

AmeriCorps Grant Writing Workshop

Evidence and Data Collection

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Session Outline



1. Building an Evidence Base
2. Quality Data Collection Systems
3. General Tips and Resources



Session Goals

- Solid understanding of CNCS expectations for **building evidence**
- **Equipped with CNCS resources** to help you in the future (after this presentation!)

Situating ourselves, our projects, and contexts ...

Culture and context are “dynamic systems of social values, cognitive codes, behavioral standards, worldviews, and beliefs used to give order and meaning to our own lives as well as the lives of others” (Gay, 2010, p. 8).

Building Evidence

...



Alignment and evidence informs everything...

Program Design Alignment

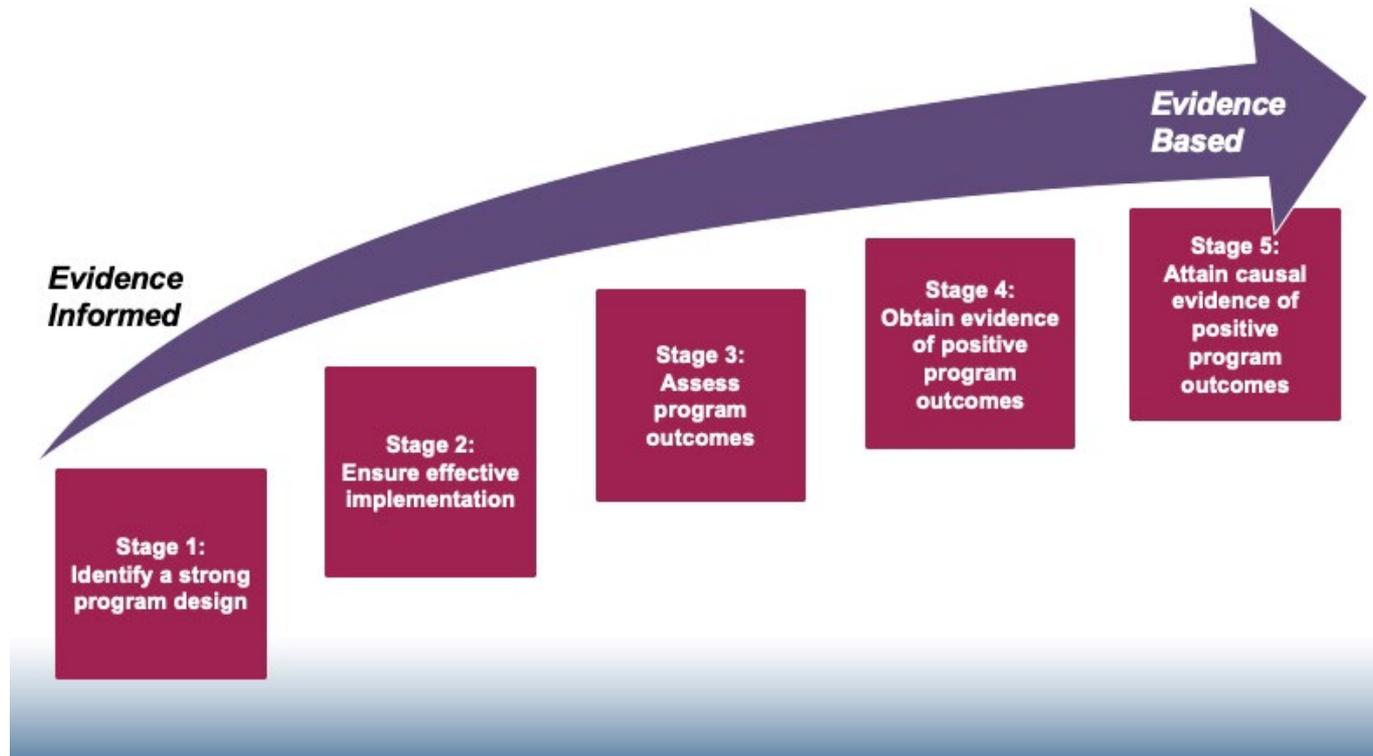
Theory of Change ~ Logic Models ~ Application Narrative

Evidence

Performance Measures ~ Quality Data Systems ~ Evaluation



CNCS Evidence Continuum



Evidence Base



“Evidence Tier” (12 points)

- Determined by what you present as the evidence for your logic model:
 - Evaluation study of your program
 - Past performance measure data
 - Related research studies
- Refer to Mandatory Supplemental Guidance for difference between “evidence-based” and “evidence-informed”

“Evidence Quality” (8 points)

- *Pre-preliminary*: Past performance measure data and/or relevant research studies
- *Preliminary*: 1-2 evaluation reports from your program showing positive outcomes using pre-post assessment (without a comparison group) or a post assessment (with a comparison group)
- *Moderate*: 1-2 evaluation reports from your program that show evidence of positive impact using quasi-experimental design, only at one site
- *Strong*: 1-2 evaluation reports from your program that show evidence of positive impact using quasi-experimental design, at multiple sites

Data Systems



Building evidence and data collection systems that are scientifically rigorous and culturally responsive



Alignment and evidence informs everything...

