



Evaluation

The Georgia Health Policy Center's (Center) signature style of evaluation is based upon a synthesis of practical and methodological insights from a broad range of policy evaluation, community-based research, and capacity-building experience.

The Center holds itself to rigorous standards set forth by the American Evaluation Association (AEA). These standards ensure an evaluation process that is crafted and executed through a relationship with those who will ultimately apply the findings. The findings create powerful learning opportunities that refine and sustain projects seeking to improve the well-being of people.

The Center reconciles the challenges of evaluation by employing an innovative and tested operational approach, which places emphasis on building long-term relationships that deepen trust and encourage candor among all stakeholder groups in order to establish a functional rapport and maximize impact.

Systematic Inquiry

– conduct systematic, data based inquiries

Competence

– provide competent performance to stakeholders

Integrity/Honesty

– display honesty and integrity in all behaviors, and work diligently to provide same for the entire process

Respect for People

- respect security, dignity and self-worth of respondents, program participants, clients, and all other stakeholders

Responsibility for General and Public Welfare

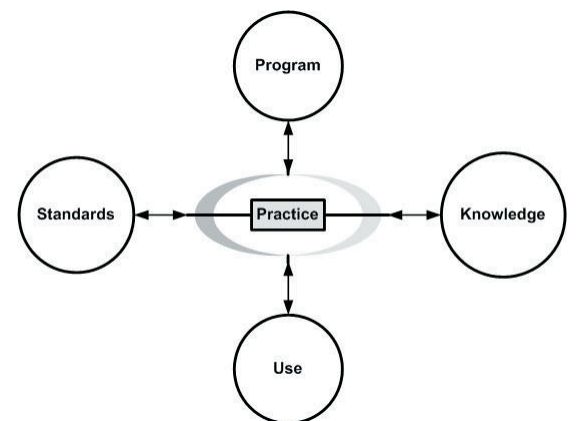
– articulate and take into account the diversity of general and public interests and values that may be related to the evaluation

AEA

Strategy

The Center's evaluation strategy leverages the tension among Program components and their Utilization with Standards and Knowledge to maximize the evaluation's impact on Practice.

Program/Utilization – The Center tailors its evaluations and deliverables to the needs of each project through extensive consultation with end users. Moreover, it is as important to consider evaluation during program design as it is to consider outcomes in order to be better informed about what elements warrant examination and what data will have the greatest impact on the audience.



Standards/Knowledge – The intersection of evaluation standards with knowledge presents powerful opportunities to impact practice. While steadfast in its standards, the Center's evaluation capacity is enriched by depth of insight and analysis that can only be achieved through continuous study of health policy issues over time.

Practice – The Center emphasizes the application of insights to improve effectiveness and enhance the long-term viability of health-related programs. The Center believes that sustainability is inextricably linked to evaluation and the ability to demonstrate return on investment. Thus, the Center gives particular attention to building capacity and framing evaluation as more than an activity conducted to satisfy grant requirements.

Experience

The Center draws on more than a decade of combined experience with more than 100 projects supported by 75 diverse funders. The studies include individual, multi-site, and meta-evaluations of communities, programmatic activities and provision of technical assistance. From programs to process to outcome evaluations, the Center's team approach includes partnership with project leadership and staff.

The Center led an experienced national team in the design of the Federal Office of Rural Health Policy's Network and Outreach Program evaluation. Further, the Center has been commissioned as an external evaluator for numerous programmatic evaluations including:

- Member and provider satisfaction of Medicaid and S-CHIP claims services;
- Medicaid disease management;
- Community and facility-based long-term care programs;
- Georgia's PeachCare for Kids Program (S-CHIP);
- Health care for children and special health care needs;
- Health status and Medicaid utilization of children in the foster care system;
- Oral health prevention;
- Public health; and
- Youth residential treatment.

The Center also has conducted multi-site evaluations, including: structured case studies of local access and health improvement initiatives in five states; an examination of 13 community grants to improve school health programs; an examination of 6 community based organizations funded to improve appropriate utilization of primary and preventive services; and 12 case studies examining the role of external facilitation and targeted technical assistance in improving the collaboration, clinical relevance, and sustainability of rural health systems.

For more information about the Georgia Health Policy Center and its evaluation capacity, please contact Karen Minyard at 404.651.0168.

Georgia Health Policy Center, established in 1995, provides evidence-based research, program development and policy guidance on local, state and national levels to improve health status at the community level.

The center distills its qualitative and quantitative research findings to connect decision makers with the objective research and guidance needed to make informed decisions about health policy and programming.

Projects to date focus on some of the most complex policy issues facing healthcare today including public and private health insurance coverage, long-term care, children's health and community health system development.