



# Forming Evaluation Questions for Your SSIP Evaluation

# Objectives

To understand.....

- The components of the SSIP evaluation plan
- The role of identifying evaluation questions in forming the SSIP evaluation plan

# What Is the SSIP Evaluation Plan?

- This is a written plan from the state that describes how the state will evaluate the progress and impact of its SSIP.
- Results of evaluation will be used to examine the effectiveness of the SSIP in achieving results for students with disabilities and inform possible changes to the SSIP.
- Evaluation activities within districts and local programs will be a part of this overall SSIP evaluation.

# Steps in Planning an SSIP Evaluation

1. Understand the evaluation context
2. Build an evaluation team
3. Identify how important activities will lead to outputs and outcomes (i.e., a Logic Model)
4. **Develop evaluation questions**
5. Identify the evaluation design
6. Identify data collection strategies
7. Develop preliminary analysis plans
8. Plan for sharing and using results
9. Prepare a timeline for evaluation activities

# Why Are Evaluation Questions Important?

Evaluation questions articulate what you want to learn about what you have done.

They...

- Define the topics the evaluation will investigate
- Guide the evaluation planning process
- Provide structure to evaluation activities
- Serve as the foundation of a successful evaluation

# Criteria for Evaluation Questions

Evaluation questions should be. . .

- Clear, specific, and well-defined
- Focused on a program or program component
- Measurable by the evaluation
- Aligned with your planned strategies and activities

# What Are We Evaluating?

- Goal is to evaluate the **implementation** of improvement strategies and infrastructure development. But what does implementation really mean?
- It is both the process of putting the various strategies in place \*and\* the outcomes or impact of those strategies.
- Two overarching questions. . .
  1. How's it going? (Process)
  2. What good did it do? (Outcomes/Impact)

# Evaluation of Process and Outcomes

## Process evaluation questions (How is it going?)

- Focus on the program or a program component
- Ask who, what, where, when, why, or how

## Outcome evaluation questions (What good did it do?)

- Be direct and specific to program effectiveness and impact
- Examine changes, effects, or impacts
- Specify the outcome to be measured



# Example

Improvement strategy:

- Have all program staff participate in Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting (MECSH) training

Evaluation Questions: How's it going? (Process)

- ✧ How many staff completed the training?
- ✧ When did they complete the training?
- ✧ Did staff feel the training was valuable?

# Example

Improvement strategy:

- Have all program staff participate in Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting (MECSH) training

Evaluation Questions: What good did it do? (Outcomes/Impact)

- ✧ Have the staff incorporated principles of the training into their practice?
- ✧ Has the training improved the quality of relationships that EI have with families?
- ✧ Have outcomes for children and families working with trained staff improved?

# Considerations in your questions. . .

- Do the questions align with the program's planned strategies and activities?
- Do the questions fit with the goals for the evaluation?
- What kinds of constraints (costs, time, personnel, etc.) are likely to be encountered in responding to these questions?
- What is feasible to measure?
- What data are readily available?

## Need Assistance With Evaluation?

- Contact your IDC State Liaison or Tamara Nimkoff (TamaraNimkoff@westat.com) to connect you with an Evaluation TA Specialist

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