

Empowerment Evaluation

Guiding Principles

Improvement	Tools help programs, organizations, and communities plan, implement, and self-evaluate programs so that they are more likely to achieve results.
Community Ownership	The program, organization, community, or coalition has control over the evaluation process. The ultimate authority and responsibility for conducting the evaluation lies with the stakeholders.
Inclusion	Direct participation of all key stakeholders is valued. A stakeholder is anyone who has an investment in a particular program or strategy including those who develop and implement, those who participate, those who fund programs, and community members.
Democratic Participation	A collaborative process facilitates opportunities for stakeholders to voice their questions, and concerns. Each voice is valued, heard and represented.
Social Justice	Making a difference with an eye toward the larger social good. The potential impact of a program is positive, ethical and designed to help address social inequities whenever possible or feasible.
Evidence-based Practice	Evidence-based strategies are strategies that have been shown to work either through research studies or by programs that have been evaluated. Evidence-based strategies should be adapted (with care) to fit each state and local context.
Community Knowledge	Community-based knowledge and wisdom are valued, promoted, and embraced. Community members are in the best position to understand problems in their communities and to generate solutions to those problems.
Capacity Building	Stakeholders learn the basic steps and skills involved in conducting program evaluation and use results for program improvement. The capacities developed are used in many other settings and programs in the future.
Organizational Learning	A culture of learning is fostered within the program, organizations, communities, and coalitions that participate. A community of practice emerges.
Accountability	Process and outcome objectives are established to determine whether the program or strategy achieved its goals. Positive and negative results are seen as valuable and inform program improvement to produce better outcomes.