



NIOSH Evaluation Capacity-Building Plan (ECB) Fiscal Year 2022 Update

Amia Downes, DrPH

Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation

NIOSH Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting

October 4, 2022

Background



Why evaluation capacity-building?

- Critical feedback from program reviews
- Lack of evaluable programs
 - Overlap
 - Burden
- Foundations of Evidence-Based Policy Making Act



Topics included in the ECB Plan



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)



2. Implementation of program review recommendations



3. Long-term program review strategy



4. Translation research

FY22 progress update





1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

Key Learning Activity: Assess motivations and barriers to collecting IOs. (FY21)

— **Process Steps:**

- Conduct focus groups with researchers, division/laboratory/office (DLO) branch managers, and program leaders.
- Conduct interviews with division/laboratory/office directors.



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- **Recommendation 1:** *Official definition of IO.*
- **Recommendation 2:** *Guidance and resources to aid in the process of identifying, collecting, and documenting IOs.*
- **Recommendation 3:** *Evaluation training.*
- **Recommendation 4:** *Education campaign.*
- **Recommendation 5:** *Resource website.*



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- **Recommendation 1:** *Official definition of IO.*
- **Recommendation 2:** *Guidance and resources to aid in the process of identifying, collecting, and documenting IOs.*
- **Recommendation 3:** *Evaluation training.*
- Recommendation 4: *Education campaign.*
- Recommendation 5: *Resource website.*



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

Key Learning Activity: Prepare for education and awareness raising activities. (Completion by end of FY23)

— **Process Steps:**

- Develop educational and awareness raising materials around IOs.



1. Collecting and documenting intermediate outcomes (IOs)

- Contract with Zimmet Group
- Research Supervisors:
 - Recognize how to identify, collect, and document intermediate outcomes (IOs)
 - Develop skills needed to coach Researchers on using IOs as part of a research project planning process
- Researchers:
 - Recognize how to identify, collect, and document IOs
 - Articulate the value of IOs being identified at project conception
 - Identify and apply components of an Outcome Approach Logic Model starting at project conception
 - Identify and apply components of a Logical Frame Matrix starting at project conception



2. Implementation of program review recommendations

(Question 1) **Key Learning Activity 2:** Refine the current process for interactions between NIOSH and review panels to increase utilization of panel findings and recommendations. (Completion by end of FY25)

(Question 2) **Key Learning Activity 4:** Increase the inclusion of panel review recommendations in funding opportunities and decision-making at all levels of the institute. (Completion by end of FY25)

This topic area is on hold until the long-term evaluation strategy is complete.



3. Long-term program review strategy

Key Learning Activity 1: Develop a better understanding of program review strategies utilized by other federal agencies and research organizations. (FY21)

— **Process Steps:**

- Search the literature and scan the environment for alternate program review processes.
- Interview program leaders that have experience previous external impact reviews.



3. Long-term program review strategy

Key Learning Activity 2: Develop a statement of purpose and objectives that guide external program reviews. (Completed FY22)

— **Process Steps:**

- Draft purpose statement and objectives for external program reviews.
- Internally review draft purpose statement and objectives.
- Finalize purpose statement and objectives.



3. Long-term program review strategy

What is the purpose of the NIOSH external programmatic reviews?

The primary purpose of external programmatic review is for *NIOSH* to *improve and maintain the relevance and impact* of its worker safety and health efforts. Secondly, *NIOSH* will use information from external programmatic reviews to demonstrate relevance and impact to interested parties.



3. Long-term program review strategy

Objectives:

- *Involve NIOSH staff at all levels in the planning, conduct, and use of external programmatic reviews.*
- *Develop targeted review questions to guide external programmatic reviews using the NIOSH Strategic Plan.*
- *Develop evidence base for external programmatic reviews.*
- *Assess and prioritize findings/recommendations to maintain and/or improve the relevance and impact of worker safety and health efforts.*



3. Long-term program review strategy

Key Learning Activity 3: Develop a long-term strategy for conducting external reviews of NIOSH programs. (Completion by end of FY24)

- Consider and decide upon adopting an internal review option in addition to the current external process.
- Consider and decide on whether and how broader learning agenda approach may be applied.



5. Translation research

Key Learning Activity 1: Refine definition and develop supporting materials for translation research (TR). (Completion by end of FY23)

– Process Steps:

- Search the literature and scan the environment relevant to TR.
- Draft a refined definition and supporting materials.
- Seek DLO feedback and finalize definition and supporting materials.



5. Implementation (formerly translation) research

- FY21 activities:
 - Literature review is complete and has been submitted for publication.
 - Environmental scan report is also complete.
 - Currently working with SME, Dr. Borsika Rabin on refinement of translation research.
- FY22 activities:
 - Agreed on new terminology: implementation research
 - Drafted:
 - Implementation research definition
 - NIOSH Research to Impact Framework
 - 7P's of intervention tables



5. Implementation (formerly translation) research

Key Learning Activity 1: Refine definition and develop supporting materials for translation research (TR). (Completion by end of FY23)

– Process Steps:

- Search the literature and scan the environment relevant to TR.
- Draft a refined definition and supporting materials.
- **Seek DLO feedback and finalize definition and supporting materials.**

Thank you to the NIOSH staff who were part of Year 2 implementation!

Plus, external SME
Dr. Borsika Rabin

For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 www.cdc.gov

- Todd Steuckle
- Paul Schulte
- Brett Green
- Elizabeth Clements
- Vanessa Williams
- Jenny Topmiller
- Zoe Dugdale
- Lew Radonovich
- Donjanea Williams
- Rebecca Guerin
- Tom Cunningham
- Christy Forrester
- Mary O'Connor
- Summer Slaughter
- Kara Perritt
- Dave Fosbroke
- Lisa Steiner
- Emily Novicki
- Christy Spring
- Cammie Chaumont-Menendez

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

