

## **The Case for Internal-External Evaluation Partnerships**

### **What is the value of building internal evaluation capacity?**

- Helps embed an outcomes-oriented approach within an organization's culture.
- Allows an organization to receive routine performance feedback from staff who are viewed as credible and committed to the organization's mission.
- Allows staff and management to receive a quick response to data-related questions (because internal evaluators have easy access to real-time data).
- Allows an organization to be assured that evaluation findings will be placed in the context of the program and the population served.
- Allows an organization to be confident that the quality and integrity of evaluation data has been closely monitored.
- Allows an organization to be responsive to requests from multiple funders, including small, local grants that may not include resources to support external evaluation.
- Allows an organization to keep additional grant dollars in-house, instead of sending them out the door to external evaluators.

### **Why establish a partnership with an external evaluator?**

- Provides an organization with an independent, objective perspective on evaluation design, implementation, data, and conclusions.
- Provides a breadth of research and program evaluation expertise for the organization to draw upon.
- Provides targeted, relevant training and technical assistance to develop internal evaluation capacity.
- Provides support to internal evaluators, helps them navigate the challenges of the internal role, and potentially decreases turnover in internal evaluation staff.
- Brings additional expertise and support to bear as an organization strives to adhere to the evaluation requirements and cross-site reporting needs of funders.
- Provides the assurance of objectivity and increases credibility in the eyes of funders and other stakeholders.