

CUTTING COSTS NOT QUALITY IN  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT EVALUATIONS

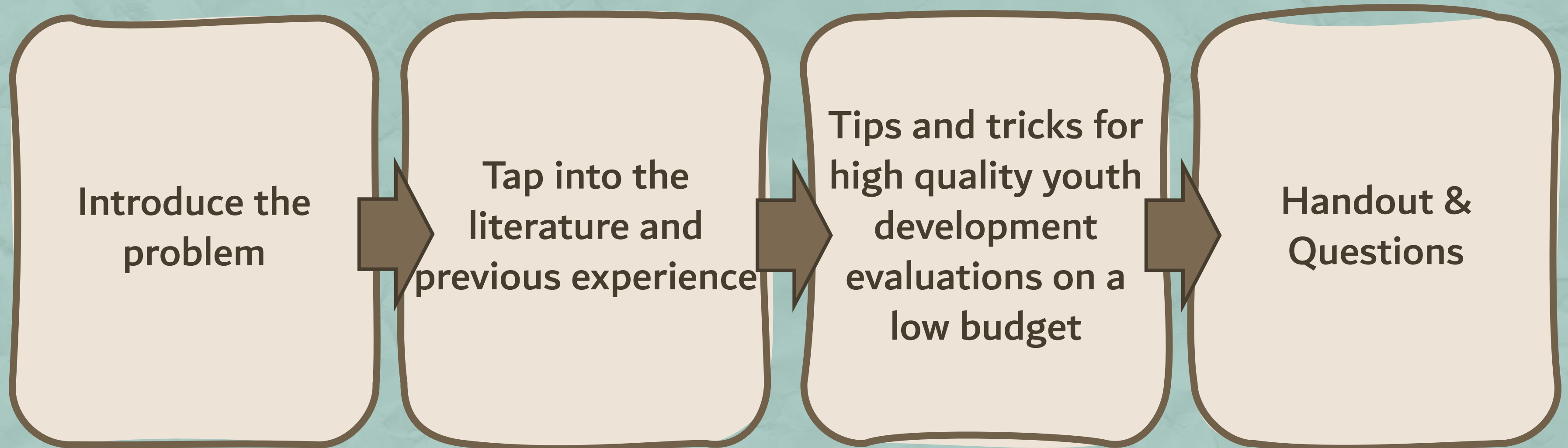
# QUALITY EVALUATION ON A BUDGET

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# OUTLINE OF THIS PRESENTATION





# REAL WORLD EVALUATION CONSTRAINTS\*

Limited Budget



Time Pressures



Lack of Data



Political & Institutional  
Constraints





60%

OF PROGRAMS NOTE NOTICEABLE  
DECREASE IN FUNDING



0110G463544

50%

SAID BUDGET IS INADEQUATE TO  
MEET COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

(Afterschool Alliance)



