

EXTERNAL EVALUATION RESOURCES STARTER LIST

Below is a “starter’s list” of just some of the many individuals and organizations in the DC area and beyond that can be contracted to provide external evaluation for youth-serving and parent-serving programs. This is only a list of resources that have come to the attention of the Trust and no recommendations should be inferred. Costs vary for evaluative work and can only be ascertained by direct contact with the providers.

ActKnowledge

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ActKnowledge is a consulting firm, and yes we often travel. However, Evaluation Access has a team of trainers (many of which are ActKnowledge consultants) who work online and in person with clients. In other words, we can design training and evaluation support that includes some in-person meetings and many online coaching sessions. This is one way to reduce travel costs. Another way is to engage more than one organization in the trainings. I often work with up to five organization at once. Many of the basic skills are the same and organization staff learn from one another. Evaluation Access is designed to coach staff through an entire evaluation process with the deep support of an experienced coach.

Atterberry Consulting

Ayo Atterberry, ayo@comcast.net, 301-431-7029

Evaluability Assessments; Participatory Evaluations; Evidence Based Research and Evaluations: Goal Oriented, Outcome and Process Evaluations; Data Management; and, Performance Measurement.

Brighter Strategies

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Brighter Strategies is an organizational development consulting firm specializing in program evaluation, strategic planning, process improvement and leadership development for the nonprofit and public sector. Our team has evaluation expertise in human service, social/criminal justice, mental health, education, public policy, and well as grant funded and direct funded/pay-for-service organizations. Our mission is to build empowered organizations through the pursuit of best practices and continuous improvement initiatives. We believe our collaborative process is the key to building financially sustainable organizations that fulfill their social mission, without losing or compromising core values.

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School of Behavioral and Organizational Research Institutes
The Institute of Organizational and Program Evaluation Research
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I have over 15 years of experience in research and evaluation, especially in community-based settings and ethnic cultural communities. I specifically work with communities to conduct evaluations, provide evaluation technical assistance, and develop logic models and theories of change. I specialize in theory-driven and community-based program evaluation, applied social psychology, community-based and social services research, and cultural contexts. I have conducted evaluations on programs focusing on drug and crime prevention for adolescents, parenting skills training for urban ethnic communities, family literacy for children and their families, and school-based health education for adolescents and young adults of color. I currently serve as the project director of a federally funded national multi-site community-based evaluation focusing on children's mental health.

Center for Education Policy and Practice at the Academy for Educational Development

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The Center for Education Policy and Practice provides formative and summative evaluation to the federal government, nonprofit organizations, foundations, schools, and districts, using methods that best meet with information needs of a client organization. Services include: a) creating logic models and working with partners to articulate a theory of action, b) designing evaluation plans, performance measurement, and protocols, c) conducting and analyzing surveys, group discussion, interviews, and observations, d) writing reports, and e) disseminating findings and recommendations to various stakeholders. The Center uses quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.

Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI)

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CCSI is a non-profit behavioral health and human services consulting and management services organization that is deeply committed to the principles of ethical research methods, rigorous evaluation practices, community collaboration, continuous quality improvement, and cultural and linguistic competence. CCSI has a long history of providing evaluation and services oversight in the areas of youth and families, behavioral health, human services, and child welfare to provider agencies, counties and states throughout the country. Among our strengths is our multidisciplinary team approach consisting

of evaluators, clinicians, clinical supervisors, financial specialists, IT personnel, data management specialists, and cultural and linguistic competence experts – all “under one roof” - to support evaluation projects. Recent examples include providing independent evaluation services for the following: Monroe County ACCESS, the County's multi-year initiative to develop an integrated system of care for children and youth with emotional and behavioral challenges and their families; Family Access and Connection Team (FACT), a cross-systems integrated entry point to care for children with emotional behavioral challenges and their families; Youth and Family Partnership (YFP), an intensive care coordination program for multi-system involved youth and their families; and Monroe County Family Assessment Response (FAR), an alternative response to Child Protective Investigations that focuses on assessment, family engagement, and referrals to needed services.

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Specialize in capturing and including youth perspectives in evaluations of programs designed to foster positive youth development. Have conducted program evaluations in the areas of college access, community based mentoring, afterschool tutoring, and school/business partnership. Have developed an evaluative framework for assessing the impact of large scale-- community/regional/state wide--systemic reform initiatives. Co-author of “Building Healthy Communities for Positive Youth Development”

Higher Hopes to the Outcomes

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OASIS is a comprehensive evaluation method using a participatory, community based assessment strategy to assist communities, community organizations, institutions and researchers interested in gathering information from the context of the community being investigated. Many times, in underserved communities, *Apples* are being investigated with *Orange* assessment tools with the idea that, “A fruit is a fruit”. Unfortunately, *Orange* scales yield inaccurate information about *Apple* communities and this has huge implications regarding outcomes.

