

Different Evaluation Purposes Require Different Evaluation Questions

PURPOSE	QUESTIONS
<p>Rendering Judgments</p> <p>[Some need met, some goal attained, some standard achieved. Must specify criteria for judgment in advance.]</p>	<p>To what extent did the program work? To what extent did it attain its goals? Should the program be continued/ended? Was implementation in compliance? Were funds used appropriately, for intended purposes? To what extent were desired client outcomes achieved?</p>
<p>Facilitating Improvements</p> <p>[Using information to monitor program efforts and outcomes regularly over- time to provide feedback to improve implementation, to fine-tune strategies and to make sure that participants are progressing toward desired outcomes.]</p>	<p>What are the programs strengths and weaknesses? How and to what extent are participants progressing toward desired outcomes? Which types of participants are making good progress and which aren't? What kinds of implementation problems have emerged, and how are they addressed? What's happening that wasn't expected? What are staff and participant perceptions of the program? Where can efficiencies be realized? What new ideas are emerging that can be tested?</p>
<p>Generating Knowledge</p> <p>[Conceptual rather than instrumental use of findings.]</p>	<p>How is the program model actually working? What types of interventions are being used? What types of outcomes can be expected? How do you measure them? What are the lessons learned? What policy options are suggested by the findings?</p>