

Demonstrating Success: Improving the Evaluability of Your Proposals

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Quality and Relevant Evaluations for our Proposals

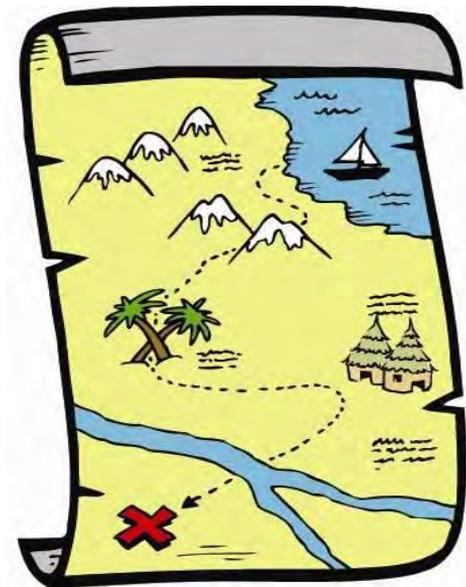
- Accountability
- Continuous program improvement
- Dissemination/replication/scalability
- Continued support

Agenda

- What is evaluability?
- What is the purpose and value of evaluability assessment?
- What is the process of evaluability assessment?
- What are fatal flaws that make a project unevaluable?
- What are the hallmarks of projects that can be meaningfully evaluated?
- What is a strategy for checking and improving the evaluability of proposals?

What is evaluability?

A project that has all the hallmarks for designing and implementing a solid evaluation is ready to evaluate.



What is the purpose and value of evaluability assessment?

- Improves program design
- Promotes quality evaluation plan
- Assures that evaluation is aligned with project
- Strengthens proposals

Costs of ignoring evaluability

- ineffective programs were not likely to be refunded;
- inaccurate knowledge of what “worked”; the flawed research seriously compromising the development of a larger knowledge base;
- inability to identify program changes that would make programs more effective; d) serious threats to the future of the programs or initiatives being evaluated; and
- a waste of research monies.

Justice Research and Statistics Association, 2003

What is the process of evaluability assessment?

1. Look at rough draft, abstract or talk to PI.
2. Check for alignment with Evaluability Questions.
3. Make needed changes in proposal plan.
4. Move forward in developing evaluation section.

What do you think?

Are these potential programs evaluatable?

Why or why not?



Case Study

The Healthy Bytes research project will provide outreach to teachers, students, community organizations and others to broaden the impact of their research on food choice, video games, and obesity.

Case Study: Seeing Gender

The goal of this project, *Seeing Gender: Tools for Change*, is to reduce unintended and implicit gender bias in middle and high school science, math, and technology classrooms by developing, evaluating, and distributing web-based professional development training for pre-service and in-service teachers.

What are fatal flaws that make a project unevaluable?

- No clear purpose or goal
- No clear target population
- No clear target outcomes
- Criteria for outcomes
- Data you need is not available
- The program activities are not logically related to expected changes / outcomes for the target population

What do you think?

Identifying fatal flaws.



Case Study: Family Education Project

The Head Start Center in Apex County is a one-stop-shop for local families that provides health care, case management, preschool education and job training and placement. We are seeking funding to provide workshops for parents of children in their center.

Case Study: Improving outcomes

This project from the University of Depp proposes to develop an innovative, scalable program to increase the educational outcomes of students from underrepresented groups (e.g. women, racial and ethnic minorities and individuals with disabilities). Upon graduation, all students will be gainfully employed in their field of study.

What are the hallmarks of projects that can be meaningfully evaluated?

- What is the vision or **purpose** of your project?
- What are your **goals and objectives**?
- Who are your **target participants**?
- What **outcomes** do you expect for each target group (or institution, etc.)?
- What are your **criteria for success** for each objective or target group?
- What **activities** are you going to carry out to make the expected outcomes happen?



