Rapid Cycle Evaluation
Stimulating Effective Innovation: Potential Applications for SNAP

Presentation to the Policy Roundtable of the Behavioral and Social Sciences, National Academy of Sciences

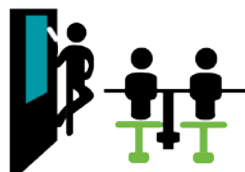**October 30, 2014**

Scott Cody

Rapid Cycle Evaluation
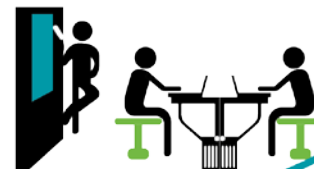
The SNAP Program

- **Federally funded/State-administered**

- **States pay ½ administrative costs**

- **Applicants must complete application, interview, and submit supporting documentation**

- **Participants are certified for a fixed period**

- **Participants must report changes**

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SNAP Program Changes

Do changes:

- **Increase participation?**

- **Increase benefit amounts?**

- **Promote labor force participation?**

- **Reduce program integrity?**

- **Increase efficiency?**

SNAP Intake and Eligibility Procedures

Category	Examples
Policy Simplification	Waiver of face-to-face interviews Reduced verification requirements Lengthened certification periods
Administrative Restructuring	Specialization of staff roles (intake, interview…) Call agents for various functions
Technology	Online application elements
Community Partnerships	Partners provide outreach, application assistance, and intake Reimbursement to partners

What Works for Whom?
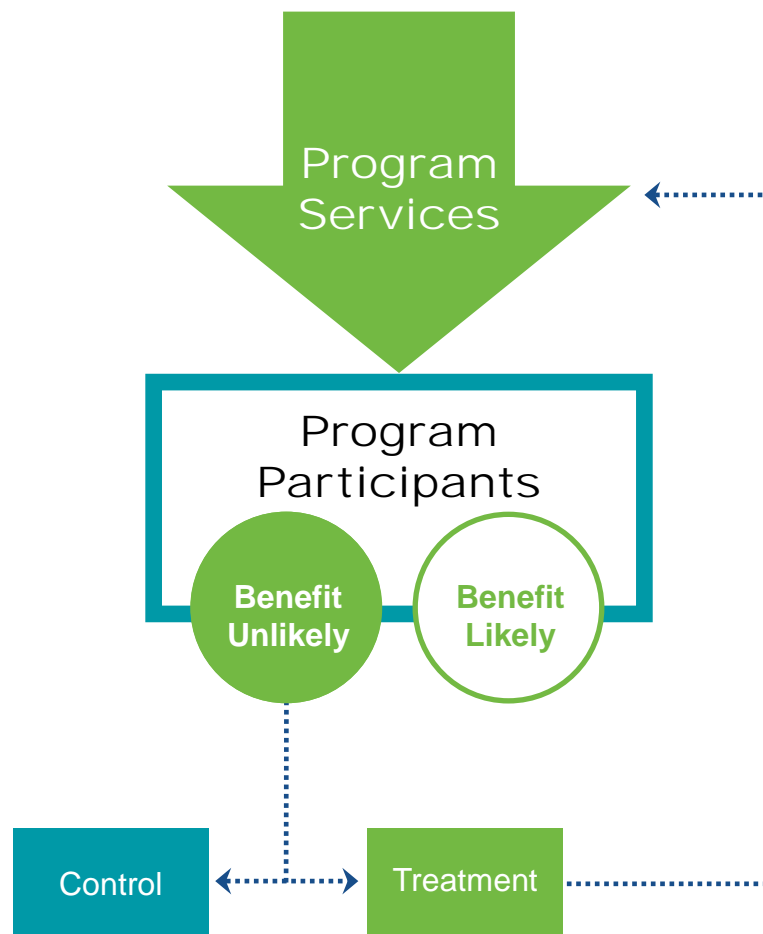
What Is Needed?

- **Quality data**

- **A "testable" change**

- **A short "impact window"**

- **Sufficient flow of clients**

Contact Information

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