



# **EPSCoR Evaluation in Context:** Anticipating Linkages with Accountability & Project Evaluation

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# EPSCoR

## Office of Integrative Activities Office of the Director

- “Practices and Principles” used in OIA to ensure that programs are integral to the Foundation
- Close interaction between EPSCoR Office and Foundation’s Directorates and Offices



# Principles and Practices: Evaluation

- Program Monitoring
  - Annual Reporting Template
  - Site Visits
  - Contact with Technical Coordinator/PD
- Program Evaluation
  - Committee of Visitors
  - Site Visits
  - Expert Panel Review
  - Third Party Evaluation/Study



# Principles and Practices: Third Party Evaluation

- Purposes
  - Understanding
  - Improvement
  - Accountability
- Stakeholders
  - Federal
  - State
  - Scientific/Engineering/Education Communities
  - Other



# Program Evaluation

## Foundation-Wide Programs

- Science and Technology Centers
- Major Research Instrumentation
- Small Grants for Exploratory Research
- Long-Term Ecological Research
- Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship



# Concern and Challenge

To provide **evidence to demonstrate** the accomplishments of the program  
*(attribution to the program)*

- Foundation Level
- Program Level
- Project Level



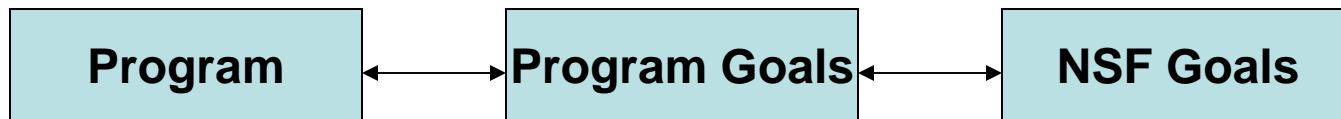
# Evidence for What or Whom?

- Congress
- Office of Management and Budget
  - Performance Assessment Rating Tool
  - Government Results and Performance Act
- Foundation
  - Advisory Committees
  - Committee of Visitors
  - Program Evaluation
  - Performance Audit
- Jurisdiction
  - Program Evaluation
  - Project Evaluation
- Taxpayers



# EPSCoR Evaluation

- NSF Strategic Goals
  - Discovery
  - Learning
  - Infrastructure
  - Stewardship
- EPSCoR Program Goals
- Strategies



Projects



# A good evaluation should ...

- **Examine** how the project functions within the economic, social, and political environment of its setting and larger community(ies)
- **Assist** in the planning, setting up, and carrying out of the project, as well as the documentation of the evolution of the program.
- **Assess** short- and long-term results (quantitative and qualitative)

# What you can do...

## Proposal Requirement and On-going Project Management

- Develop Project (Program) Description
- Align indicators with goals and expected accomplishments
- Monitor and evaluate the evaluation
- Use the information
- Share “Best Principles and Practices”



# Develop Description

- Context
- Goals/Objectives
- Activities/Strategies
- Expectations/Accomplishments



# Monitor and Evaluate

- Resources adequate and appropriate
- Concerns addressed
- Management effective and efficient
- Deliverable submission
- Guide for interpretation/alternative interpretations anticipated
- Needs of stakeholders/dissemination of findings tailored to audience



# Use Information

- **Making judgments** (e.g. successful, effective) about the project/program
- **Improving program/project** effectiveness and success
- **Informing decisions** about future programs/projects



# Share Principles & Practices:

- What purpose does it serve?
- Will it provide useful information?
- Who is interested in the findings and conclusions?
- What is working? Attribution?
- How is it being done?
- How should it be adopted and adapted?