Case Study: Water Scarcity Graduate Training (Project H2O)

The primary goal for this water sustainability and leadership project is to develop future science and social science leaders who can successfully engage in collaborative efforts to resolve global water scarcity challenges.

H2O - 2

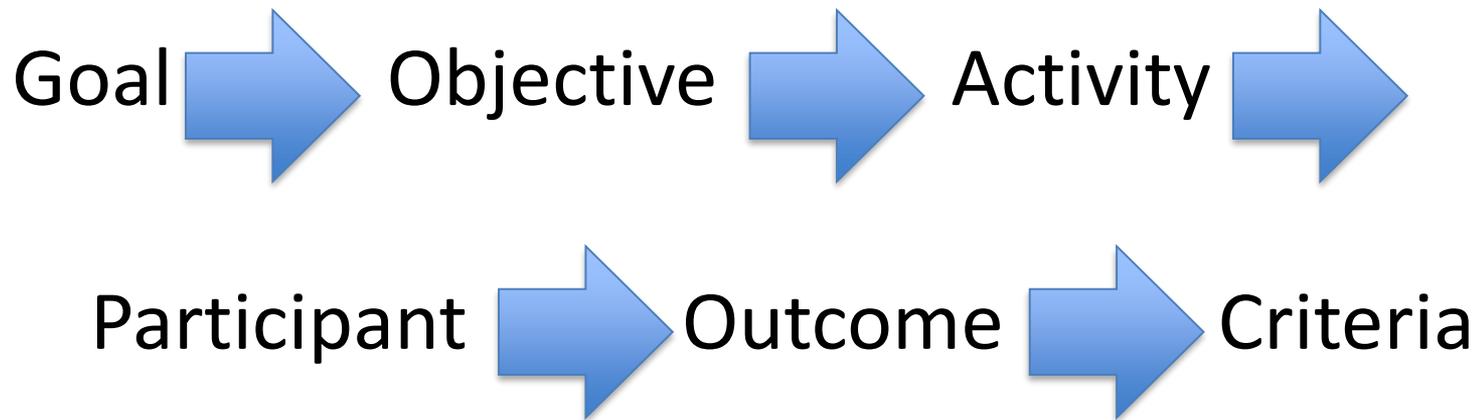
To accomplish this goal, we will:

- Develop and implement educational activities that lead to the acquisition of targeted technical skills, and competencies required for collaborative, interdisciplinary leadership and problem-solving;
- Integrate the educational and co-educational activities into a graduate certificate program;

