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Translating Research into Action: Moving Evaluations Beyond the Report

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Translating Research into Action:
Moving Evaluations Beyond the Report

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Participatory Evaluation

- A tool to assist in improving the quality of human services
- Systematic collection of information
- Opportunity to gain insight about services, improve effectiveness and quality and share information about the program
- Utilize information to improve program/field practices, services and policies
Components of Participatory Evaluation

- An evaluation team should be formed.
- The organization’s constituency should be actively involved at every step of the process.
- Constituents/users develop ownership of the evaluation process.
Steps in Conducting Evaluations

1. Design the evaluation
2. Conduct evaluation/collect data
3. Report findings and increase utilization
The Outcomes Framework

- GOALS
- OBJECTIVES
- INPUTS
- ACTIVITIES
- OUTPUTS
- OUTCOMES
Planning for Utilization

- Prior to research commencement
  - Decide who reporting to
  - Decide how to report
- Solicit multiple levels of stakeholders for involvement
- Actively involve stakeholders in the dissemination and discussion of findings
Illinois Community Technology Fund

Mission:

- The Community Technology Fund shall be dedicated to activities which help assure that low-income areas and other underserved populations in urban and rural Illinois have access to advanced telecommunications technologies.
Background

- SBC-Ameritech Merger 2000
- ICTF Board Formation
- Request for Applications (RFAs)
- 2 rounds of funding
  - Maximum $50,000
- 77 grants throughout IL
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Schools
  - After-school programs
ICTF Evaluation Questions

- Types and Levels of Technology Access
- Educational and Employment Impacts
- Developing Model Programs
ICTF Methods

- Evaluation Team
  - CURL Staff
  - CURL Graduate Fellows
  - ICTF Community Fellows

- 3-level Approach
  - ICTF Board
  - Service Providers
  - Service Users
ICTF Plan

- ICTF Board Members
  - Focus Group

- Service Providers
  - One-page survey
  - Focus Groups
  - Site Visits

- Facilitate Stakeholder Dialogue
## ICTF: Quantitative Results

### Number of Programs Funded

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Chicago</th>
<th>Outside Chicago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Amount of Funded Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Average</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$10,862</td>
<td>$35,629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$49,925</td>
<td>$10,527</td>
<td>$39,595</td>
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</table>
Service Users per Week

![Bar Chart]

- **Program Responses**
  - 0-20
  - 21-40
  - 41-60
  - 61-80
  - 81-100
  - >100

- **Service Users**
  - 0-20
  - 21-40
  - 41-60
  - 61-80
  - 81-100
  - >100
Employment

![Bar chart showing Program Responses: Full-Time, Part-Time, Unemployment, Retirement, Armed Forces, Other. Retirement has the highest responses.](chart.png)
Education

Program Responses:
- No Diploma
- Diploma/GED
- Some College
- College Degree
- Post-Bachelors
- Other
Socioeconomic Status

Program Responses

Lower SES | Middle SES | Upper SES | Other

0 | 0 | 0 | 0
ICTF Grant Recipients According to City of Chicago Aldermanic Wards
ICTF: Qualitative Results

Themes

• Funding
  • Sustainable, Program-Focused Funding
  • Integration of Technology and Organization Ideology
  • “Technology as a Means Rather than an End”

• Staffing
  • Support for Planning Time

• Level of Financial Support
  • Triangle of needs
ICTF Products and Dissemination

- Funder
  - Technical Report
- Government Agencies
  - Research Brief
  - Maps
- Philanthropy
  - Workshop
- Service Providers
  - Research Brief
  - Partner information
Information to Disseminate

- Brief Look at Technology Uses
- Call for Adequate & Appropriate Funding
- Call for More Research
  - Needs Assessment
  - Expanded Networking/Sharing
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- Illinois Community Technology Fund Board of Directors