

## National Advisory Panel Recommendations

**EV-1:** Conduct an **implementation study or studies** that will enable First Things First to answer questions about profiles of services received by providers, fidelity of implementation of all Quality First (QF) components, the relation between QF components and QF star levels, differences in quality of care between star levels, the developmental trajectory of QF providers, and comparison of service quality between QF provider participants and providers who do not participate in Quality First.

**EV-2:** Conduct a study (building on information gathered during the implementation studies) to answer the following question: How do child level outcomes vary according to the Quality First Star levels?

Sequential Phases of the Study	National Advisory Report #	National Advisory Panel Questions	What Will We Learn?
<p><b>Phase One: Implementation I</b> July 2013-Sept 2014</p> <p><b>Primary Aims:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To review and evaluate the Quality First <b>star rating scale</b>.</li> <li>Lay the groundwork for all phases of the study. For example, provide recommendations for utilizing and building on existing data system capabilities. Provide recommendations for sampling and methodological plans for later phases of the study.</li> </ol> 	<p>EV-1c</p> <p>EV-1c</p>	<p>How different is the quality of care between Quality First Star levels? (evaluation of <b>star rating scale</b>)</p> <p>Do Quality First cut scores measure meaningful differences between Star levels? (evaluation of <b>star rating scale</b>)</p>	<p>Are ratings assessing quality in expected ways? (For example, is the rating scale designed to assess quality with consistency across all provider types?)</p> <p>Is the star rating scale (e.g. number of levels, sequencing of improvement supports, time allowed for improvement, cut scores, etc.) consistent with best practices for QIRS rating scales?</p> <p>What data collection and data warehousing activities need to be in place to move forward with the next phase of the study?</p>



Sequential Phases of the Study	National Advisory Report #	National Advisory Panel Questions	What Will We Learn?
<p><b>Phase Three: Validation and Outcomes I</b> June 2016-December 2017</p> <p><b>Primary Aim:</b></p> <p>Conduct a comparative study, looking at: (1) the relationship between participation in Quality First and the quality of services provided compared with non-Quality First programs; (2) providers with different star ratings and variation in short-term child outcomes.</p> 	<p>EV-1d</p> <p>EV-1d</p> <p>EV-2a</p>	<p>Is the quality of care and education by star levels (as measured by our assessment tools such as ERS, CLASS etc.) improving over time?</p> <p>How does the quality of care/education of QF providers compare with non-QF providers?</p> <p>How do child outcomes vary according to the Quality First Star levels?</p>	<p>What is the “quality improvement” developmental trajectory of providers? For example, what factors influence progression from one star level to the next? What factors influence movement up the QF star- rated levels?</p> <p>What is the relationship between quality improvement activities, the quality of services to children, and higher star ratings?</p> <p>In what ways does participation in a high quality program influence short-term outcomes for children? For example, in what ways might children attending a five-star center experience different immediate outcomes than children attending a one-star center?</p>