Adapting Evaluations in the
Era of Social Distancing

May 27, 2020

Slides and recording:
www. Evalu- ate/ org/ webinars/ may- 2020
Adapting Evaluations in the Era of Social Distancing

EvaluATE Webinar Series
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Materials

Slides Additional Resources Recording

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Introductions

Mike Lesiecki
Lyssa Wilson Becho

Behind the Scenes

Lori Wingate
Ana Councill
Peggie Weeks
Carolyn Williams-Noren
Janet Pinhorn
Shannon Payne
Kelly Robertson
Emma Leeburg
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ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM
www.nsf.gov/ate

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grants No. 1600992 and No. 1841783. The content reflects the views of the authors and not necessarily those of NSF.

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Thank You

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“Post-Normal Evaluation”
Schwandt, 2019

“Evaluators have a responsibility to embrace change.”
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STRATEGIES
for adjusting evaluations in the era of social distancing

PAUSE AND REASSESS

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What has changed in terms of inputs or resources?
INPUTS  ACTIVITIES  OUTCOMES

PROJECT LOGIC MODEL

How has that affected project activities?

INPUTS  ACTIVITIES  OUTCOMES

PROJECT LOGIC MODEL

What changes can we expect in outcomes?

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How will this affect evaluation questions and criteria?

INPUTS

ACTIVITIES

OUTCOMES

PROJECT LOGIC MODEL

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BE PROACTIVE

When will all this uncertainty end?

It won’t. Certainty is a myth.

freshspectrum
“In practice, the evaluator must struggle to find a workable balance between the emphasis placed on procedures that ensure the validity of the findings and those that make the findings timely, meaningful, and useful to the consumers.”

Rossi, Lipsey, & Freeman, 2003
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AID DECISION-MAKING

This way

Not that way

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Prioritizing Project Activities

IMPORTANCE

FEASIBILITY

High

Low

High

Low

Prioritizing Project Activities

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CONSIDER EQUITY

“Equity is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically.”

World Health Organization
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BE CREATIVE

Instead of...
In-Person Paper Surveys

Try...
Online surveys
SMS text surveys
Phone surveys

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In-Person Interviews

Instead of...

Try...

- Video conferences
- Phone interviews
- Asynchronous interviews via email
- Journaling
- Photovoice

In-Person Focus Groups

Instead of...

Try...

- Video conferences
- Group messages via What’s App, Facebook Messenger, LinkedIn, etc.
- Delphi technique

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Instead of...

Collecting Primary Data

Try...

- Using existing secondary data
- Collecting data from partners

- Does my participant population have access to fast, reliable internet?
- Do they have the know-how to navigate the online platform I’m asking them to use?
- How will the move to virtual affect my sampling?
- How will the move to virtual affect the accuracy of my findings?

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BE COMPASSIONATE

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PROTECT PARTICIPANTS
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- IRB approval
- Informed consent
- Data security

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Adjusting Evaluations in the Era of Social Distancing

- Pause and reassess, revisit logic model
- Be proactive, collect real-time data
- Aid decision-making with evaluative thinking
- Consider equity in quick decisions
- Be creative in data collection techniques
- Be compassionate
- Protect participants’ rights
- Plan for uncertainty

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QUESTIONS

Lyssa
Mike

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Materials

Slides

Additional Resources

Recording

ATE Community Support
Addressing Questions on ATE Grants Management During COVID-19

June 10, 2020
1 p.m. Eastern

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