Path 2 Incubator Improvement Project Definition: An independently driven, network supported, multi-center improvement project with solid theory and prior demonstrated success on a small scale. Fully led by project leaders with limited support from network support. May be guided by data driven evidence.

Aim: Facilitate quality improvement projects between collaborating centers in good standing in the National Pediatric Cardiology Quality Improvement Collaborative (NPC-QIC).

High Level Application Timeline
    a. November - call for proposals will be communicated to NPC-QIC participating centers
    b. December - NPC-QIC project team will aggregate materials and follow-up with those who submitted a proposal with clarifying questions
    c. January – ELT and Phase II Leaders will evaluate proposals and make selections
    d. February – June – project launch will be staggered throughout the year

Call for Proposals
    a. Calls for Path 2 Incubator Improvement Projects will be sent/communicated to NPC-QIC institutions via Newsletter, Action Period calls, social media and Sharepoint.
    b. Number of supported Path 2 Incubator Improvement Projects will be at the discretion of the NPC-QIC Leadership. Anticipate 4 supported projects initially. Ultimately, a total of 6 projects to be supported.

Application Process
    a. Establish QI Project Leadership Team, plan to include a **minimum** of one parent in the project, SMART AIM, scope *(population, inclusion/exclusion criteria)*, data needs, Key Driver Diagram. *(See the [Institute for Healthcare Improvement](#) for additional information)*
    b. Interested individual(s) may post basics of QI Project on Sharepoint
        i. Share project goals, measures, and desire to recruit additional centers.
        ii. Goal: 3-5 sites participating *(prior to submitting Intake Form, it is required that at least 3 sites agree to participate). (Total number of participating centers is up to the QI Project Leadership Team. Including > 5 centers may increase difficulty of leading the project—ensure QI Leadership have the experience to do this)*
    c. Complete "Path 2 Incubator Improvement Project Intake Form" found on Sharepoint.

2. **Selection Process**
    a. Projects will be evaluated and scored on Significance, Project Leader(s) *(well suited to the project; have QI expertise),* Project plan includes parents in a meaningful capacity, Measurement, Key Driver Diagram and Feasibility.

    i. All applications will be scored using the Path 2 Incubator Improvement Project Evaluation Form (available on Sharepoint) by the 3 members of the Phase II leader review committee.

    ii. Phase II leaders will discuss scores and final determination of support.

    iii. Phase II leaders can provide feedback, particularly if a project is not accepted.

3. **Initial Support from NPC-QIC**
   a. Phase II leader sponsor, QIS, data analyst and project management staff to evaluate the proposal, provide initial recommendations regarding measures, tools, and next steps.
   b. Facilitate a Kickoff meeting to provide initial guidance to project leaders.

4. **Ongoing Support from NPC-QIC**
   a. Consultation with QIS and data analyst (As needed, up to 1 hour/month).
   b. Quarterly meetings for project leaders to check-in with Phase II leaders who will then consult with the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), as needed.
   c. Project Management team support to schedule a reoccurring monthly meeting on ZOOM
   d. Phase II Sponsor provides update to ELT during ELT meeting.
   e. Report out via Path 1 All Teach All Learn opportunities (*Network communications, Learning Sessions*).
   f. Projects will be supported for up to two years. After two years, projects will be re-evaluated to elicit progress of project and determine if continued support is needed.

5. **Expectations of Participating Centers**
   a. Monthly team meetings (Phase II leader attendance optional)
   b. Report of progress to Phase II leaders
          i. Format: Quarterly check-ins with Phase II leader sponsor and submission of a quarterly progress report in the format of a single slide.
   c. Recommend submission for presentation at National Meetings.
   d. Present best practices & learnings annually, at learning session or Action Period call.
   e. Regular data submission.

6. **Capturing Learnings**
   a. Store topic, related measures, presentations, presenters in a small database/Sharepoint
   b. Publications, vetted through the Scientific Review Committee, and presentations: Presentation to NPC-QIC centers (*required*); Publications (*encouraged*). Establishing authorship up front for manuscripts evolving from the project is strongly encouraged; however, this is up to the project leadership to decide.
   c. NPC-QIC Semi-Annual Survey questions to understand adaption and adoption of ideas.

Learning and Improvement Framework

Path 2: Incubator Improvement Projects

Independently driven, network supported, multi-site improvement. Fully led by project leaders with limited support from network staff. Solid theory and demonstrated success on a small scale. May be guided by data driven evidence.

Local Level Engagement
Network Level Engagement

Idea Generation

Ideas can come from anyone, anytime, anywhere

- *Where is improvement needed? What problems need to be addressed that have shown some outcomes success in at least one center?*

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED
1–4 Project Leaders

EXPECTATIONS
Scope out the problem, and narrow the focus

Have solid theory and early outcomes success on a small scale, but lack data driven evidence

Create Improvement Theory

- *What drivers or interventions are impacting the goal? What factors help or hurt achieving the goal? What can be tested?*

Design/Plan (3–6 mos)

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED
1–4 Project Leaders

EXPECTATIONS
Create a charter/scope, AIMS, KDD, and identify measures ready to be tested

Set up a data collection approach

Review Improvement Theory: validate if all measures to test still apply

Recruit 3–5 voluntary centers/sites to join

Approval

EXPECTATIONS
Project leaders submit application for P2 project

Present project to the network leaders for network wide resources/support

APPROVAL CRITERIA
Project must demonstrate some success at center/site level, show (or have a solid theory) of how the project can impact the key outcomes, committed to equitable improvement, and project leaders must possess QI knowledge

Network Leaders evaluate projects based on alignment with strategic planning goals, impact, and resources available. If approved, project can receive network staff consulting as needed.

Assess project infrastructure

Test/Learn (12–18 mos)

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED
1–4 Project Leaders
3–5 Voluntary Centers/Sites
As Needed Consultation From:
Project Manager, QI Specialist, Data Analyst

EXPECTATIONS
Learning cohort centers/sites collect data and test interventions frequently, including outcomes and process measures

Project leaders organize monthly calls with participating centers/sites to share outcomes and provide updates to network staff quarterly or during network engagements

TO MOVE FORWARD...
Project must demonstrate collective improvement in outcome measure and achieve high reliability to process measures

Share/Spread (12 mos)

EXPECTATIONS
Network-wide sharing of learnings/outcomes through:
- action period calls
- webinars
- learning session presentations
- QI papers
- publications/posters

Assess if project should spread formally to additional or all centers/sites or transition to P3 project.

Sustain (ongoing)

INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED
+All network centers/sites

EXPECTATIONS
Sustain the level of improvement

Review measures quarterly

Continue to report, share and publish progress

Learning and Improvement Framework