Higher Hopes to the Outcomes has addressed this concern with the development of *Outcomes Assessment and Support of Indigenous Systems (O.A.S.I.S.)*. We develop measurement tools to establish original baselines, assessments and outcomes that were not generated from a pre-developed template. O.A.S.I.S. then employs a participatory, community based system for data collection, analysis, reporting, scale development, program measurement, as well as comprehensive model development.

This system intends for laypersons to fully comprehend and take an active role in the entire information gathering, analysis, explanation, prediction, reporting, and recommendation process.

Through this system, the following services can be provided:

- Assistance in the identification of benchmarks/milestones
- Creation and implementation of measurement instruments
- Consultation and facilitation of the entire evaluation process
- Systematic tools to measure growth on micro and macro levels
- Consultation on the advocating and presenting of empirical results
- Consultation on revising curricula based on empirical findings

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Independent Consultant

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Shameeka M. Jelenewicz, MA is an applied Sociologist with over seven years of experience developing, implementing and managing evaluation projects with an emphasis on community-based social science applied research and youth development. My program evaluation (process and outcome) services include assisting programs with theory of change and logic model development, evaluation measures, design protocols, data collection instrument and evaluation methodology, collect and analyze data, report development and presentation of findings to include stakeholders.

I have extensive experience working with youth focused programs – example projects include a multi-site after-school, abstinence education and parental engagement program, assessment of an expanded mental health, truancy and school attendance program, after-school art action program and the impact of baseball/softball camps on youth development and character education outcomes.

The Midge Smith Center for Evaluation Effectiveness

Dr. Ann Doucette, Director

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The Midge Smith Center for Evaluation Effectiveness' (MSCEE) research is directed toward understanding how programs work and developing better methods for assessing effectiveness and enhancing evaluation capacity, learning, and use.

MSCEE has partnered with the Department of Health, Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration (APRA) and its affiliates on the following youth and family projects:

- The Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Expansion Program (ASTEP), to assist in the development of their community-based adolescent substance treatment network.
- The Effective Black Parenting Program (EBPP), to evaluate the effectiveness of this treatment model and the fidelity of its implementation.
- The Family Treatment Court Program (FTC), to build evidence that FTC is an effective treatment intervention and to evaluate the ability to expand the adoption of this model to other treatment facilities in the District of Columbia.

The Center is committed to assisting public, private, and nonprofit organizations in evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, and financial soundness of their programs, in building internal evaluation capacity, and in institutionalizing ongoing effective evaluation practice and program performance monitoring.

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Provides: Research design- QED and RCT designs, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, needs assessment reporting. Areas of Interest: K-12, program assessment & evaluation, research methodology, social stratification, teacher quality and improvement, eLearning, and disabilities.

Research Analysis Group, LLC

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The Research Analysis Group provides researchers, professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, program implementers, and other primary decision makers with concise and accurate information that will enable them to make efficient and effective data driven decisions. The RA Group are certified quality auditors and quality improvement associates through the American Society for Quality; therefore we are proven to understand the standards and principles of auditing, questioning, evaluating and reporting. The RA Group has over 5 years of experience evaluating young adult mentoring programs and small

learning communities, which includes detailed recommendations for overall improvement in programmatic performance.

Research Works, Inc.

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Research Works, Inc. has been providing evaluation services in the public sector, primarily in the Northeast corridor from New England to the Baltimore/Washington area, since 2004. We provide services, from program development to formative and summative evaluation services with a strong commitment to capacity building. Our work with youth programs and parent centers includes, but is not limited to:

- The Statewide Evaluation of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program for the New York State Education Department. This federally funded program is administered by states across the US to provide after school programming for underserved youth and their caretakers.
- The evaluation of the Next Steps Program in Rockland County, a TANF grant that provides wrap-around educational and psychological support services to young mothers and their children.
- Several evaluations for school districts and state departments of education, including current contracts with the Baltimore City School District and the New York City Department of Education.
- Previous evaluations of Even Start Programs which provide educational and social supports for families with young children.

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I have spent a decade as a senior evaluation officer in the Operations Evaluation Department of the World Bank and another decade as the chairman of the board of a charter school in DC (Meridian PCS). In the latter capacity, I have undertaken a variety of evaluations of school activities.

Laura Rizzardini, Inc.

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Laura Rizzardini, Inc. provides program evaluation and needs assessment services. We offer multiple

methodologies including survey research, field observation, focus groups, and document study. Our experience has been in the evaluation of formal educational programs and youth service programs.

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Experienced independent consultant available for work with non-profits or other opportunities, specializing in research and evaluation of youth development, education, and out-of-school time programs. Also available for collaboration on new projects in areas such as engagement of middle- and high-school aged youth in out-of-school time enrichment and learning; culturally responsive practice; educational equity; family/community engagement in education; liberatory education. Prefer local opportunities (DC metro area) or those available by telecommunication.