

EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health of Michigan residents, with special emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors, while reducing the cost of health care. The Health Fund understands evaluation as connected to quality, continuous improvement, and impact.

Equal Measure surveyed the Health Fund's grantees to inform the design and implementation of an evaluation capacity building (ECB) plan that will align grantmaking activities with the Health Fund's mission of improving health outcomes.

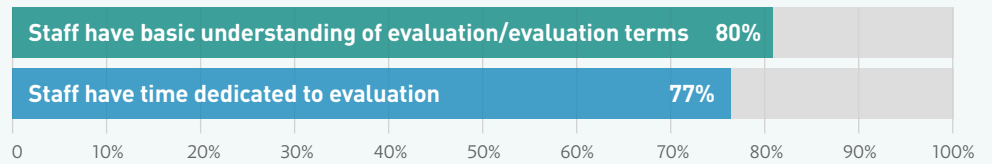
WHAT IS EVALUATION CAPACITY BUILDING AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

**Evaluation catalyzes data and thinking into strategies.
Expanding grantees' capacity to evaluate will in turn:**

1. Scale strategies and programs that improve the health of the diverse residents of Michigan
2. Reinforce a cultural disposition towards curiosity, learning, and continuous improvement
3. Inform decisions that enhance programs, strategies, and day-to-day operations
4. Build agility and responsiveness to adapt to changing conditions effectively

HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW:

Based on a recent survey, we identified a number of grantee strengths in evaluation capacity.



GRANTEE STRENGTHS

- 1** The majority of the Health Fund's grantees have already mastered the basics of evaluation
- 2** Most grantees have sufficient capacity to set achievable short- and long-term goals
- 3** Grantees have organizational procedures in place to protect participant data
- 4** Grantees have capacity for data collection and analysis



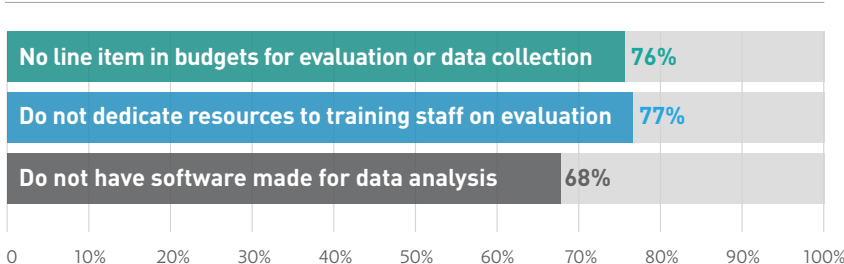
72% have capacity to identify expected short- and long-term outcomes or changes that result from their program or organization

GRANTEE AREAS OF NEED

In the survey, grantees indicated that they need support in:

- 1** Creating and using logic models to map activities to strategies and corresponding outcomes
- 2** Selecting and refining measures
- 3** Evaluating in emergent and complex environments
- 4** Identifying and applying resources to conduct rigorous evaluations
- 5** Expanding uses of evaluation findings for:
 - Sustainability, including development and fundraising
 - Engaging with program participants and beneficiaries
 - Programmatic and strategic decision-making
 - Communicating externally

Grantees articulated three additional areas of need.



54% involve community, constituents, and program participants to set short- and long-term outcomes



46% make time in meetings to "test" the outcomes they have set



50% have existing formats and templates to report and present evaluation data

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