# Innovative Prosecution Solutions Learning Community
## Part II: Implementation Evaluations
### *Key Takeaways*

As home to the IPS Research and Evaluation Training and Technical Assistance team, RTI International has developed a webinar series to support the creation and ongoing engagement of a learning community of local researchers and practitioners interested in discussing evaluation-related topic areas, sharing methodological techniques, and addressing problem-solving challenges in carrying out applied research. The second webinar in this series was held on July 17, 2019. Participants discussed the importance of implementation and performance metrics not only for grant monitoring but also for informing outcome and impact evaluations.

Some of the key take-aways from the discussion include the following:
- An implementation evaluation can help improve understanding and translation of findings from an outcome evaluation.
- It may be necessary to create and implement implementation metrics and performance measures that were not originally designed to be part of the grant. Practitioners can be helpful in the development of new measures.
- It can be challenging to measure IPS-supported interventions in an area where other crime reduction strategies are already being deployed.
- The need for privacy and confidentiality around certain case information can limit a research partner's access to relevant implementation and outcome data.
- It is helpful and important to get buy-in from all practitioners and key stakeholders from the beginning of a project. Conducting interviews or focus groups with these key individuals early in the process can help secure buy-in by providing them the opportunity to identify critical needs and expectations that may shape implementation of IPS interventions.
- Given the realities of conducting research in the field, it may be necessary to modify the design of an evaluation (*e.g.,* changing from a randomized controlled trial to a quasi-experimental design).