# Serving these low budget programs through evaluation

PROVIDE RIGOROUS  
SYSTEMATIC INQUIRY

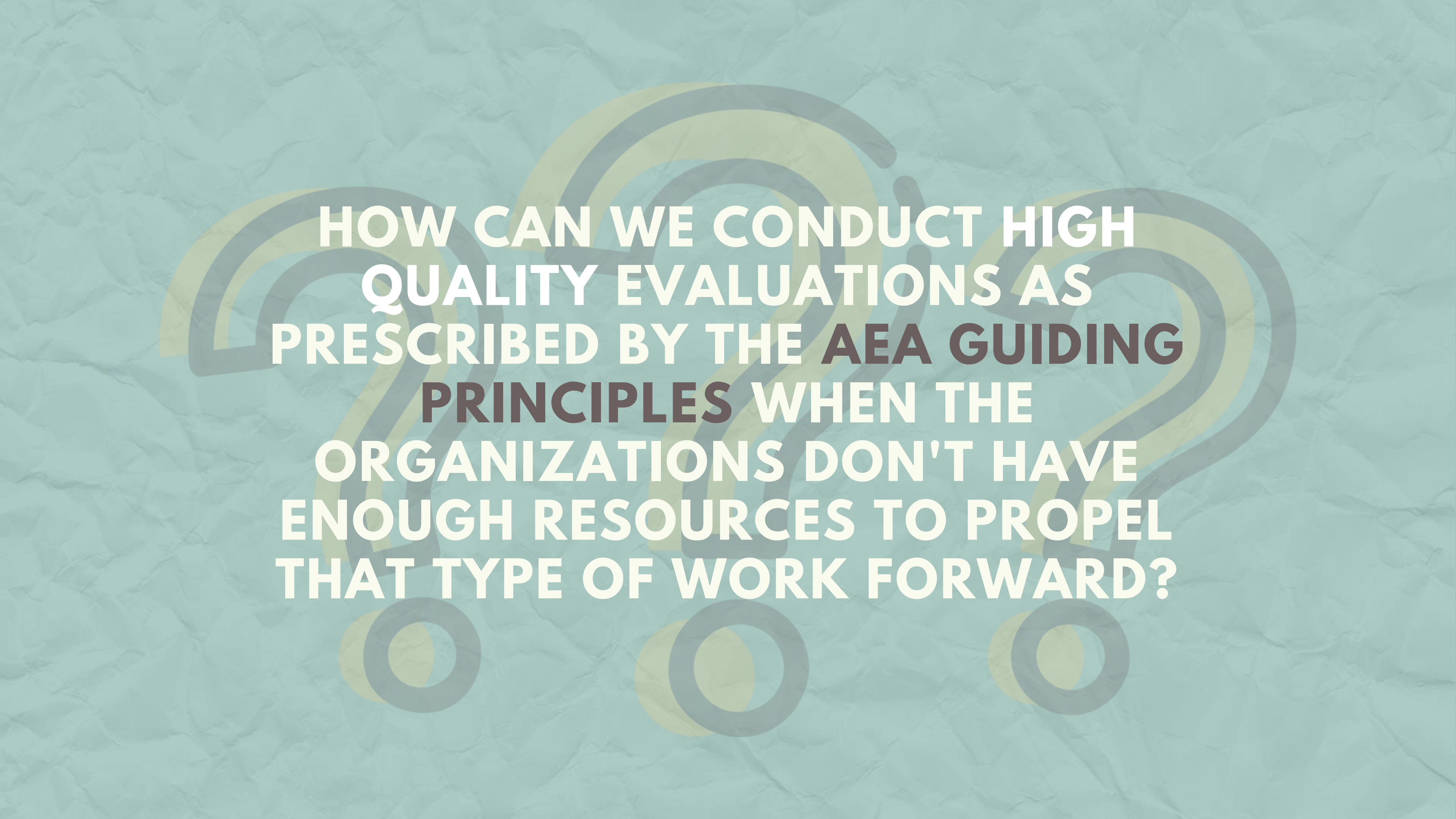
CONDUCT OUR EVALUATIONS  
WITH INTEGRITY

RESPECT THE INDIVIDUALS  
RUNNING AND BENEFITTING  
FROM THE PROGRAM

CONTRIBUTE BACK TO THE  
COMMON GOOD AND ADVANCE  
EQUITY

(AEA Guiding Principles, 2004)





HOW CAN WE CONDUCT HIGH  
QUALITY EVALUATIONS AS  
PRESCRIBED BY THE **AEA GUIDING  
PRINCIPLES** WHEN THE  
ORGANIZATIONS DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH RESOURCES TO PROPEL  
THAT TYPE OF WORK FORWARD?



