Kick-Starting Evaluation Planning: Logic Model and Evaluation Question Development

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Program evaluation is...

... the systematic collection of information about the program to:

- Make judgments
- Improve program effectiveness
- Inform decisions
- Increase understanding
Program evaluation…

…answers questions that you have about your program
Engage stakeholders

- Use & share findings
- Collect data
- Analyze & interpret

✓ Useful
✓ Feasible
✓ Ethical
✓ Accurate

Create a logic model
Design the evaluation
A logic model is…

... a systematic and visual way to present and share your understanding of the relationships among:

- Program resources
- Activities you conduct
- Changes you hope to achieve

A logic model is…

…a road map!
Logic Model Overview

Inputs
- What resources are needed?

Outputs
- What are our specific activities?
- Whom do we want to reach?

Outcomes
- Short-term: What changes do we expect to see in the short term?
- Intermediate: What changes do we expect as a result of short-term outcomes being achieved?
- Long-term: What will be different if we are successful?
Grantee Logic Model Exercise

• Work with your district partners to complete the boxes in the logic model template (15 min)

• Partner with another district and present your draft Logic Model to another grantee who will provide you with feedback (15 min)
Group Discussion

• What was your feedback?

• Any “aha!” moments?
Evaluation Questions

• What works and what doesn’t?
• Strengths and weaknesses?
• Participant reactions?
• How do different subgroups respond; that is, what works for whom in what ways and under what conditions?
• How can outcomes and impacts be increased?
• How can costs be reduced?
• How can quality be enhanced?
• Does the initiative meet a need?
• To what extent does the program have merit? Worth?
• Does it add value for money?
• How do outcomes and costs compare with other options?
• To what extent can outcomes be attributed to the intervention?
• Is this an especially effective practice that should be funded and disseminated as a model?
• Are funds being used for intended purposes?
• Are goals and targets being met?
• Are indicators showing improvement?
Evaluation Questions, continued

- Are resources being efficiently allocated?
- Are problems handled?
- Are staff qualified?
- Is implementation following the approved plan?
- Are quality control mechanisms in place and being used?
- Are inputs and processes flowing smoothly?
- What are participation and drop-out rates? Are these changing?
- Are outputs being produced as anticipated and scheduled? Where are bottlenecks occurring?

- What’s happening at the interface between what the program is doing/accomplishing and what’s going on in the larger world around it?
- How is the program as an intervention system connected to and affected by larger systems in its environment? What are the trends in those larger systems?
- What does feedback show about progress in desired directions?
Group Discussion

• What does success look like for your district if you successfully implement your strategies?
  • Short-term vs long-term

• What do you hope to learn from the Thriving Schools Partnership Grant Initiative?