Working effectively and efficiently with an external evaluator

**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.

Sources: U.S. State Department, FY 2015 Jóvenes en Acción, ECA-ECAPEC-15-005, Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division; U.S. Department of Education, Grant Application for FY 2014, National Resource Centers Program CFDA No. 84.015A, Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships Program, CFDA No. 84.015E, OMB No. 1840-0807; National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) Program, Program Solicitation NSF 15-542.

**Logic Models Help You & Your Evaluator Better Understand Your Project**

- **Inputs**: program investments, resources that allow us to achieve desired outputs
- **Outputs**: activities, participation, what we will do & who we will reach
- **Outcomes**: short-term, intermediate, long-term, learning, action, conditions

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)

Mixed Methods Approach

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.)

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

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.

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.

ceep.indiana.edu

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.