

Hartford Foundation Summer Programs Evaluation Support - UPDATED 1/2015	
Project History & Context	The Non Profit Support Program of the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving launched a Summer Programs Evaluation Support project during 2011-12 which is now ongoing (2014-15). This built on work the Foundation had previously initiated with other consultants, including development of a Summer Programs Evaluation Tool Kit (Volume I). Staff from all local summer programs (N = about 45 per year) are invited to learn about outcomes evaluation, and offered structured opportunities to identify program outcomes, address summer program evaluation needs, goals and challenges and provide input regarding their ongoing evaluation needs.
Duration	Annual cycles
Participants & Selection Process	Initially, the Hartford Foundation invited grantees providing summer programming for youth to attend three brief evaluation support training sessions and to participate in evaluation consultations if needed. A total of 26 of the 46 agencies sent staff to the training sessions and 6 agencies participated in the coaching. During each year since (2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15), the Foundation has included evaluation training as part of each of its summer program provider convenings (January and May of each year). Each year both meetings include 25 or more of the participating agencies. Additionally 3 to 6 organizations each year avail themselves of the optional coaching.
Project Design	<p>Three main components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted training (three 1.5 hour training presentations to introduce basic evaluation concepts initial year 2011-12; two 1.5 hour training presentations at each convening – January and May each subsequent year). Training sessions include evaluation basics review and skills-based content presentation with hands-on applications. • In addition to the training, in the first year of the project evaluation consultant Anita Baker, developed a second volume of the Evaluation Tool Kit, using input from Summer Program providers and Hartford Foundation staff. This Tool Kit included updated and additional surveys, field-tested observation and interview questions, record review strategies for tracking program attendance, related links to other publications about summer programming and evaluation. Additional content focused on summer learning and parent engagement as well as use of rubrics and other evaluation reports was added to the Tool Kit in 2014 and 2015. • Provides one-on-one 45 minute coaching sessions to staff that request assistance with outcome and indicator identification, instrument selection, data collection and analysis planning.
Alumni study group	NA
Funder	Hartford Foundation for Public Giving www.hfpg.org
Costs	Total investment for evaluation consultant = \$10,000 per year. Administrative support and space provided by Hartford Foundation
Key Capacity Building Components	Basic Evaluation Training, Technical Assistance and Coaching, Networking
Evaluation consultants	All training and consultation and the development of the Evaluation Tool Kit Volume 2 plus supplements were provided by

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	<i>Anita Baker, Evaluator.</i>
Prior Experience With Evaluative Thinking	Individual exposure to evaluation varied and was mostly limited.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies providing summer programs reported using the updated Evaluation Tool Kit to strengthen their evaluation efforts and reporting for summer 2012. Agencies continue to report use of the Tool Kit as well as strategies introduced through the January and May Summer Program convenings. • Hartford Foundation staff report consistently improved evaluation data collection and reporting for annual summer program assessments (summers 2011 through 2014).
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though it has been updated since the initial development of Volume 2, the Evaluation Tool Kit must still be navigated by Summer Program providers without assistance. Direct training opportunities and technical assistance consultations are limited. Program staff indicated ongoing needs for evaluation support.
Evaluation products	See the <i>HARTFORD SUMMER PROGRAMS EVALUATION TOOL KIT</i>