

The Art and Science of Evaluating Programs

Course Summary

Description

In April 2009, the new TBS Evaluation Policy went into effect. Departments have until 2013 to fully implement the policy. Under the new policy, all ongoing programs of grants and contributions are to be evaluated every five years, as well as direct program spending. Relevance and performance are the core issues to be addressed in evaluation. The new evaluation policy works in concert with the new Directive on the Evaluation Function, which outlines specific responsibilities of program managers. Both instruments include a new section on consequences.

Although evaluation is discussed in this workshop in the context of the federal public service, the core material is applicable in other public sectors, the profit, and not-for-profit sector.

Objectives

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the evaluation policy, directive on function, and standards of evaluation
- Assess the changes and consequence of changes from previous policies to now
- Assess program theory cohesion, using logic models
- Understand the relationship between the MRRS and the evaluation function
- Examine performance measurement strategies with respect to relevance and performance

Topics

- 2009 Federal Policy, Directive, and Standard on Evaluation
- Program Theory and Logic Models
- Performance Measurement in Government

Audience

Program managers and public servants engaged in designing, conducting and managing evaluation activities who have limited experience in program evaluation.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites required for this course.

Duration

Two days

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Course Outline

- I. 2009 Federal Policy, Directive, and Standard on Evaluation**
 - A. Changes to the 2009 Treasury Board Secretariat Policy on Evaluation
 - B. Related federal policy instruments
 - C. Evaluation and decision-making
 - D. Evaluation and expenditure management
 - E. Evaluation and policy and program delivery
 - F. Evaluation as a professional craft
 - G. Evaluation for public accountability

- II. Program Theory and Logic Models**
 - A. Program description development
 - B. Utility of program theories and logic models
 - C. Performance measurement linkages
 - D. Basic approaches on modeling
 - E. Limitations of models

- III. Performance Measurement in Government**
 - A. Performance measurement role and importance
 - B. Key concepts and terminology
 - C. Federal Management Accountability Framework
 - D. Major issues in performance measurement
 - E. Performance measurement in collaborative program implementation
 - F. Uptake of performance measurement results