

Examines *program's association with change in group outcomes*, for these participants in this context. Uses *unmatched pre- and post-test of outcomes*, quantitative/qualitative assessment of change, assessment of measure reliability and validity.

**Change**

*Most program elements are implemented consistently*; minor changes may still take place as some elements may still be developing

Phase IIB

Examines *program's association with change in group (and/or individual) outcomes*, for these participants in this context. Uses *matched pre- and post-test of outcomes*, quantitative/qualitative assessment of change, verifying measure reliability and validity.

Phase III  
**Stability**

*Program is implemented consistently*; participant experience from one implementation to the next is relatively stable (formal lessons or curricula exist)

Phase IIIA

Assesses *effectiveness* using design and statistical controls and comparisons (*control groups, control variables or statistical controls*).

**Comparison  
& Control**

Program has *formal written procedures or protocol* and can be implemented consistently by new facilitators

Phase IIIB

Assesses *effectiveness* using *controlled experiments or quasi-experiments (randomized experiment; regression-discontinuity)*.

Phase IV  
**Dissemination**

Program is being *implemented in multiple sites*; adaptations to new contexts have been made

Phase IVA

Examines *outcome effectiveness across wider range of contexts*. Multi-site analysis of integrated large data sets over multiple waves of program implementation.

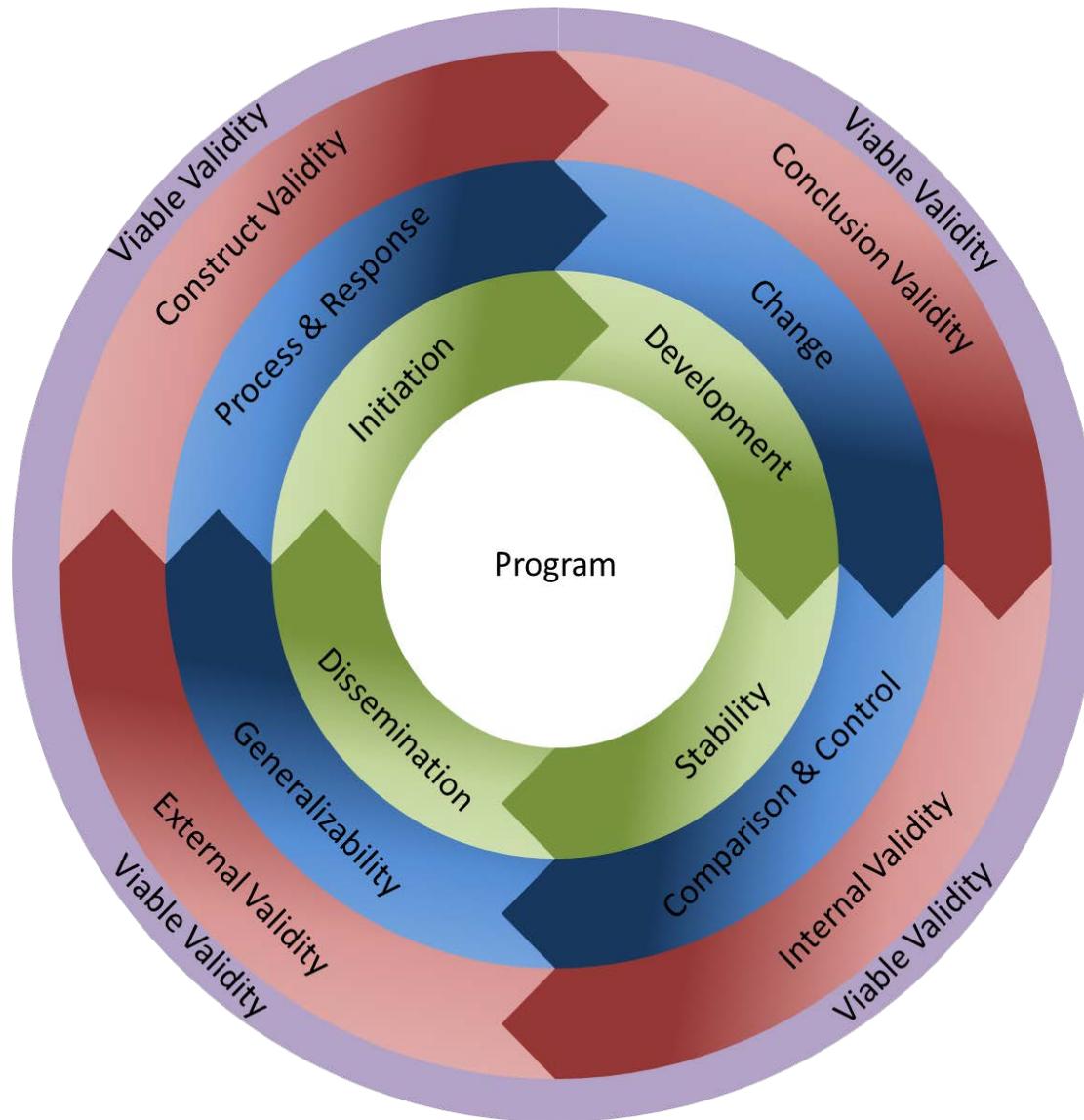
**Generalizability**

Program is *fully protocolized and is being widely distributed*

Phase IVB

Formal assessment across multiple program implementations that enable general assertions about this program in a wide variety of contexts (e.g., meta-analysis).

# Evolutionary Developmental Lifecycle Model



Excerpted from: Urban, J., Hargraves, M., & Trochim, W. (under review). An evolutionary developmental systems perspective on program evaluation. For more information, contact [urbanj@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:urbanj@mail.montclair.edu)