Exploring How Programs are
Participating in *and* **Using**
NYS 21C Evaluation

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The requirement for local evaluation is a **key component of New York State's 21C Program**; one that differentiates it from other states' 21C programs, and from other youth- and community-focused grants. NYSED has issued policies and guidance intended to help evaluators and programs establish a cooperative partnership wherein participatory, utilization-focused evaluation services can be integrated effectively. MI has gathered evidence from surveys, interviews, and AERs that suggests there are many examples of productive evaluator-program partnerships across the state, and that program communities are experiencing **multiple benefits from this collaboration**. There are also a number of programs with the potential to develop a more aligned and impactful role for evaluation within their organizations. In all scenarios, 21C stakeholders have expressed an interest in learning more about how to **leverage local evaluation effectively as a resource**. MI continues to dialogue with different stakeholder groups to discover what this could look like and how to facilitate more of it, statewide.

NYSED and state-level partners want to understand more about how local evaluators and program leaders are engaging with each other and optimizing their partnership. Today, we will be exploring...

How have **Program Directors** indicated they use external evaluation? How can we learn more about the needs of this pivotal group of "evaluation users"?

How are **different stakeholder groups** participating in the study? How are they involved or contributing, and how are findings shared with them?

How do **evaluators present findings and recommendations** in ways that satisfy the different needs of these groups?

Program Directors' Year 2 Mid-Year Report (MYR) Survey

NYSED asked Program Directors how much they were using evaluation to engage in **key grant activities**. Some items were specific 21C local evaluation requirements; some were not.

1 Review & Reflect

Skim through the Reference Doc, pp.1-3

(a) MYR Results: PDs' Use of Eval
(b) MYR Results: PDs' Use of AER
(c) Policy doc excerpts & Evaluator Survey Responses: Use of EOY Eval

Consider the following questions:
(feel free to make notes on the docs)

What resonates? How do these results compare with your experiences and fit with your expectations, statewide?

What do you wonder about?
What new questions/curiosities arise?

5 mins

GENERATING DIALOGUE 2

Chat with a Group of Three-Four. Share your experiences & ideas.

(1) What did you observe about the information that interested you? How do your experiences as a program/site/activity leader or evaluator, compare or contrast? What information was absent?

(2) <u>Program leaders</u>: What activities or types of support provided by your evaluator have been **most important**? <u>Evaluators</u>: When and how have you been **most involved** with supporting program leaders and stakeholders?

(3) <u>All</u>: Where might there be **additional opportunities** to integrate evaluation into the program? What benefits would that bring?

15 mins

3 GATHERING INPUT

Jot down your thoughts on the draft Stakeholder Matrix on page 3. Work independently, then discuss within your group.

Consider the following questions:

(1) How do Program Directors translate and disseminate evaluation information to their stakeholders?

(2) How do evaluators and directors partner together to identify the information and specify the design of report forms based on different stakeholder needs and requests?

20 mins

4

Convene & Share Out with the Whole Group

Discuss:

- How has evaluation been used to benefit your program/your client's program so far?

- What are some opportunities partners see to optimize evaluation this year? What would you start, stop, or continue doing?

- How can NYSED & MI learn more from program leaders about their evaluation needs? How can program leaders learn more about how to utilize their evaluations?

5 Survey Time!

Participation in & Utilization of Evaluation

Exploring different types and levels of stakeholder engagement in 21C evaluation.

DIRECTIONS. Please fill in the empty spaces in the table, below, to the best of your knowledge and experience. We will be including additional voices and consulting additional sources to integrate with your contributions. This information will help us create the working draft for a Stakeholder Engagement Matrix. For the Participation and Informational Needs columns, select the approximate **LEVEL of frequency/importance** using the scale **High=(3), Medium=(2), Low=(1), None=(0), Not Applicable=NA**.

Please select your role in 2IC: | Evaluator ☐ | Program Director/Manager ☐ | Site Coordinator/Leader ☐ | Activity Leader ☐ |
Other ☐ _____

Stakeholder Group	Participation / Involvement in the Evaluation	LEVEL	Informational Needs from the Evaluation	LEVEL	Deliverable Form & Opportunity
Who needs to be engaged in the study as a participant and recipient of evaluation findings?	*In what ways are they engaged as contributors, participants, and/or facilitators of the data collection process?* What is the LEVEL of frequency?*		*What content might they need in order to make decisions and support program improvement? What is the LEVEL of importance of the information?*		*In what form(s) and when might the information be most accessible and usable for them?**
Program Director					
Program Activity Leaders/Staff					
Executive Director					
School Principal					
Family/Guardian					
Student/Youth Participants					
Other:					

*Keep in mind, NYSED policy and guidance states that program leaders and evaluators are collaborating partners in the evaluation. Planning, designing, integrating learning, and helping communicate and disseminate information are considered shared responsibilities (See the SMV Tool, the Evaluability Checklist, and other resources located on the TARC & NYSED Program websites).

Additional Space for Notes

Stakeholder Group	Participation / Involvement in the Evaluation	Informational Needs from the Evaluation	Deliverable Form & Opportunity
Program Director			
Program Activity Leaders/Staff			
Executive Director			
School Principal			
Family/ Guardian			
Student/Youth Participants			

Thank you for sharing with us.