

# Tennessee’s Interactive Program Inventory User Guide & Glossary

## Using the Interactive Program Inventory

The public-facing program inventory is an interactive Tableau dashboard that users can manipulate to filter, search, and learn more about Tennessee’s programs and the extent to which they are supported by rigorous evidence. Every program has an evidence step and impact rating based in the Tennessee Evidence Framework.

### General Orientation

The inventory consists of the following key features (fig. 1):

1. A color-coordinated bar chart of the number of programs in the inventory by evidence step
2. A list of programs and interventions
3. The evidence step and impact rating for each program and intervention
4. The source of evidence for programs or interventions that have a rigorous evidence base
5. A filter and search feature

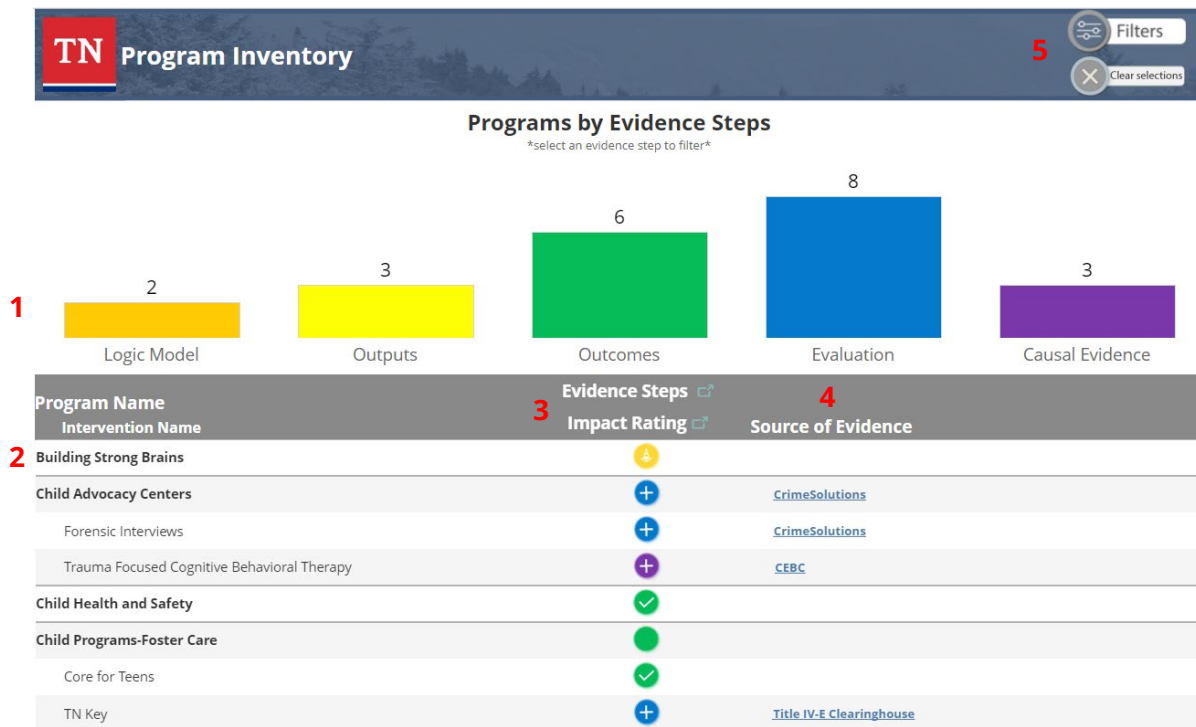


Figure 1: General Inventory Orientation

## Tool Tips - Information at a Glance

Some elements of the inventory offer a “tool tip” for a quick look at related information (fig. 2). Hovering the pointer over a specific area of the inventory will display a box with additional information, reducing the number of clicks needed to view key information.

- Hover the pointer over a **colorful evidence step bar** to learn about that evidence step.
- Hover the pointer over a **program or intervention name** to see its description.
- Hover the pointer over a **hybrid evidence step/impact rating symbol** to see the evidence step, the impact rating, and the outcomes (if applicable) for that program or intervention.
- Hover the pointer over the **Evidence Steps table heading** to see the full evidence framework.
- Hover the pointer over the **Impact Rating table heading** to see the symbols and their meanings.