# Standing on the shoulders of giants

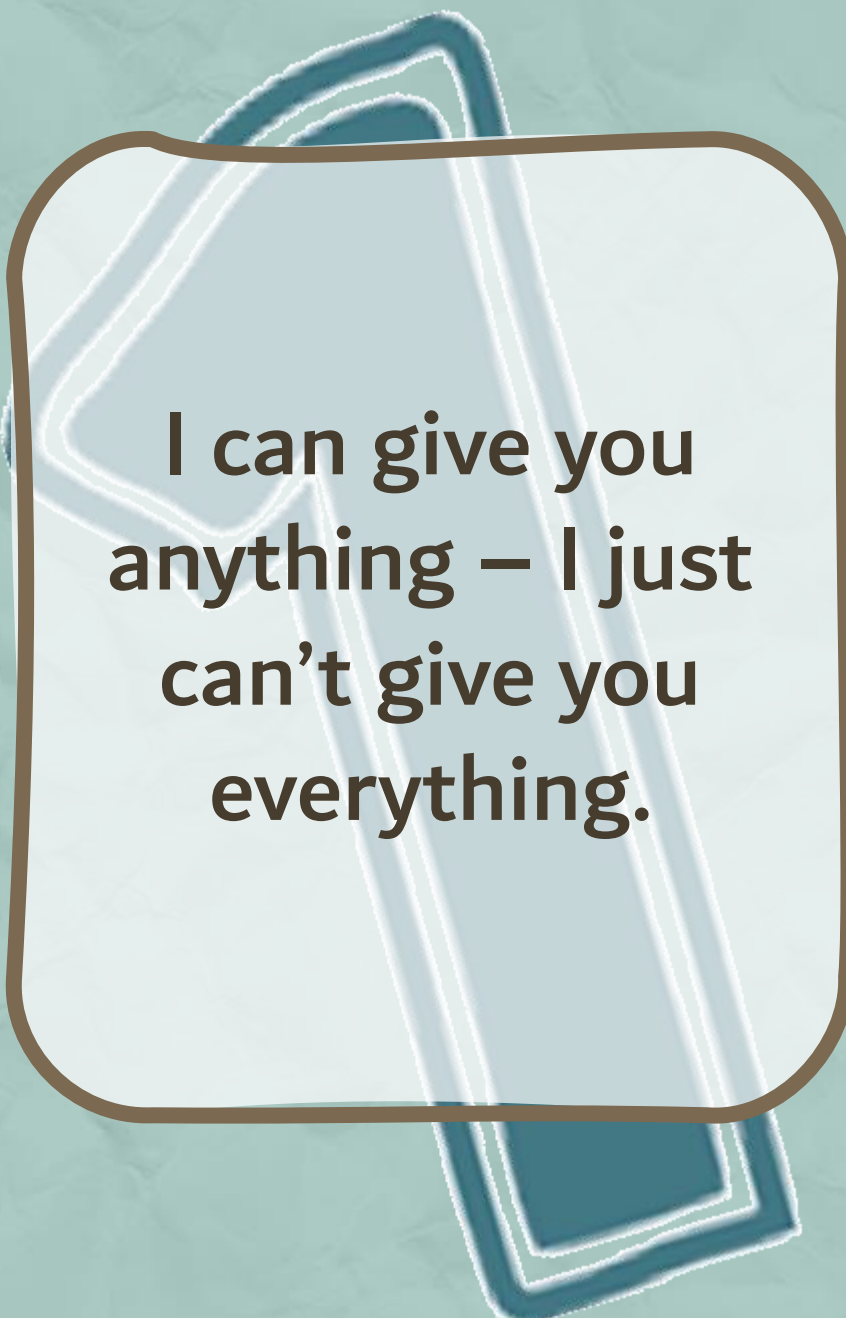
BAMBERGER &  
COLLEAGUES

OTHER EVAL LIT &  
PAST EXPERIENCE

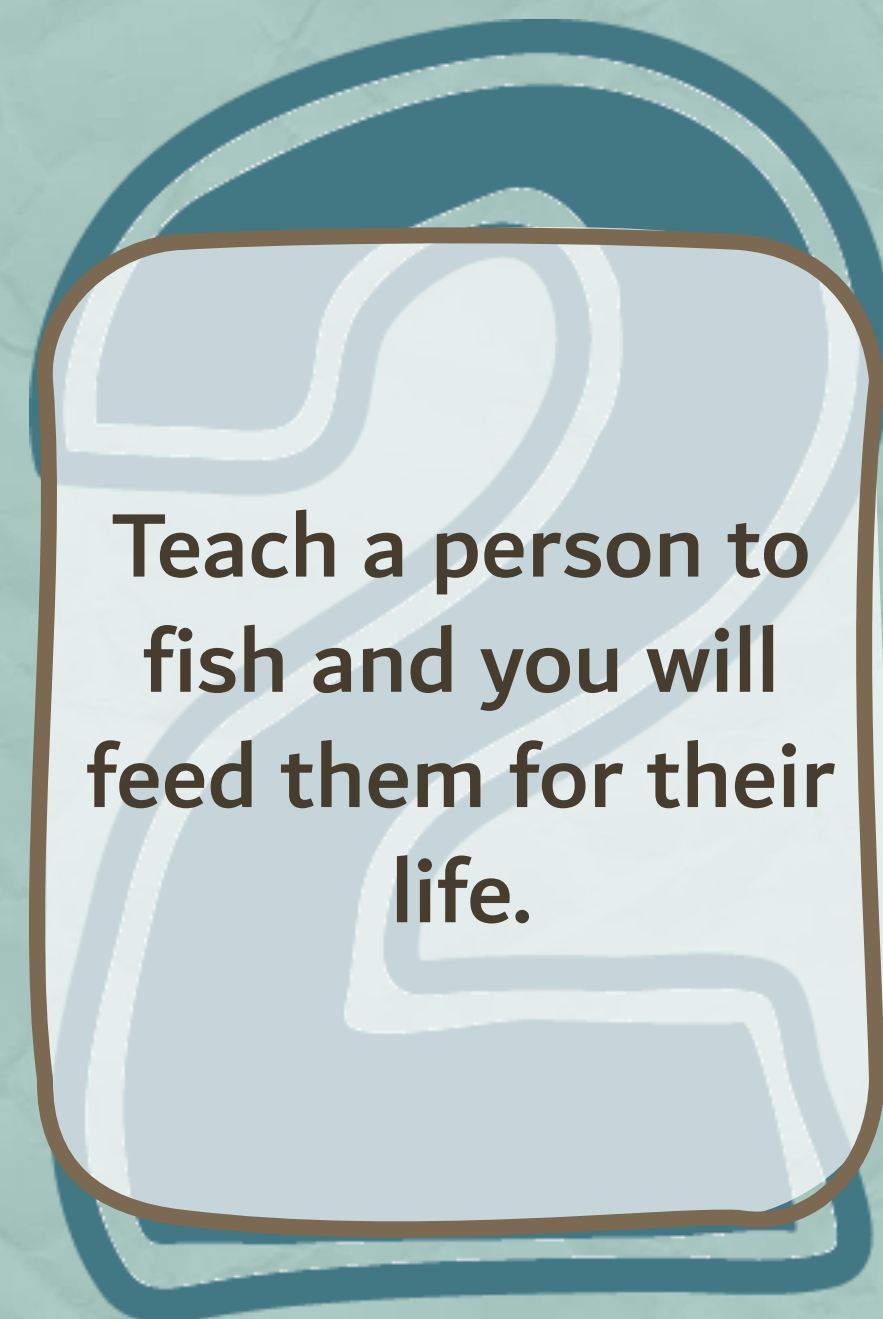




# THREE KEY PHRASES

A large, stylized number '1' in the background of the first box, rendered in a light blue color with a dark blue outline and a brown border.

I can give you  
anything – I just  
can't give you  
everything.

