2007

Translating Research into Action: Moving Evaluations Beyond the Report

Center for Urban Research and Learning
Loyola University Chicago

Amy Kerr
Loyola University Chicago

Michael Maranda
ilCTC CTCNet Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.luc.edu/curl_pubs

Part of the Community-Based Research Commons, Demography, Population, and Ecology Commons, and the Urban Studies and Planning Commons

Recommended Citation
https://ecommons.luc.edu/curl_pubs/7

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Centers at Loyola eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Urban Research and Learning: Publications and Other Works by an authorized administrator of Loyola eCommons. For more information, please contact ecommons@luc.edu.

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License. Copyright © 2007 Center for Urban Research and Learning at Loyola University Chicago
Translating Research into Action: 
Moving Evaluations Beyond the Report

Amy Kerr
Center for Urban Research and Learning
Loyola University Chicago &
Michael Maranda
iICTC
CTCNet Chicago
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$10,862</td>
<td>$35,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>$49,925</td>
<td>$10,527</td>
<td>$39,595</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service Users per Week

![Bar Chart]

- **Program Responses**
  - 0-20: 16
  - 21-40: 14
  - 41-60: 8
  - 61-80: 6
  - 81-100: 4
  - >100: 3

- **Service Users**
  - 0-20: 16
  - 21-40: 14
  - 41-60: 8
  - 61-80: 6
  - 81-100: 4
  - >100: 3
Employment

Program Responses

- Full-Time
- Part-Time
- Unemployment
- Retirement
- Armed Forces
- Other
Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Responses</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>20</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>30</th>
<th>35</th>
<th>40</th>
<th>45</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Diploma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diploma/GED</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Degree</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-Bachelors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Socioeconomic Status

Program Responses

Lower SES | Middle SES | Upper SES | Other

0 | 10 | 20 | 30
ICTF Grant Recipients According to City of Chicago Aldermanic Wards

Oceanif © 2004, City of Chicago
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
Acknowledgements

The presenters wish to acknowledge the input and assistance from the following organizations and individuals:

- Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University Chicago
  - Philip Nyden, Ph.D., Director
  - David VanZytveld, Assistant Director
  - Aparna Sharma, University Community Research Coordinator
  - Allan Araujo, Undergraduate Fellow
  - Tanya Kellam, ICTF Community Fellow
  - Kristie Baumgartner, ICTF Community Fellow

- Illinois Community Technology Fund Board of Directors