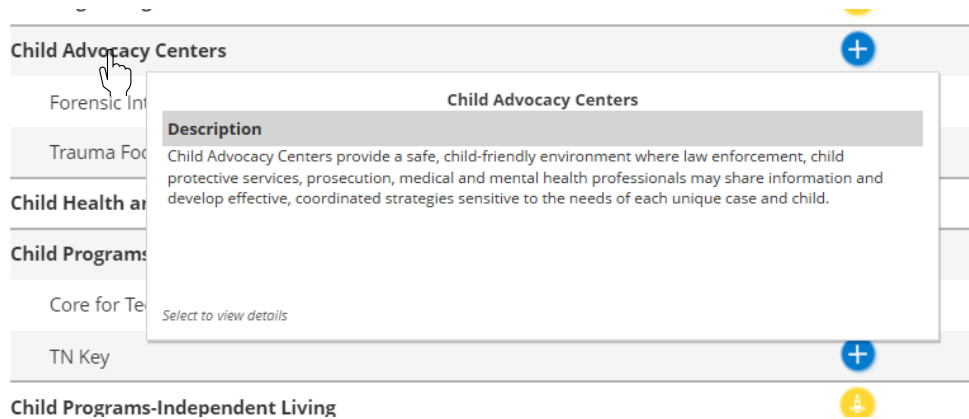
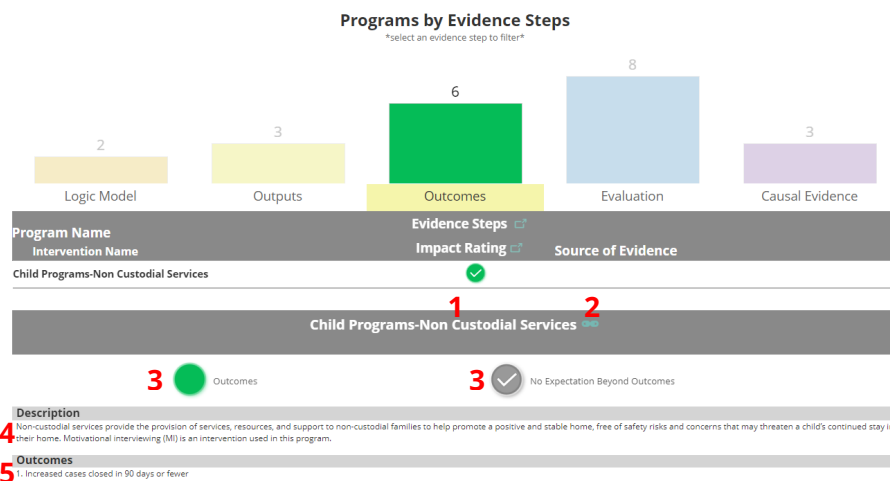


Figure 2: Program Description Tool Tip

## Program or Intervention Details View

To learn more about a specific program or intervention, click on its name or its evidence/impact rating symbol. The screen will display the following information (fig. 3):



1. The name of the program or intervention
2. A link to the site for the program or intervention, if applicable
3. The evidence step color, plus the impact rating symbol and its meaning
4. A description of the program or intervention
5. Outcome(s) being tracked about the program or intervention, if applicable and/or available

Figure 3: Program Details View

To clear the selected program or intervention, either click the program/intervention name again, or click *Clear Selections* in the top right corner of the page.

### Filter by Evidence Step

To see all the programs or interventions at a specific evidence step (fig. 4), click the desired colorful bar above the table. To unfilter, click the same evidence bar again, or click *Clear Selections* in the top right corner of the page.

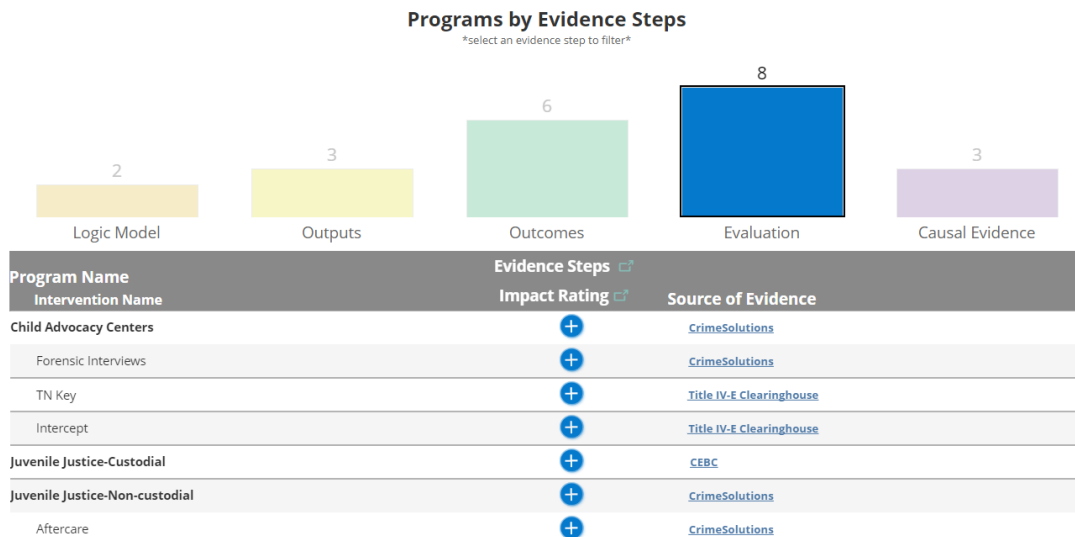


Figure 4: Filter by Evidence Step

### Filter by Subject Area, Target Age, and/or Delivery Setting

To set up a filter by a specific subject area, target age, or delivery setting, click the *Filters* button at the top right of the screen. This will open a gray field with dropdown options (fig. 5). Click the dropdown menu, then click to check or uncheck desired selections. Once the desired selections are made, click *Apply* to view the filtered list.