A large, stylized number '2' in the background of the second box, rendered in a light blue color with a dark blue outline and a brown border.

Teach a person to  
fish and you will  
feed them for their  
life.

A large, stylized number '3' in the background of the third box, rendered in a light blue color with a dark blue outline and a brown border.

Strategically double  
dipping.



I can give you  
anything – just not  
everything

## FOCUS THE EVALUATION

1. Partner with programs
2. Show your worth / quality of work – reveal eval's value
3. Say no (or not yet) to everything but the need to know





# HOW TO FOCUS THE EVAL

## A COUPLE OF GUIDING SUGGESTIONS

Willing to sacrifice outcomes but  
never quality or dosage  
(i.e., implementation).

PROGRAMMATIC  
DECISIONS /  
CLIENT  
INFORMATION  
NEEDS

(Patton, 1997)

STAGE OF THE  
PROGRAM

(Chen, 2005)

CLIENT PASSIONS/  
INQUIRIES

(Patton, 2008)

feasibility



# Logic model as a tool for focus



## HOW DOES THIS HELP?

- Defines key mechanisms for change
- Reveals clients' priorities
- Evokes conversations about important informational needs

## WHY PRIORITIZE THIS?

- Helps reveal what the evaluation should focus on
- Useful tool for evaluation AND client
- Important to have this as a clarifying tool and guide at the very beginning



Teach a person to  
fish and you'll  
feed them for a  
lifetime.

## USE A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH

As much as possible, engage stakeholders throughout the evaluation process

## EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING

Train now and save later - include key stakeholders in each step and pair that with workshops to help them gain skills to do these things independently

## BUILD EVALUATIVE THINKING

More impactful and long-lasting than a quick, small evaluation is getting clients to be asking the right questions, valuing data, and wanting to engage in CQI.



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## WHERE CAN YOU OVERLAP?

Use any face time you have with stakeholders strategically – whether that be meetings, presentations, or data collection efforts. See what things you can do simultaneously and what information you can gather informally through side conversations with staff and youth.

Strategically double dipping.





# EXAMPLE

**What is the  
program?**

Curriculum &  
training to help  
with youths'  
character  
development,  
social-emotional  
skills, and grit

**What did  
they want?**

Everything

**How much  
did they  
have?**

\$10k

**What did  
we  
propose?**

Theory of  
Change and  
Student  
Outcome Survey





## FOR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

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# TAKE THE SURVEY

[Tinyurl.com/aeasurvey19](https://tinyurl.com/aeasurvey19)

# SIGN-UP FOR LATER

[Tinyurl.com/aealater](https://tinyurl.com/aealater)

Email = Raffle Entry

# Participate!

Research on Evaluation

Win a Signed Book or Amazon Gift card!

Provide your e-mail to take our survey and you will be entered to win

**About the Survey:** You will be asked to reflect on your evaluation skills based on the **official AEA competencies**. This survey will be used to validate a tool to measure the competencies.

**How to Participate:** Volunteer to complete online Qualtrics survey now or later.

- Survey Link: <https://tinyurl.com/aeasurvey19>
- Sign up for Later: <https://tinyurl.com/aealater>

**Raffle:** By taking the survey or signing up to take it later, you could win **one** of the following **17** prizes:

- (1) Signed copy of *Blue Marble Evaluation* book by Michael Quinn Patton (4 available)
- (2) Signed copy of *The Future of Evaluation in Society: A Tribute to Michael Scriven* edited by Stewart Donaldson (3 available)
- (3) Signed copy of *Evaluation for an Equitable Society* edited by Stewart Donaldson and Robert Picciotto (3 available)
- (4) Signed copy of *Credible and Actionable Evidence* edited by Stewart Donaldson, Christina Christie, and Melvin Mark (2 available)
- (5) One \$10 Amazon Gift Cards (5 available)

**Eligibility:** Conduct evaluation work in the United States or a member of AEA. Must be 18+ years of age.



  
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