Making the Most of your Evaluator

Cindy Shuman, Ph.D.
Office of Educational Innovation & Evaluation
Kansas State University
cshuman@ksu.edu

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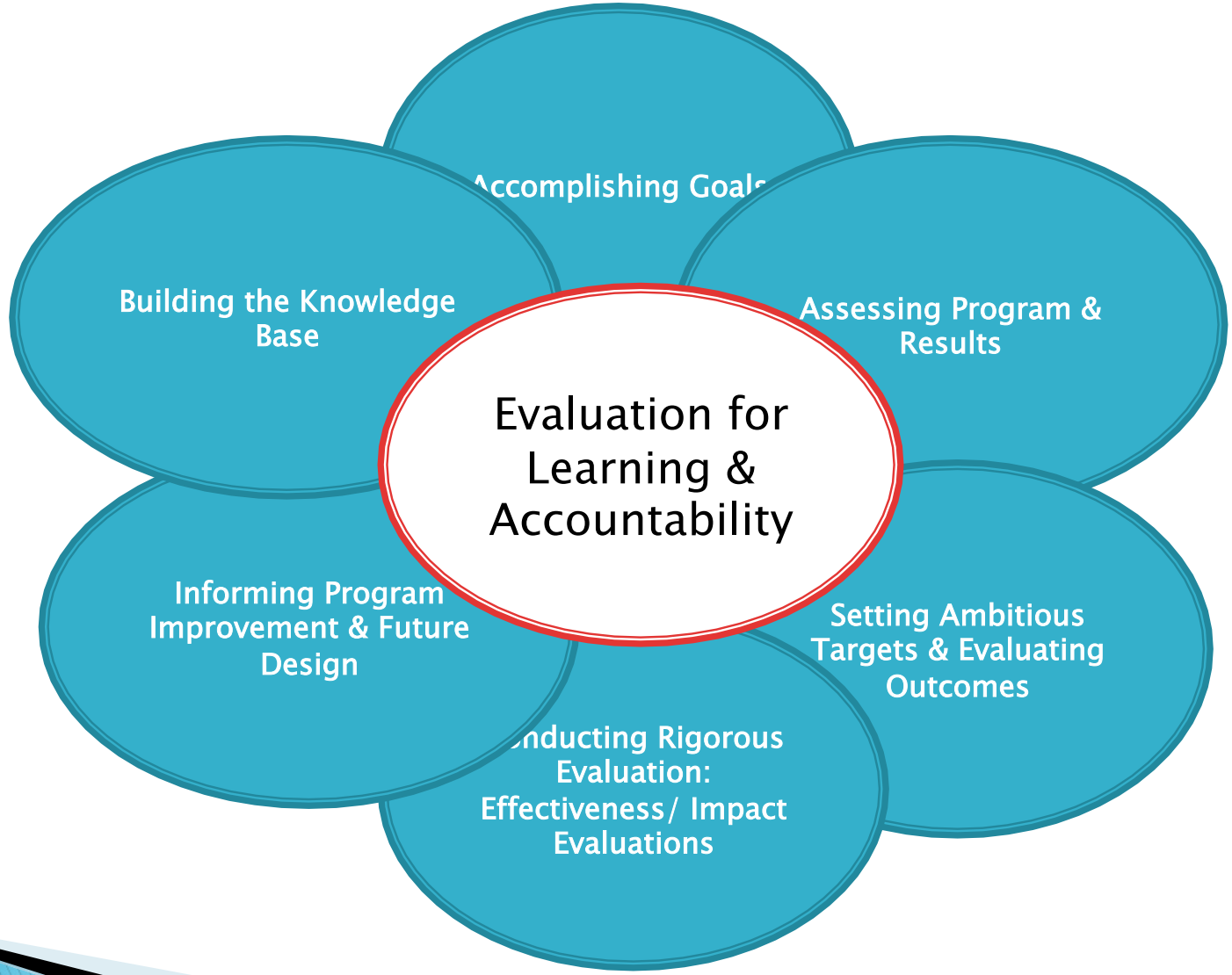
Expectation for Evaluation in Government*



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Expectations for Evaluation:

- Independent, qualified evaluator
- Evaluation based on scope of project
- Well-articulated Evaluation Plan
  - Based on a logic model / program theory
  - Utilizes a robust, appropriate evaluation design
  - Includes formative and summative evaluations
  - Identifies measures that are tied to expected outcomes
- Demonstrates impact of program

Effective Evaluation Plans

- Develop at the beginning of the project with the project team
- Involve stakeholders in the identification of relevant questions and indicators
- Need to determine how you are going to use the data to be collected
- Focus on outcomes of critical interest

Guiding Questions

- What is the purpose of your evaluation?
- What do you need to know to make program decisions?
- What skills does your evaluator need?

Finding an Evaluator

- Word of Mouth
- American Evaluation Association (AEA) Database
- Universities
- Grantee Networks
- Put out an RFP

Hiring an Evaluator

- Approaches and Experience
- Subject Matter Expertise
- Work Style
- Start Times
- Fees and Costs

Key Components

- Good Fit
- Scope of Work
- Appropriate Skills

Questions

- For more information contact :
  - Cindy Shuman
  - cshuman@ksu.edu
  - OEIE website http://www.oeie.ksu.edu/