



GEAR UP

Program Evaluation Basics

Darlene Cole

Director of Research, CoBro Consulting

Gary Skolits

Director, Institute for Assessment & Evaluation,
University of Tennessee

2010 NCCEP/GEAR UP Capacity Building Workshop
Houston, TX



GEAR UP Program Evaluation Basics



Overview

Importance of Program Evaluation (Why?)

- Ensure effective processes
- Monitor progress toward goals
- Demonstrate impact

Evaluation Methodology (How?)

- It starts with a logic model
- Data collection
- Surveys
- DOE-mandated reports...and beyond
- Clarify roles and responsibilities





Importance of Program Evaluation



Ensure Effective Processes

- Accountability: DOE compliance
- Evaluation of staffing, operations, service coverage, etc.
- Function of Annual Performance Report





Importance of Program Evaluation



Monitor Progress Toward Goals (Formative Assessment)

- Identify effective/ineffective elements
- Continuous program improvement
- DOE-mandated biennial evaluation



Importance of Program Evaluation



Overall GEAR UP Goals





Importance of Program Evaluation



Demonstrate Impact (Summative Assessment)

- Goal attainment
- Unanticipated effects
- Vital for NCCEP advocacy of GEAR UP



Evaluation Methodology



It Starts with a Logic Model

- Provides foundation and framework
- Not just for planning stage
 - update & modify, as needed
- Helps define staff roles, activities, resource allocation, benchmark targets



Evaluation Methodology



Project Logic (Program/Change Theory)

- Indicators of need (targeted benchmarks)
- Investments
- Interventions
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Indicators of Change (achievement of benchmarks)





Evaluation Methodology

Project Logic (Exercise)

See Handouts

Purpose: to select a single major GEAR UP project priority and map out logic model elements:

- Indicators of need - targeted benchmark(s)
- Investments
- Interventions
- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Indicators of Change (achievement of benchmarks)





Evaluation Methodology



Data Collection

- Year-round project
- Service participation data
 - For students, parents, & staff
- Student academic achievement data
- Student and parent surveys
- To examine impact:
 - Baseline
 - Comparison groups



Evaluation Methodology



Surveys

- Students, parents, & staff
- Mandated APR items...and beyond
- Survey processing/data entry
- Interpreting (and using) results



Evaluation Methodology



DOE-Mandated Evaluation

- The Annual Performance Report (APR)
 - Due April 15th
 - Participation, academic & survey data
- Biennial Evaluation Report
 - Due December, every two years
 - To gauge program goal attainment
 - Organize by APR Sect II, Table 7





Evaluation Methodology



Clarify Roles & Responsibilities

- Define tasks & end products
- Identify data sources
- Determine responsible party
 - evaluator
 - program administrators/staff
 - school/district staff
- Develop data collection timeline
- Document and disseminate the plan



GEAR UP Program Evaluation Basics



Questions?



Gary Skolits

865.974.6848, gskolits@utk.edu

Darlene Cole

858.395.7899, dcole@CoBroConsulting.com