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Certified Professional in Grant Management in Nonprofit Organizations

## Program Evaluation and Impact Assessment

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**\*\*Accountability\*\***: The obligation of an organization to answer to its stakeholders for its actions and decisions, including how it uses its resources and the results it achieves. Related terms: transparency, responsibility, answerability.

In the context of Certified Professional in Grant Management in Nonprofit Organizations, accountability is a key principle that ensures that grant funds are used efficiently, effectively, and for the intended purposes. Grantmakers hold grantees accountable for achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the grant proposal and grant agreement. Grantees, in turn, are accountable to their stakeholders, including their board of directors, staff, volunteers, clients, and funders.

**\*\*Active Monitoring\*\***: A proactive approach to program evaluation and impact assessment that involves ongoing data collection and analysis to assess progress, identify challenges, and make adjustments as needed. Related terms: continuous improvement, formative evaluation, process evaluation.

Active monitoring is an essential component of effective grant management. By regularly monitoring program activities and outcomes, grantees can identify areas for improvement, make adjustments to their programs, and demonstrate their impact to stakeholders. Active monitoring can also help grantees identify potential risks and take corrective action before problems escalate.

**\*\*Benchmarking\*\***: The process of comparing an organization's performance against that of other organizations or industry standards to identify best practices and areas for improvement. Related terms: performance metrics, key performance indicators (KPIs), continuous improvement.

Benchmarking is a valuable tool for grantmakers and grantees alike. By establishing benchmarks for program activities and outcomes, grantmakers can ensure that grantees are meeting or exceeding industry standards, and grantees can identify areas for improvement and track their progress over time. Benchmarking can also help grantmakers and grantees identify best practices and learn from each other's experiences.

**\*\*Cost-Benefit Analysis\*\***: A systematic approach to evaluating the costs and benefits of a program or project to determine its overall value or return on investment. Related terms: cost-effectiveness analysis, social return on investment (SROI), value for money.

Cost-benefit analysis is a useful tool for grantmakers and grantees to assess the value of a program or project. By quantifying the costs and benefits of a program, grantmakers and grantees can determine whether the benefits outweigh the costs and make informed decisions about funding and resource allocation. Cost-benefit analysis can also help grantmakers and grantees identify areas where they can improve program efficiency and effectiveness.

**\*\*Data Analysis\*\***: The process of examining and interpreting data to identify patterns, trends, and insights. Related terms: data visualization, statistical analysis, data-driven decision making.

Data analysis is a critical component of program evaluation and impact assessment. By analyzing program data, grantmakers and grantees can assess progress towards program goals, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven decisions about program design and implementation. Data analysis can also help grantmakers and grantees communicate their impact to stakeholders and demonstrate the value of their programs.

**\*\*Data Collection\*\***: The process of gathering information or data for program evaluation and impact assessment. Related terms: data sources, data quality, data management.

Data collection is a fundamental aspect of program evaluation and impact assessment. By collecting high-quality data from reliable sources, grantmakers and grantees can assess program activities and outcomes, identify areas for improvement, and make informed decisions about program design and implementation. Data collection can take many forms, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, and secondary data sources.

**\*\*Data Visualization\*\***: The process of presenting data in a visual format, such as charts, graphs, or infographics, to make it easier to understand and interpret. Related terms: data analysis, data storytelling, data communication.

Data visualization is a powerful tool for program evaluation and impact assessment. By presenting data in a visually appealing and easy-to-understand format, grantmakers and grantees can communicate their impact to stakeholders, identify trends and patterns, and make data-driven decisions about program design and implementation. Data visualization can also help grantmakers and grantees tell a compelling story about their programs and demonstrate their value to stakeholders.

**\*\*Evaluation Design\*\***: The process of planning and designing program evaluation and impact assessment activities, including selecting evaluation questions, determining data collection methods, and establishing evaluation timelines and budgets. Related terms: logic model, theory of change, evaluation framework.

