Evidence-based Programs

Why shift approach?

- The President has made it clear that policy decisions should be driven by evidence

  – Evidence about what works and what does not

  – Evidence that identifies the greatest needs and opportunities to solve great challenges

- Instilling a culture of learning will build knowledge so that spending decisions more often yield the highest social returns on carefully targeted investments

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/management.pdf

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Evidence-based Programs

- Are designed based on a specific set of assumptions, or theory of change, and undergo rigorous scientific evaluation.

- Use evaluation results to establish causal impact of program on beneficiaries

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2015/assets/management.pdf

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Evidence-based Programs

- Programs:
  - Include specific implementation procedures
  - Often are accompanied by manuals
  - Have explicit costs

Implementation Considerations

Potential Benefits of Evidence-based Programs

- Proven model more likely to work

- Easy to use and replicate

- Greater opportunity to secure funding from a variety of sources

- Efficient use of limited resources

Implementation Considerations

Careful Considerations

- Limited adaptability

- Cost

- May require significant planning to replicate

Example

Academic Achievement Program

- Five 30-minute lessons that cover one of five specific themes

- Sessions conducted with a group of four to six elementary school students

- Service activities occurring in a separate classroom during the school day

- Service activities being delivered in a specific sequence of stages

Essential Components

- Time & Topics

- Student Age & Group Size

- Designated Location

- Specific Service Delivery Plan

Fidelity

- Fidelity refers to implementing an evidence-based program according to its original, tested design

Implementing an Evidence-based Program

- **Identifying your community's needs** to determine the type of program that will be most appropriate

- **Assessing your organizational capacity** including financial resources, organizational commitment, and community buy-in to determine your ability to implement a program with fidelity

- **Searching program registries** to select a program that matches your community needs, your organization's available resources, and available programs

- **Understanding program fidelity and program adaptation**

http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/courses/Implementations/resources/imp_course.pdf

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Incorporating Evidence-based Programs

Two ways:

- An organization can conduct a rigorous evaluation of its own project design to establish an evidence basis for its program

  Or –

- An organization can identify and implement a packaged evidence-based program

New Provisions

- Year 1: For every $1,250 in annual base federal funding, at least one unduplicated RSVP volunteer must be placed in work plans that:

    – Result in National Performance Measure outcomes in a combination of any of the focus areas and/or Capacity Building Measures; or

    – Engage volunteers in an evidence-based program that results in a National Performance Measure output in health education programming. (Evidence-based, see Appendix C)

New Provisions Cont'd.

- Year 2 and 3: For every $1,000 in annual base federal funding, at least one unduplicated RSVP volunteer must be placed in work plans that:

  – Result in National Performance Measure outcomes in a combination of any of the focus areas and/or Capacity Building Measures; or

  – Engage volunteers in an evidence-based program that results in a National Performance Measure output in health education programming. (Evidence-based, see Appendix C)

New Provisions Cont'd.

- In Year 1, applicants proposing evidence-based programs may be eligible for a <u>higher level of federal funding</u> per unduplicated volunteer

  – Evidence-based Programs Instructions available (Appendix C)

  – Access at 2016 RSVP Limited Geographical Area NOFO webpage

  – <u>http://www.nationalservice.gov/build-your-capacity/grants/funding-opportunities/2015/2016-rsvp-limited-geographical-area</u>

New Provisions Cont'd.

- There is no guarantee of availability of additional funding to support evidence-based programs

- Final amount to be awarded may be less than amount requested, but will not be higher than amount requested in application

- Applicants should check current *Notice* for maximum amount that can be requested when proposing to implement an evidence-based program

Abbreviated Instructions from Appendix C

- Applicants will be asked to include these kinds of details and more:

  - Name of evidence-based program

  - Name of federal repository or clearinghouse

  - Details on replication and maintaining fidelity

  - Description of how results of evaluations are applicable to applicant's proposal

Work Plan: Improved Academic Performance

Objective	Output	Service Activity	Outcome
K-12 success	ED2. Number of students that completed participation in CNCS-supported K-12 education programs.	Tutoring-Public School; Tutoring-Faith-Based School; Tutoring-Other	ED5. Number of students with improved academic performance in literacy and/or math.

Work Plan: Health Education Programs

Objective	Output	Service Activity	Outcome
Access to Care	H4. Number of clients participating in health education programs.	Training; Coaching; Leading or Assisting Bone Builders; Matter of Balance Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Other ACL Sponsored Prevention Programs	None

Federal Repositories

http://www.acl.gov/Programs/CPE/OPE/ADEPP.aspx

AmeriCorps | Senior Corps | Social Innovation Fund | Volunteer Generation Fund

Application Review

Reviewers will have demonstrated expertise in:

- Developing and implementing evidence-based programs

- Scaling or replicating successful evidence-based programs

- Assessing applications

- Questions?