Program Design Alignment

Theory of Change ~ Logic Models ~ Application Narrative

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Benefits of Collecting High-quality Data

- Sound basis for decision making
- Improve service quality and service outcomes
- Increase accountability
- Tell story of program achievements

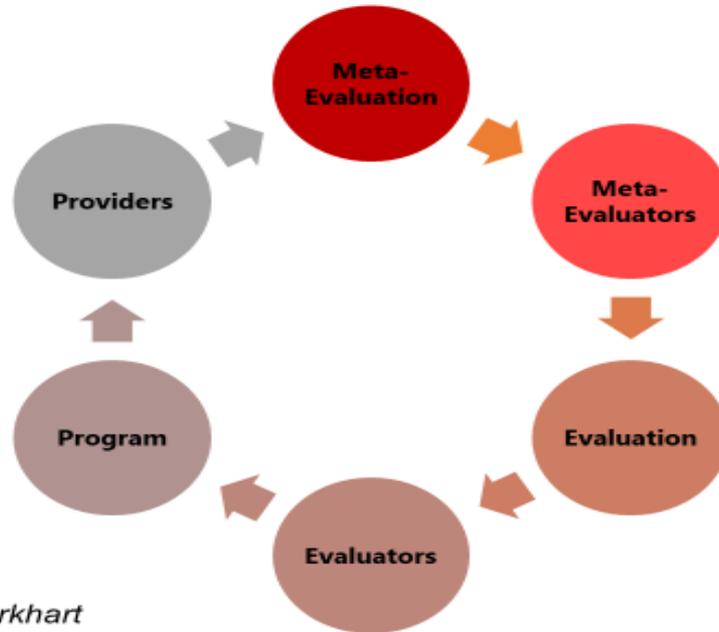
See for additional detailed guidance from CNCS:

https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Data_Quality_Review_Best_Practices_Slides.pdf

Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE): Sites for CRE and Competence



Sites of Cultural Competence



R. Hopson & K. Kirkhart

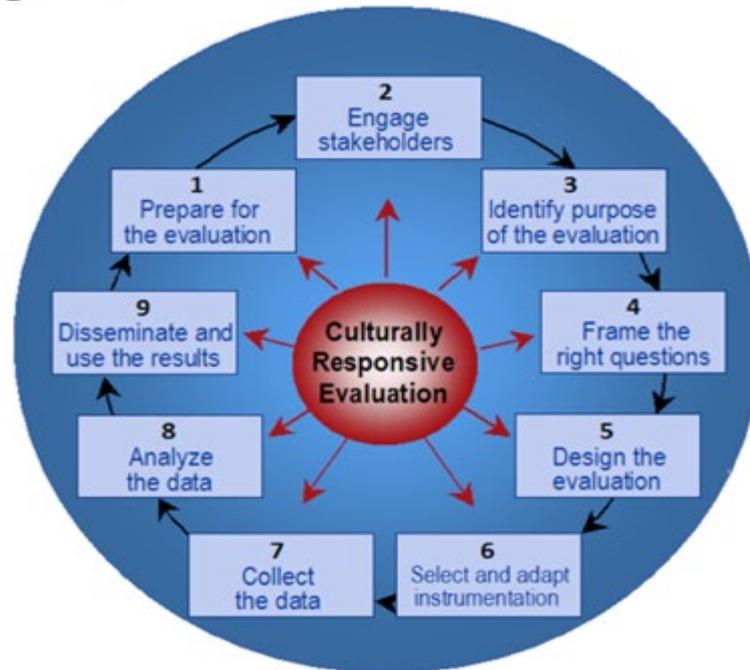
Culturally Responsive Evaluation: The “Evaluator”



Culturally Responsive Evaluation: One Framework



Culturally Responsive Evaluation (CRE) *Origins, Theories, and Frameworks*



Hood, Hopson, and Kirkhart, 2015

Data Collection System: Applying CRE Though Critical Systems Thinking/Processes



Critical Systems Heuristics (CSH) Framework

(Gates, E.F. (2017). Toward valuing with critical systems heuristics. American Journal of Evaluation. 38(2)?, 1-20.)

Sources of Motivation	Sources of Power
Sources of Knowledge	Sources of Legitimation



Data Collection System: CNCS

First, examine logic model and think through data you need to collect:

- Resources
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Other data beyond performance measures

Then, develop and test instruments:

- Utilize existing resources
- Work with a professional to develop instruments that are valid and reliable
- Good instruments can also be used later for evaluation!

Data Collection Methods



Survey 	Written questionnaire completed by respondent
Interview 	Interviewer poses questions and records responses; face-to-face or via telephone
Observation 	Observer records behavior or conditions using via checklist or other form
Standardized Test 	Used to assess knowledge of academic subjects (reading, math, etc.)

Data Collection Methods



Tracking Sheet 	Used to document service delivery; used primarily to track outputs
Focus Group 	Facilitator leads small group through discussion in-depth discussion of topic or issue
Diaries, Journals 	Respondent periodically (daily) records information about his/her activities or experiences
Secondary Data 	Using data gathered by other agencies that can be used to assess program performance



Data Management System

Data management system should help you to:

- Store data
 - Access data
 - Analyze data
 - Use data
-
- Build (or buy) system to accomplish those goals
 - Consider current and future capacities
 - Take your time, resources are needed



Data Analysis and Reporting

CNCS Guide to Analyzing Data:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/npm/analyzing-performance-measurement-data.pdf>

CNCS Guide to Reporting:

https://www.nationalservice.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Reporting_and_Using_Evaluation_Results_June_18.pdf

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