

IRI Impact Highlights

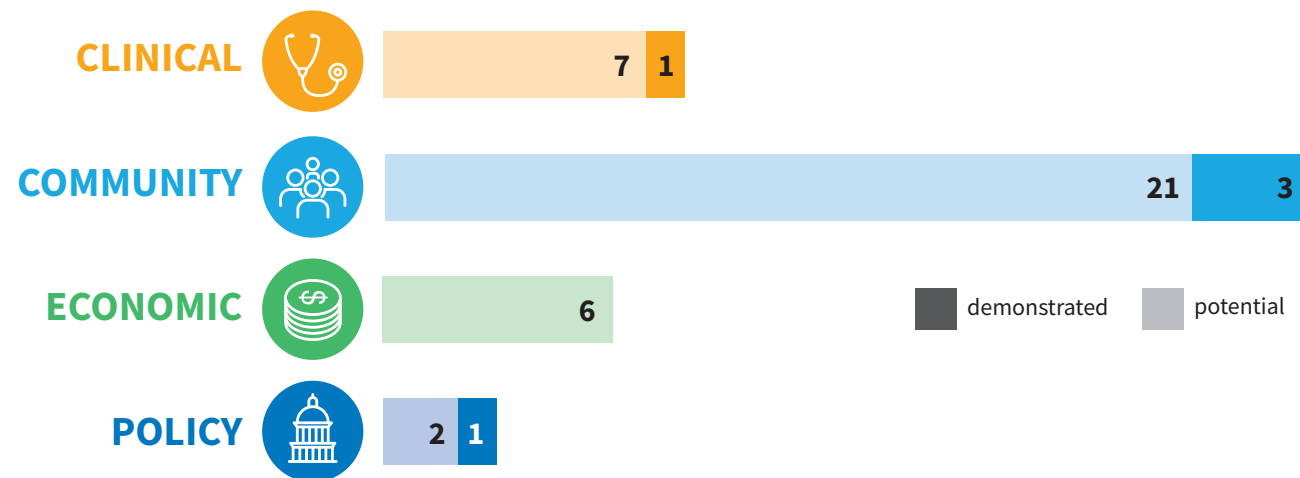
A set of six case studies from the **2025 IRI cohort** developed with the **Translational Science Benefits Model** framework

In partnership with the Implementation Research Institute, the Translational Science Benefits Model project developed six impact case studies demonstrating how implementation science can improve health services and change communities. The case studies showcase the impact of IRI fellows' and alums' work, and the impact of the IRI itself as a mentored network.



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Together, the IRI projects identified **41 TSBM benefits**, 5 demonstrated and 36 potential (expected to be realized in the future).



Addressing Traumatic Brain Injury as a Missing Link in Substance Use Disorder Treatment Equity and Effectiveness



PI: KATHRYN A. HYZAK, PHD



This implementation study is testing whether screening for traumatic brain injury and using cognitive compensatory strategies can make substance use disorder (SUD) treatment more effective and equitable. The project responds to evidence that many people seeking SUD treatment have a history of brain injury, which can affect memory, attention, impulse control, and treatment engagement, yet these challenges are often missed or mistaken for noncompliance. Researchers at The Ohio State University will train providers to identify TBI-related challenges and use practical supports like checklists and task chunking, while also using facilitation to help sustain these practices in treatment settings. If successful, the study could improve self-efficacy, treatment retention, and client satisfaction, reduce relapse and long-term costs, and help make brain-injury-informed care a new standard in SUD treatment. Read the [case study](#) on our website.



Co-designing Implementation Strategies to Increase Uptake of Whole Health for Older Veterans Experiencing Homelessness



PI: SOPHIA BARTELS, PHD, MSPH



This community-engaged study aims to increase access to Whole Health well-being programs for older Veterans experiencing homelessness, especially those with mental health or substance use disorders. Focusing on Veterans in HUD-VASH, VA's supportive housing program, researchers will use interviews with Veterans and providers to identify barriers and facilitators to participation, then co-design implementation strategies to help more Veterans connect with Whole Health resources as they move into permanent housing. The goal is to improve well-being, sense of purpose, engagement in care, and management of mental health and substance use symptoms, while reducing loneliness and isolation. If successful, the work could strengthen how Whole Health is integrated into HUD-VASH services and better support a highly vulnerable Veteran population. Read the [case study](#) on our website.



Project FISCAL: Adapting a Financial Planning Tool to Help Implementation and Mental Health Organizations Sustainably Scale their Impact



PI: MARGARET CRANE, PHD



Project FISCAL is an adapted financial planning tool to help mental health and implementation organizations keep evidence-based programs running and expand them more sustainably. Many organizations struggle to find steady funding after initial training ends, which can lead to cuts, reduced services, or less access for lower-income patients. The project uses human-centered design to refine a “fiscal mapping” process with input from users, then tests whether it helps organizations build stronger financial plans. If successful, the tool could help clinics and other organizations scale effective mental health care, lower costs for patients, and improve access to services for more people. Read the [case study](#) on our website.



Project Adelante: Scaling Brief Mental Health Support within HIV Care Settings in Puerto Rico



PI: JUAN PABLO ZAPATA, PHD



Project Adelante is a brief, culturally adapted mental health support program for adolescents and young adults living with HIV in Puerto Rico. The goal is to help address depression, stress, and stigma by offering support directly inside HIV clinics instead of sending patients elsewhere for specialty mental health care. Researchers will work with young people, clinic staff, and community advisors to adapt the program, then train lay clinic staff to deliver it during routine HIV visits. If it works, the approach could improve mental health, HIV treatment engagement, and viral suppression, while also making care more accessible and easier for clinics to sustain. Read the [case study](#) on our website.



Caring Contacts to Prevent Youth Suicide after an Emergency Department Visit



PI: JENNIFER HOFFMANN, MD, MS



The Caring Contacts program is being adapted as a simple text-message support program for teens after an emergency department visit for suicidal thoughts or behaviors. The goal is to help reduce suicide risk during the dangerous period right after discharge, especially for young people who may not receive traditional mental health care. Researchers will first talk with adolescents with lived experience to learn what messages, timing, and delivery methods feel most helpful. They will then pilot the text-message version and look at both its early effects and what would be needed to use it in real emergency department settings. If successful, Caring Contacts could become a low-burden, scalable way to support youth, prevent suicide, and ease the impact on families, schools, and communities. Read the [case study](#) on our website.



Implementing Patient-Centered Measurement-based Care for LGBTQ+ Patients



PI: BRIANA S. LAST, PHD



This project aims to make therapy more responsive to the needs of LGBTQ+ patients by using brief check-ins and surveys throughout treatment. The idea is to help clinicians and patients track symptoms, goals, and progress together, instead of relying on a one-size-fits-all approach. The project focuses on individualized measures that use the patient's own words and reflect their specific stressors, including discrimination and policy-related stress. Researchers will partner with LGBTQ+ patients and community clinicians to design practical supports for using this approach in real-world care. If successful, it could help make mental health treatment more personalized, affirming, and effective for LGBTQ+ people. Read the [case study](#) on our website.



For these and other case studies, visit translationalsciencebenefits.wustl.edu/case-study.



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