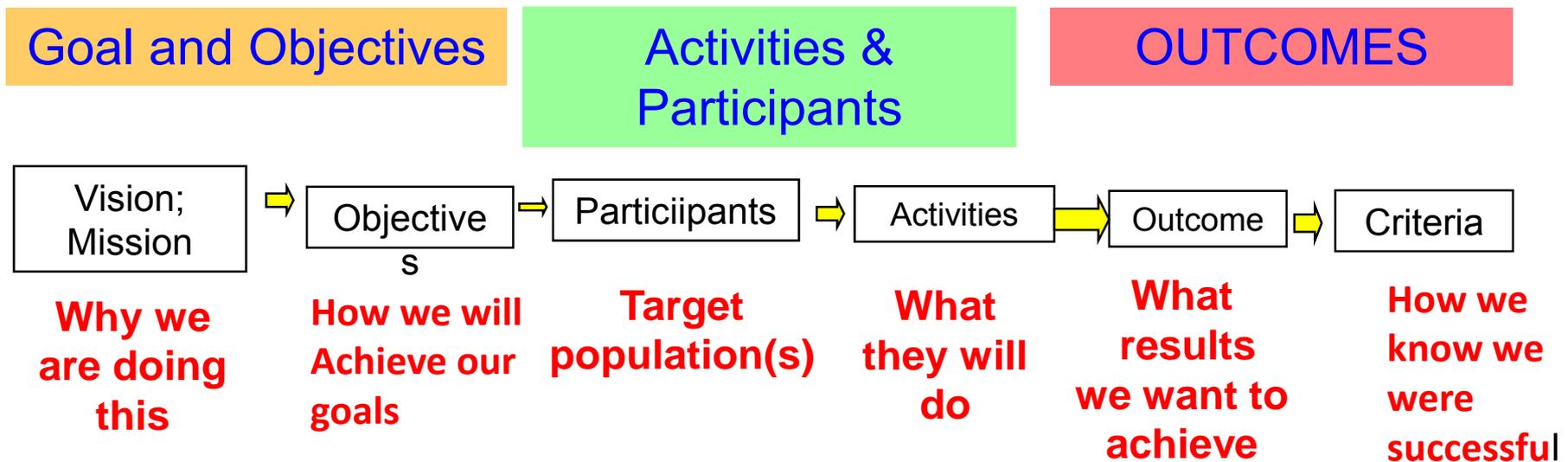
H2O - 3

- Recruit and train a diverse body of 60 students (50% female; 10% with disability; 20% racial minority; 15% ethnic minority [may overlap]) over a 5-year period, with 90% certificate completion rate; and
- Institutionalize the program within our university.

What is a strategy for looking at hallmarks and alignment?

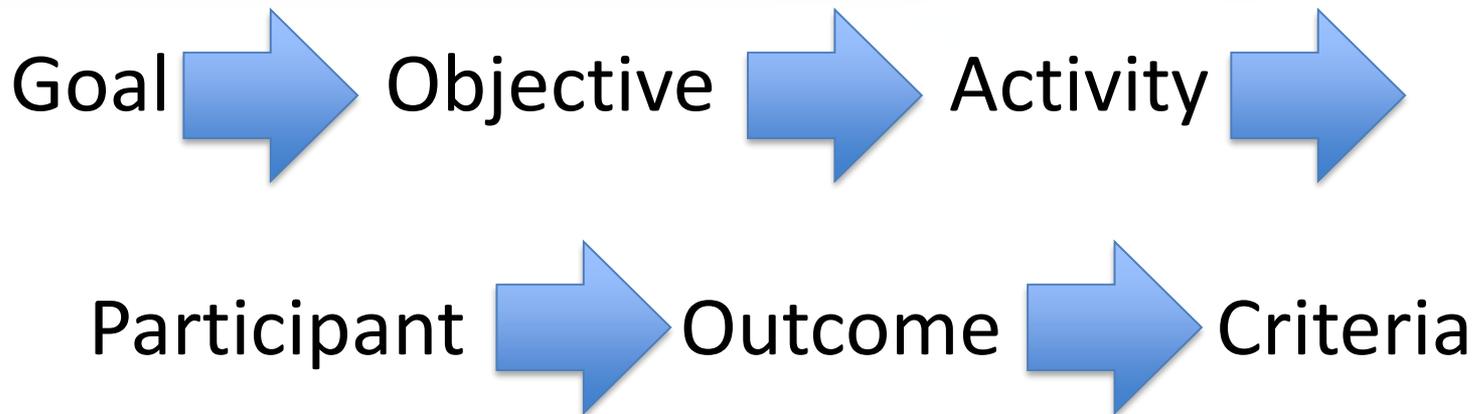


Evaluability Chart (Logic Model)



Case Study: Military & Veterans Educational Initiative (MVEI)

The College of Education's MVEI is designed to significantly influence the work of all graduate and undergraduate programs as they work with military families and veterans in their programs, as well as to impact the education of undergraduate and graduate students in their knowledge of and practice of appropriate pedagogy for veterans, military connected learners, members of the military and their families. Funding from the Academic Excellence program would facilitate and advance this agenda for the college.