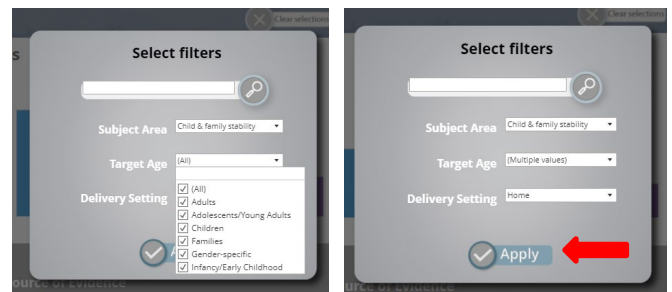


Figure 5: Filter Selection

To return to the unfiltered list view, either reset the filters to the *All* selections, or refresh the page. A listing of all filter categories is in the glossary of this document.

### Search

To search for a specific term, click the *Filters* button at the top right of the screen. This will open a gray field with dropdown options (fig. 5). Enter the desired term or phrase in the search field, then click *Apply* to view the search results. This feature searches for terms in the program/intervention name and description.



## ***Interactive Program Inventory Glossary: Terms & Filters***

### **Benefit-Cost**

A calculation of the most tangible financial gains or benefits that can be expected from a project versus the cost of implementing the suggested program or solution. The [Washington State Institute of Public Policy \(WSIPP\)](#) does benefit-cost analysis on high-quality studies across the US and can be an important resource.

### **Clearinghouse**

A resource in which findings of multiple program evaluations/studies are aggregated, often organized by theme (e.g., education, health, criminal justice). Clearinghouses use rigorous criteria for the studies included, and often limit studies to well-designed randomized control trials (RCTs) and quasi-experimental designs (QEDs). The [Results First Clearinghouse Database](#) combines information from nine clearinghouses into one searchable location, and it is the suggested starting place to search for rigorous evidence.

### **Delivery Setting Filter**

The location in which a program or service is delivered. There may be multiple settings assigned to a program or service in order to cover the following definitions.

- Correctional facility
- Court
- Hospital/treatment center
- Home
- Inpatient
- Outpatient
- Residential facility
- School
- Workplace
- Other community setting – any other location that may be utilized for services. This could include community centers, places of worship, non-profit facilities, or others not included in the settings above

### **Evidence-Based Budgeting**

The use of research and evidence to inform funding decisions in a way that improves outcomes for Tennessee citizens.

### Evidence Framework (Fig. 6)

The context through which state executive agencies can demonstrate the evidence of both proposed and existing programs during the program inventory or budget processes. The framework includes the five evidence steps (logic model, outputs, outcomes, evaluation, and causal evidence), and various impact ratings (including positive or negative impact).

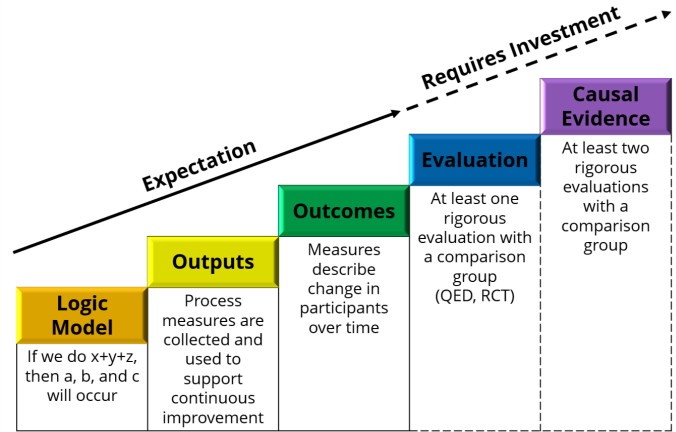


Figure 6: Evidence Framework

### Evidence Step

One of the five classifications within the Tennessee Evidence Framework.

### Impact Rating (Fig. 7)

A rating that categorizes the impact of a program or service on participants. This impact can be positive, negative, or neutral, as determined by a rigorous evaluation. The program inventory process may also result in impact ratings that indicate suggested future movement.

