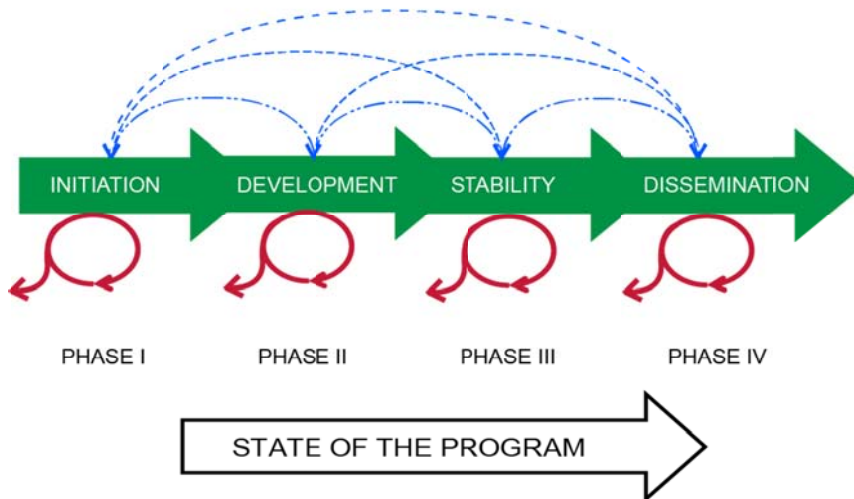


Program History and Lifecycle Worksheet

Program Name _____ Date _____

CHARACTERIZING A PROGRAM'S EVOLUTION



This graphic offers a way of characterizing a program’s evolution. The “State of the Program” arrow emphasizes that it is not just the passage of time that marks a program’s evolution. The blue dashed lines indicate that there is often iterative back-and-forth movement through the phases. The red circles and arrows remind us that programs may also stay in one phase or move incrementally within it for some time, and they may be retired at any point.

The evolution of your program

On the graphic below, sketch the path *your program* has followed, and mark where it is at the **moment**. This is *not* meant to be a formal graph or time plot, just a schematic representation!



Now, **describe briefly how your program has evolved so far, and where is it now.** (Bullet format is fine.) Think of yourself as a biographer working to tell the life story of your program. As you recall your program's history, specific considerations might include: how and why the program began; how it has changed over time and why; and the degree to which it continues to change.

- Where did your program “come from”? Has it evolved and changed? How?
- What do you know about your program (how it works, and what it does)?
- How do you know it? How certain are you?