

STORYTELLING & INDIGENOUS EVALUATION METHODS



Allyson Kelley & Associates PLLC

INDIGENOUS EVALUATION

Indigenous evaluation is evaluation done for and/or by Indigenous communities and takes into account Indigenous approaches, knowledge, and methods. It centers on local needs and values, empowers communities, and encourages knowledge sharing and sustainability.

INDIGENOUS APPROACHES, METHODS, AND RESOURCES

 [Indigenous evaluation approaches](#) respect the diverse individual, cultural, and community knowledge, are relevant to community needs and experiences, encourage reciprocity and the two-way process of learning and sharing, and recognize the responsibility in empowering communities through participation and engagement.

ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

 [Community engagement](#) in evaluation takes many forms, the community should inform the programs outcomes of interest, review and adapt data collection tools, engage in data collection, interpret evaluation findings, and share results. This ensures that the evaluation is centered in the local values and vision and generates useful knowledge for the community and individuals.

LEVERAGE CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND INDIGENOUS METHODS

Indigenous knowledge is an important source of data and takes form in observations, stories, and personal experiences. [Storytelling](#)  is an approach that acknowledges Indigenous oral traditions, encourages community involvement, and creates space to share knowledge.

— **TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE** is handed down through generations through creation stories, origins of clans, and encounters between ancestors and the spirit world. This knowledge can also be based on the history and experiences of the people to reinforce values and beliefs.

— **EMPIRICAL KNOWLEDGE** is gained through careful observation from multiple vantage points over an extended time.

— **REVEALED KNOWLEDGE** is acquired through dreams, visions, and spiritual protocols.



SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND BUILD CAPACITY

Evaluations should emphasize [capacity-bridging](#) and the **co-creation of knowledge**, and the time necessary for that to take place. **Knowledge Sharing and reciprocity** are essential to the evaluation process. Communities share knowledge and information with the program and the program has a responsibility to share knowledge and findings in return.

TOOLS TO SUPPORT INDIGENOUS EVALUATION

These tools can help programs further understand and implement Indigenous evaluation practices.

This toolkit can help engage youth in the evaluation process which can generate important knowledge while empowering youth.

[Youth Evaluation Toolkit](#)

The Tribal Roadmap can help guide Program Directors, Program Staff, Evaluators, and Evaluation Partners in the processes of engagement, relationship-building, and knowledge and skill-building

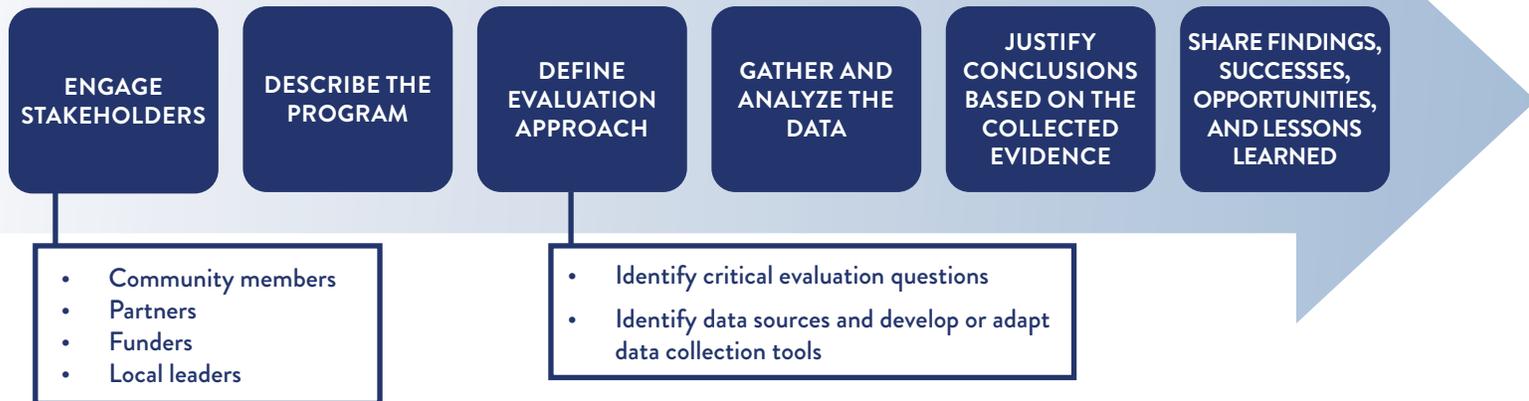
[Tribal Roadmap](#)

This community-centered process that engages all stakeholders in working toward a collective vision and encourages sustainability and holistic evaluation approaches. It integrates creativity and culture into the evaluation and can inspire and connect programs.

[Theory of Hope](#)

Evaluation is systematic and culturally responsive inquiry into the outcomes and operations of programs. It engages and balances cultural and scientific rigor to best examine the success, opportunities, and processes of programs. Employed in many contexts, this brief guide will share resources specific to evaluation in the realm of public health and child welfare programs.

EVALUATION PROCESS



EVALUATION APPROACHES

FORMATIVE EVALUATION [↗](#) is conducted during the development of a new program or when an existing program is being modified or used in a new setting. It ensures the program or program activity is feasible, appropriate, and acceptable before it is fully implemented.

PROCESS EVALUATION [↗](#) examines the program implementation, it explores how well the program is working, the extent to which the program is implemented as designed, and the reach and accessibility of the program to the target population.

OUTCOME/EFFECTIVENESS [↗](#) evaluation examines the degree to which the program is having an effect on the target populations behaviors by assessing the progress in outcomes or outcome objectives.

IMPACT EVALUATION examines long-term impacts, or the degree to which a program met its ultimate goal

CRITICAL EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Critical [evaluation questions](#) [↗](#) are the questions that you want answered by the evaluation. They focus the evaluation and should reflect the purpose of the evaluation. Indicators are what help us answer these questions.

DATA SOURCES

Data can come from observations, stories shared, personal experiences, review of protocols, meeting agendas and notes, community forums, surveys, intake assessments, or a review of documents.

DISSEMINATING FINDINGS

[Disseminating findings](#) [↗](#) can take many forms but this is a vital and significant part of evaluation. Program successes and lessons learned can be [shared formally or informally](#) [↗](#) at meetings, in reports, or through social media. Other innovative methods of sharing about programs include podcasts, 1-page visual reports, newsletter articles, or community forums.