Evaluation design is a critical component of effective grant management. By planning and designing program evaluation and impact assessment activities in advance, grantmakers and grantees can ensure that they are collecting the right data, asking the right questions, and making data-driven decisions about program design and implementation. Evaluation design can also help grantmakers and grantees communicate their impact to stakeholders and demonstrate the value of their programs.

**\*\*Experimental Design\*\***: A research design that involves randomly assigning participants to an experimental group or a control group to test the effectiveness of a program or intervention. Related terms: randomized controlled trial (RCT), quasi-experimental design, causal inference.

Experimental design is a rigorous and scientifically valid approach to program evaluation and impact assessment. By randomly assigning participants to an experimental group or a control group, grantmakers and grantees can isolate the effects of a program or intervention and establish causal relationships between

program activities and outcomes. Experimental design is particularly useful for evaluating the effectiveness of new or innovative programs.

**\*\*Formative Evaluation\*\***: A type of program evaluation and impact assessment that focuses on providing feedback and insights during the program design and implementation process to improve program effectiveness. Related terms: summative evaluation, continuous improvement, active monitoring.

Formative evaluation is a valuable tool for grantmakers and grantees to assess program activities and outcomes during the program design and implementation process. By providing feedback and insights in real-time, formative evaluation can help grantmakers and grantees make adjustments and improvements to their programs, increase program effectiveness, and demonstrate their impact to stakeholders.

**\*\*Impact Assessment\*\***: The process of evaluating the long-term effects or outcomes of a program or project on its intended beneficiaries or stakeholders. Related terms: program evaluation, outcomes evaluation, theory of change.

Impact assessment is a critical component of effective grant management. By assessing the long-term effects or outcomes of a program or project, grantmakers and grantees can demonstrate the value of their programs, identify best practices, and make informed decisions about program design and implementation. Impact assessment can also help grantmakers and grantees communicate their impact to stakeholders and build support for their programs.

**\*\*Key Performance Indicator (KPI)\*\***: A metric or measure that is used to evaluate program activities and outcomes and assess progress towards program goals. Related terms: performance metrics, benchmarking, continuous improvement.

Key performance indicators (KPIs) are a valuable tool for grantmakers and grantees to assess program activities and outcomes. By establishing KPIs for program activities and outcomes, grantmakers and grantees can track their progress towards program goals, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven decisions about program design and implementation. KPIs can also help grantmakers and grantees communicate their impact to stakeholders and demonstrate the value of their programs.

**\*\*Logic Model\*\***: A visual representation of a program or project that outlines the relationships between program activities, outputs, and outcomes. Related terms: theory of change, program design, program evaluation.

A logic model is a useful tool for program evaluation and impact assessment. By outlining the relationships between program activities, outputs, and outcomes, grantmakers and grantees can ensure that their programs are designed to achieve their intended goals and outcomes. Logic models can also help grantmakers and grantees communicate their program design and impact to stakeholders.

**\*\*Performance Metrics\*\***: Measures or metrics that are used to evaluate program activities and outcomes and assess progress towards program goals. Related terms: key performance indicators (KPIs), benchmarking, continuous improvement.

Performance metrics are a valuable tool for grantmakers and grantees to assess program activities and outcomes. By establishing performance metrics for program activities and outcomes, grantmakers and grantees can track their progress towards program goals, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven decisions about program design and implementation. Performance metrics can also help grantmakers and grantees communicate their impact to stakeholders and demonstrate the value of their programs.

**\*\*Process Evaluation\*\***: A type of program evaluation and impact assessment that focuses on assessing program activities and implementation to ensure that the program is being delivered as intended. Related terms: formative evaluation, summative evaluation, continuous improvement.

Process evaluation is a valuable tool for grantmakers and grantees to assess program implementation and ensure that programs are being delivered as intended. By assessing program activities and implementation, grantmakers and grantees can identify areas for improvement, increase program effectiveness, and demonstrate their impact to stakeholders.

**\*\*Program Evaluation\*\***: The process of assessing the effectiveness and impact of a program or project to ensure that it is achieving its intended goals and outcomes. Related terms: impact assessment, outcomes evaluation, theory of change.

Program evaluation is a critical component of effective grant management. By assessing the