Working effectively and efficiently with an external evaluator

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CEEP CENTER FOR EVALUATION & EDUCATION POLICY

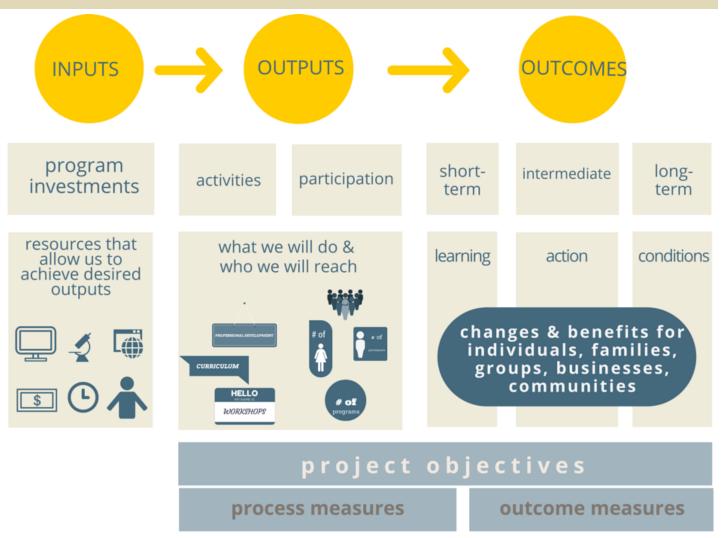INDIANA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

overview

Today's results-driven research environment often mandates an evaluation component in a proposal submission. With increasing regularity, federal agencies and private foundations ask researchers to plan for program monitoring and to link outcomes to original objectives. Articulating your project's objectives and goals will help your evaluator craft a rigorous evaluation that is tailored to your work, your stakeholders' needs, and your project's timelines.

logic models help you & your evaluator better understand your project

INPUTS → OUTPUTS → OUTCOMES

| program investments | activities | participation | short-term | intermediate | long-term |

resources that allow us to achieve desired outputs

what we will do & who we will reach

learning | action | conditions

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CURRICULUM
HELLO MY NAME IS
WORKSHOPS
of
of participants
# of programs

changes & benefits for individuals, families, groups, businesses, communities

project objectives

| process measures | outcome measures |

To design your own logic model, identify your desired long-term outcomes and work backwards.

evaluation-speak

Program Evaluation
Full support throughout your project. Design of data collection tools, data collection, analysis.

Evaluation Technical Assistance
Evaluation Lite. Consultation and guidance.

Randomized Control Trial (RCT)
"The Gold Standard" - But comes at a cost. Expensive, time-consuming, and not always the best fit.

Mixed Methods Approach
"The Kitchen Sink" - Qualitative. Quantitative. Everything goes in.

how will your evaluator collect & deliver information?

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

Pre- & Post-Surveys

Interviews & Focus Groups

Site Visits & Observations

Extant Data

Longitudinal Tracking Systems

REPORTS & FEEDBACK

Periodic

Formative

Summative

what do you want to know about your project?

overarching goals
The Big Picture: 3-5 things we want to achieve

specific objectives
How are we going to get there?

participants
Who are they?

performance measures
realistic achievable time-bound measurable

short-term & long-term outcomes
Are we doing what we say we're doing?

impact
We did it! (And this is what we did.)

where can you find an evaluator?

The American Evaluation Association (AEA) maintains a database of members available for evaluation services. Search by keywords or geographic region.

AMERICAN EVALUATION ASSOCIATION   www.eval.org

about CEEP

Located within Indiana University's School of Education, the Center for Evaluation & Education Policy (CEEP) delivers an efficient and effective combination of advanced evaluation methodologies and nonpartisan research.

With over $12 million annually in managed research accounts, CEEP regularly maintains a portfolio of 40-60 content-diverse projects per year. Evaluation activities have occurred on the international, national, regional, and local levels, and include external evaluations of programs funded by National Science Foundation and U.S. Department of Education, as well as contracts with state departments of education, foundations, and school districts.