

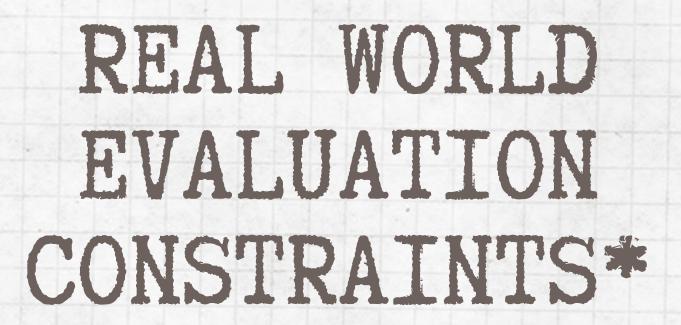
OUTLINE OF THIS PRESENTATION

Introduce the problem

Tap into the literature and previous experience

Tips and tricks for high quality youth development evaluations on a low budget

Handout & Questions



Limited Budget



Time Pressures



Lack of Data



Political & Institutional Constraints



(Bamberger, Rugh, & Mabry, 2011)

60%

OF PROGRAMS NOTE NOTICEABLE
DECREASE IN FUNDING



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





THREE KEY PHRASES

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

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

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



A COUPLE OF GUIDING SUGGESTIONS

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

PROGRAMMATIC
DECISIONS /
CLIENT
INFORMATION
NEEDS

(Patton, 1997)

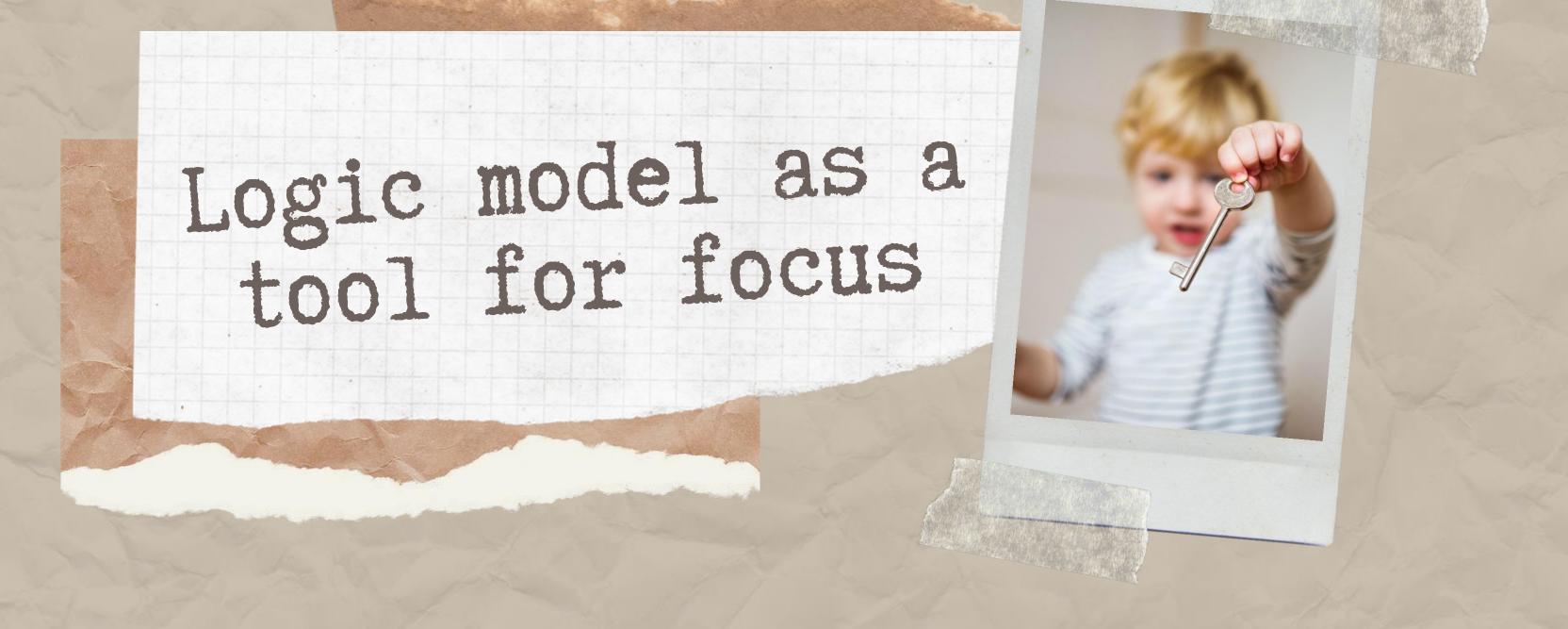
STAGE OF THE PROGRAM

(Chen, 2005)

CLIENT PASSIONS/
INQUIRIES

(Patton, 2008)

feasibility



HOW DOES THIS HELP?

- Defines <u>key</u> 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.

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.



EXAMPLE

What is the program?

What did they want?

How much did they have?

What did we propose?

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

Everything

\$IOk

Theory of
Change and
Student
Outcome Survey



Gather Credible Evidence - Cheaper Alternatives

Alternatives to pre-test/post-test RCT

Some researchers conducted a meta analysis on psychological, educational, and behavioral interventions to see effects in an RCT compared to various other non-experimental designs. Estimates from nonexperimental designs were more variable BUT the average effect across all the studies were very similar.

Alternatives to pre-test/post-test RCT:

- Pre-test/post-test project group only
- Pre-test/post-test for project group and post-test only for control group

Use existing systems - don't rebuild the wheel

- (1) Previous surveys: If they have a previous survey, it may not be that great BUT you can take it, tweak it, and use the systems that are already in place to collect it.
- (2) Tapping into other stakeholders: If you don't have the capacity in your budget to take on tasks like data collection, data entry, recruiting participants, administering surveys, or conducting interviews, then see what stakeholders are available that you can train to do that work instead (i.e., program staff community residents, student nurses, youth participants, interns). <u>Added bonus</u>: they will have an insider view, insider access, and insider credibility with the participants.
- (3) Scales from previous literature: Where possible rely on previous literature in the field or previously created scales to supplement or replace work you would do on your end.

Other cheaper methodological alternatives

- (1) Reducing sample size: Smaller sample size allows you to not have to collect as many participants. Some ways you can do this would be reducing the type of disaggregation required and using a different form of sampling like stratified sampling, cluster sampling, or quota sampling.
- (2) Cheaper methods: Some methods are cheaper to conduct than others like observations, nonobtrusive methods (like automatic counters), web surveys (no data y data (records lata; records from

GET IN TOUCH

ngs to overlap to in one sitting). Partner with an aper work in

rger & Mabry, 2019)

FOR QUESTIONS AND FEEDBACK

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TAKE THE SURVEY

Tinyurl.com/aeasurvey19

SIGN-UP FOR LATER

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 <u>one</u> 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 Scrive edited by Stewart Donaldson (3 available)
- (3) Signed copy of Evaluation for an Equitable Society edited by Stewart Donaldsor 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.





