



Introduction to Evaluation

ISBE Winter Grantee Meeting

21st CCLC Program

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Agenda



- Welcome, Introductions
- A little about the 21st CCLC Statewide Evaluation
- What is evaluation and why is it important?
- Small group activity
- Next steps and resources

About EDC

- Founded in Massachusetts in 1958 by scientists and mathematicians from MIT, EDC designs, implements, and evaluates programs to improve education, health, and economic opportunity worldwide.
- Collaborating with both public and private partners, we strive for a world where all people are empowered to live healthy, productive lives.
- Headquarters in Massachusetts, with offices in Chicago, New York, and Washington, DC.
- EDC has three main areas of work: Education, Health and International Development.
- EDC currently has 1,700 staff worldwide, with programs in about 30 countries.

Introductions

- The EDC Evaluation Team
 - Our role
 - Our timeline
 - How we work
 - What we do
 - What we don't do



ISBE Statewide Evaluation Structure



- Guided by five evaluation questions that map to the ISBE state goals and objectives
- Mixed methods; qualitative and quantitative data
- Spring survey, site visits and observations, interviews, document review
- Evaluation technical assistance

Why is Evaluation Important?



What is Evaluation?



- A systematic process; purposeful and planned
- Collects data to answer questions about organizations and programs (and society)
- Enhances knowledge and decision making to improve, continue, expand, or even cut programs
- Asks questions that arise from everyday practice and the effects of our actions

Who Does Evaluation?



- **Everyone!**
- Program evaluation is usually done by external experts, in collaboration with program experts
- Evaluation is a relationship: talk early and often, communicate openly, convey expectations, work together
- Evaluate with use in mind

Main Elements of Evaluation



- Logic Model or Theory of Change
- Evaluation Questions to Guide Inquiry
- Study Design
- Data Collection Methods
- Data Analysis and Interpretation
- Reporting, Dissemination
- Evaluation Use

Evaluation and Monitoring

- Monitoring is keeping track of the day-to-day, the “outputs” of the program (who, what, where, when, how), often for accountability
- Evaluation asks questions of value, merit, worth; the “so what?”
- Evaluation can use monitoring data, build on it
- (PPICS is monitoring and accountability, not evaluation)

Types of Evaluation: Formative and Summative

- **Formative Evaluation:** for continuous improvement, course corrections, determining whether new initiative is on track
- **Summative Evaluation:** for determining whether a program achieved outcomes, met goals, changed lives, demonstrating impact.
- They work in tandem; data can be used for both, they inform each other
- Formative is when the cook tastes the soup; Summative is when the guests taste the soup (Robert Stake)

Small Group Activity



- What information would help you improve your program? Demonstrate your program's value?
- If you have had an evaluation of your program, how did you use your evaluation findings and recommendations?
- What are the challenges you're facing regarding evaluation?

Popcorn Report Out



Next Steps



- **Day Two Presentation** about the details of the coming year's statewide evaluation
 - Evaluation Questions
 - Spring Survey
 - Spring Site Visits
 - Evaluation Template
- **Technical assistance webinars**

Additional Questions and Comments?



Evaluation Resources

American Evaluation Association

- www.eval.org
 - General resources about evaluation including an annual conference, webinars, trainings, workshops, blogs, discussion lists, “Find an Evaluator,” the *Guiding Principles for Evaluation* and publications like the *American Journal of Evaluation*

Center for the Advancement of Informal Science

- www.informalscience.org
 - Searchable database of evaluation reports, Guide to Managing Evaluations, online resources for learning about evaluation

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