Overview of Rainbow Framework for Evaluation

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Why focus is needed

Overwhelming number of decisions in any evaluation
Options galore

Welcome to the new Managing for Impact portal about participatory planning, monitoring & evaluation.

Options galore...
The Rainbow Framework

- Define
- Frame
- Describe
- Understand Causes
- Synthesize
- Report & Support Use

Manage
1. Develop initial description
2. Develop program theory or logic model
3. Identify potential unintended results
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1. Develop initial description
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Options:
- Peak Experience Description
- Thumbnail Description

Approaches:
- Appreciative Inquiry
1. Develop initial description

Options:
- Peak Experience Description

Resources:
- Using appreciative inquiry in evaluation practice
- Guide to Lifeline, a TinyTool
- Appreciative inquiry commons
- Appreciative inquiry practitioner
- The Taos Institute newsletter
1. Develop initial description

Options:
- Peak Experience Description

Resources:
- Using appreciative inquiry in evaluation practice
1. Identify primary intended users
2. Decide purpose(s)
3. Specify key evaluation questions
4. Determine what ‘success’ looks like
1. Sample
2. Use measures, indicators or metrics
3. Collect and/or retrieve data
4. Manage data
5. Combine qualitative and quantitative data
6. Analyze data
7. Visualize data
1. Check that the results support causal attribution
2. Compare results to the counterfactual
3. Investigate possible alternative explanations
1. Synthesize data from a single evaluation
2. Synthesize data across evaluations
3. Generalize findings
1. Identify reporting requirements
2. Develop reporting media
3. Ensure accessibility
4. Develop recommendations
5. Support use
1. Understand and engage with stakeholders
2. Establish decision making processes
3. Decide who will conduct the evaluation
4. Determine and secure resources
5. Define ethical and quality evaluation standards
6. Document management processes and agreements
7. Develop evaluation plan or framework
8. Review evaluation
9. Develop evaluation capacity
Use 1. Design and plan an evaluation
Use 2. Check quality of an ongoing evaluation
Use 3. Commission and manage an evaluation

To do list:
Terms of Reference!
Use 4. Embed participation *thoughtfully* in evaluation
Use 5. Develop evaluation capacity
It’s about thoughtful choices

- Comprehensive
- Appropriate
- Feasible

Transparency

Quality

Best fit
Further resources
http://betterevaluation.org/plan

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