Goal:

Objective:

Activity:

Participants:

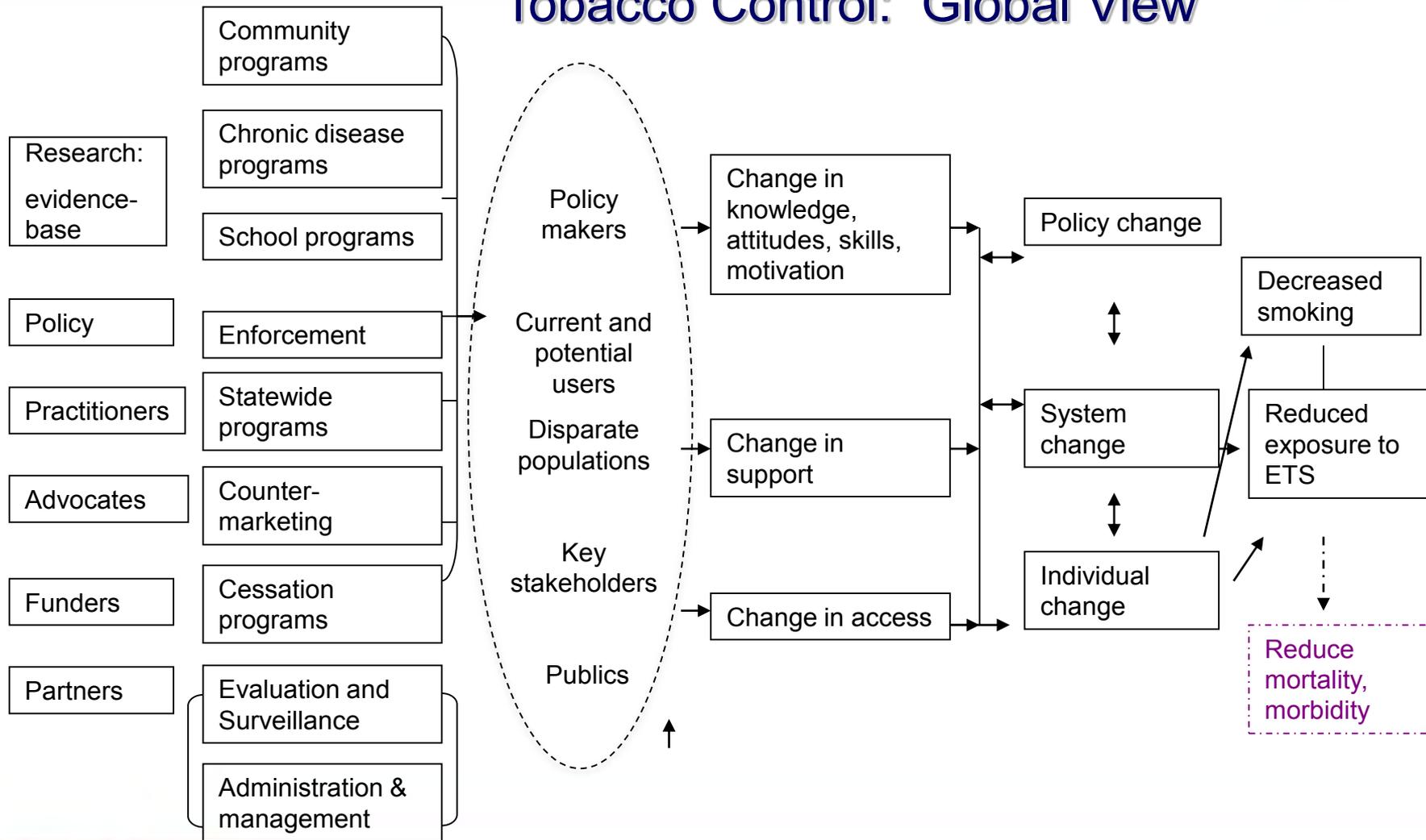
Outcome:

Criteria:

Case Study: Healthy Bytes

The purpose of this proposal to the NIH is to develop a future workforce that understands the primary content and methodology of data sciences, human nutrition, and public health and can conduct innovative team research across those disciplines to solve social problems related to health and nutrition.

Tobacco Control: Global View



References

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Questions? Discussion?

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