Symbol	Meaning	Associated Step(s)
	Additional effort needed to move to outcomes step	Logic Model, Outputs
	No expectation to move from outcomes step	Outcomes
	Prioritized for rigorous agency-level evaluation	Outcomes
	Impact rated <b>positive</b> according to rigorous evaluation	Evaluation, Causal Evidence
	Impact rated <b>negative</b> according to rigorous evaluation	Evaluation, Causal Evidence
	Impact rated <b>neutral</b> according to rigorous evaluation	Evaluation, Causal Evidence

Figure 7: Impact Rating Table

### Intervention

An individual component of a program that may or may not be research-based. Where an “umbrella” program exists, both the program and all associated interventions should each be included in a program inventory.

### Logic Model

A logic model is a program planning tool designed to support an intended change; it is a visual representation of how a program works toward a set of outcomes. During the program inventory process, agency teams will distill a full program logic model into one brief if/then statement that conveys the program’s theory of action.

### Meta-analysis

A meta-analysis is a statistical method to combine the results from separate studies on a program, policy, or topic in order to estimate its effect on an outcome.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wsipp.wa.gov/BenefitCost>

## Outcome

The changes in behavior or benefit to the participant/recipient of a program or service. Outcomes demonstrate the impact of that program or service over a specified amount of time.

## Output

The concrete, countable results of the activities. Often, they are products or services that can be measured in tangible terms (e.g., dollars spent, number of people served, number of items delivered, etc.).

## Program

A systematic activity that engages participants in order to achieve desired outcomes. Terms often used in its place can include service, intervention, or practice. If a systematic activity has participants and has its own name, it is likely a program. For the purposes of the program inventory, a program may contain one or more interventions.

## Program Inventory

The comprehensive list of programs and services provided to Tennesseans that are included in the annual budget. The list includes each program's evidence step and impact level. This term also refers to the process that agency teams go through in partnership with OEI to produce the list.

## Rigorous Evaluation (Fig. 8)

A study that uses high-quality experimental or quasi-experimental designs. For the purposes of the Tennessee Evidence Framework, this includes **quasi-experimental studies** (QEDs, where subjects are not randomly assigned, but use statistical controls to create equivalent comparison groups), **randomized control trials** (RCTs, where subjects are randomly assigned to treatment with control groups), and **systematic reviews** (studies that draw conclusions based on multiple experimental studies).

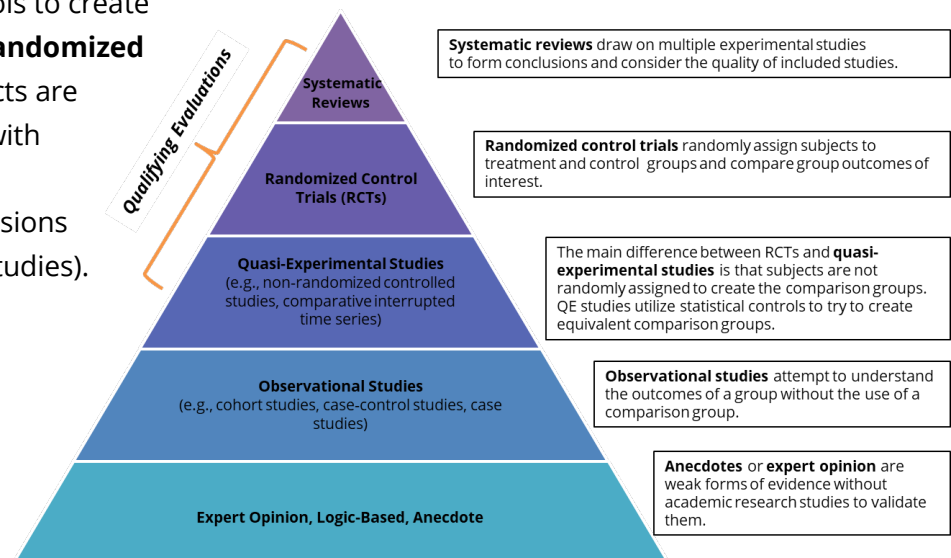


Figure 8: Rigor Pyramid

## Subject Area Filter

The main category of services the program falls into. Note that subject areas might, but do not always, align directly with a state agency.

- Criminal justice
- Mental health
- Substance use
- Postsecondary
- Child & family stability
- Education
- Public health
- Employment & job training

## Target Age Filter

The age group(s) of the population served by a program. In the program inventory, the possible target age groups are defined in the following way. It is important to note that many human/social service industries define these terms in different ways; within the program inventory, there may be multiple target ages assigned to a program or service in order to cover the following definitions. Age ranges, if very specific, will be included in program descriptions and/or on program websites.

- Infancy/Early Childhood – birth to age 5
- Children – age 5-17
- Adolescents/Young Adults – age 10-21
- Adults – age 18+
- Families – units of at least one adult and one child in the same household
- Gender-specific – a program that targets a primary gender